

**The George and Angelina Kostas Research Center  
for Cardiovascular Nanomedicine Symposium**

and

8th Annual NIH PCTC

# **CARDIOVASCULAR BIOENGINEERING** Symposium

**May 22-25, 2024**

**Houston Methodist Research Institute**

6670 Bertner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
John F. Bookout Auditorium (R2-306)  
Houston, TX 77030





8th Annual NIH PCTC

# CARDIOVASCULAR BIOENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM

In partnership with The George and Angelina Kostas Research Center  
for Cardiovascular Nanomedicine Symposium

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024** | 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

## AGENDA

7:30 - 8:15 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast Reception**

8:15 - 8:45 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**



### **H. Dirk Sostman, MD, FACR**

Ernest Cockrell, Jr. Presidential Distinguished Chair  
EVP & Chief Academic Officer  
President & CEO  
Houston Methodist Academic Institute



### **Jianyi (Jay) Zhang, MD, PhD, FAHA**

T. Michael and Gillian Goodrich Endowed Chair of Engineering Leadership  
Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Professor of Medicine and Engineering  
School of Medicine, School of Engineering  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham



### **John P. Cooke, MD, PhD**

Joseph C. Walter and Carole Walter Looke Presidential Distinguished Chair  
Professor and Chair, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences  
Director, Center for Cardiovascular Regeneration  
Medical Director, Center for RNA Therapeutics  
Chief Translational Officer, Houston Methodist Research Institute

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

## SESSION 1: Keynote Speakers

8:45 – 9:15 a.m. **The Martha and D. Gibson Walton Lecture in Translational Research  
RNA Therapeutics in Cardiovascular Medicine**

**Victor J. Dzau, MD**

President, U.S. National Academy of Medicine

Vice Chair, U.S. National Research Council

Chancellor Emeritus and James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of Medicine

Professor, Pathology, Duke University School of Medicine

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. **Engineering Human Cardiovascular Tissues for Medical Impact**  
**Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, PhD**

University Professor

Mikati Foundation Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Medical Sciences

Professor, Dental Medicine, Columbia University

9:45 a.m. **Coffee Break**

## SESSION 2: Bioengineered Translational Model Systems

Session Chairs: **Francisco Altamirano, PhD** and **Xander Wehrens, MD, PhD**

9:55 a.m. **Engineering 3D Microvasculature for Disease Modeling**  
**Ying Zheng, PhD**

Associate Professor, Bioengineering, University of Washington

10:20 a.m. **Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Vascularized Biological Systems**  
**Abhishek Jain, PhD**

Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Affiliated Faculty, Medical Physiology

Texas A&M University

10:45 a.m. **Multi-laminar Tissue Constructs to Evaluate Aortic Valve Pathophysiology**  
**K. Jane Grande-Allen, PhD**

Isabel C. Cameron Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

11:10 a.m. **Vascularized Tumor Microenvironments for Drug Testing**  
**Christopher C. W. Hughes, PhD**

Chancellor's Professor, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry School of Biological Sciences

Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Henry Samueli School of Engineering, University of California, Irvine

11:35 a.m. **Versatility of Extracellular Matrix Cues for Regulating Both Endothelial Differentiation  
and De-differentiation**

**Ngan Huang, PhD**

Associate Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Stanford University

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

## Luncheon Seminar: Satellite Symposium NovoNordisk

Welcome and Introduction: **Miguel Valderrabano, MD, PhD**

- 12:05–12:20 p.m. **Gene Editing Strategy to Prevent Engraftment Arrhythmia Following Cardiac Remuscularization Therapy**  
**Silvia Marchiano, PhD**  
Acting Instructor, University of Washington
- 12:20 – 12:35 p.m. **Manipulating Cell Product Before and After Engraftment to Solve Engraftment Arrhythmias**  
**James Chong, PhD, FRACP, MBBS**  
Co-director Centre, Heart Research and Head Cardiac Regeneration Laboratory,  
Westmead Institute for Medical Research  
Professor, Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Sydney  
Cardiologist, Westmead Hospital
- 12:20 – 12:35 p.m. **How Big a Barrier is Engraftment Arrhythmia to Clinical Translation of Cell Therapies? An Electrophysiologist's Perspective**  
**Miguel Valderrabano, MD, PhD**  
Lois and Carl Davis Centennial Chair I, DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center  
Program Director, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship, Department of Cardiology  
Professor, Cardiology  
Houston Methodist
- 12:20 – 12:35 p.m. **Panel Discussion and Q&A**  
Facilitator: **Miguel Valderrabano, MD, PhD**

## Junior Faculty and Trainee Symposium: Research Highlights

Chairs: **Anahita Mojiri, PhD** and **Li Lai, PhD**

Talks selected from meritorious abstracts (10 min. presentation, 5 min. discussion)

- 1 – 1:15 p.m. **Epigenetic Factors as Drivers of Cardiac Reprogramming**  
**Glynnis Garry, MD**  
UT Southwestern Medical Center
- 1:15 – 1:30 p.m. **New Cell-Cycle-Specific Autoencoding Defines Cycling Cardiomyocyte Clusters in Non-Human Models snRNA-seq Data**  
**Yuji Nakada, PhD**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham
- 1:30 – 1:45 p.m. **Lymphangiogenesis on Chip**  
**James Tronolone, MS**  
Texas A&M University
- 1:45 – 2 p.m. **CD36-Retinoic Acid-FABP5-PPAR $\delta$  Signaling Axis Modulates Cardiomyocytes' Ability to Proliferate in Non-Human Models**  
**Abou Bakr Salama, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

## SESSION 3: **Cardiovascular Physiology and Bioengineering in Space**

Session Chairs: **Alessandro Grattoni, PhD** and **Abishek Jain, PhD**

- 2 p.m. **Overview of the Opportunities for Discovery in Space**  
**Dorit Donoviel, PhD**  
Director, Translational Research Institute for Space Health  
Associate Professor, Center for Space Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
- 2:25 p.m. **Challenges of the Cardiovascular System in Space**  
**Jennifer Fogarty, PhD**  
Chief Scientist, Translational Research Institute for Space Health  
Assistant Professor, Center for Space Medicine  
Baylor College of Medicine
- 2:50 p.m. **Exosomes in Space and Cardiovascular Risk**  
**David Goukassian, MD, PhD**  
Professor, Medicine, Cardiovascular Research Institute  
Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai
- 3:15 p.m. **Regenerative Medicine Using Space**  
**Alessandro Grattoni, PhD**  
Chair, Department of Nanomedicine, Houston Methodist Research Institute  
Professor of Nanomedicine, Houston Methodist Academic Institute
- 3:40 p.m. **Bioengineering in Space**  
**Lynn Harrison, PhD**  
Deputy Program Scientist, Space Biology, Biological and Physical Sciences Division  
Science Mission Directorate  
NASA
- 4:05 – 6:30 p.m. **Poster Presentations**  
Refreshments Served  
Beverages and Snacks
- 7 – 10 p.m. **Faculty Dinner for Speakers and Moderators**

# THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Reception**

## **SESSION 4: Update on Clinical Trials**

Session Chairs: **Jianyi (Jay) Zhang, MD, PhD** and **Ali Marian, MD**

8:30 a.m.

### **The POSEIDON-DCM Trial**

**Josh M. Hare, MD, FAAC, FAHA**

Director, Donald Soffer Endowed Program in Regenerative Medicine  
Chief Science Officer

Senior Associate Dean for Experimental & Cellular Therapeutics

Louis Lemberg Professor of Medicine (Cardiology)

University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

Professor, Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology

Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Director, Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute

8:55 a.m.

### **Heart Repair with Tissue Engineered Biological Ventricular Assist Tissue**

**Wolfram-Hubertus Zimmermann, MD**

Director, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Professor, Pharmacology

University Medical Center Göttingen

9:20 a.m.

### **The CATO Trial: A Phase IIA, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study**

**Roberto Bolli, MD, FAHA, FACC**

Professor, Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics

University of Louisville School of Medicine

9:45 a.m.

### **Coffee Break**

## **SESSION 5: Computational Modeling & Simulations for Cardiovascular Architecture and Regeneration**

Session Chairs: **Guangyu Wang, PhD** and **Longhou Fang, PhD**

10:25 a.m.

### **Stem Cells, Genomics, and Clinical Trial in Dish**

**Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD**

Simon H. Stertz, MD, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Radiology

Director, Stanford Cardiovascular Institute

Stanford Medicine

10:50 a.m.

### **Molecular Control of Cardiac Regeneration: Insights from Evolution**

**Guo Huang, PhD**

Associate Professor, Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California

Department of Physiology, Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California San Francisco

11:15 a.m.

### **Engineering the microvasculature**

**Shayn M. Peirce-Cottler, PhD**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Virginia

# THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

- 11:40 a.m.      **Transfer Learning to Enable Predictions in Network Biology**  
**Christina V. Theodoris, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and  
Gladstone Institute of Data Science and Biotechnology, University of California San Francisco
- 12:05 p.m.      **RNA Velocity and RNA Landscape: Insights into the  
Etiology and Novel Therapeutic Avenues for Heart Failure**  
**Guangyu Wang, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Sciences, Houston Methodist
- 12:30 p.m.      **Computational Modeling & Simulations for Cardiovascular Architecture and Regeneration**  
**Ken Chen, PhD**  
Professor, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 12:55 – 2:30 p.m.      **Lunch Break**

## Luncheon Seminars:

- 1 – 1:25 p.m.      **Meet The FDA - Strengthening Regulatory Science to Advance Medical  
Countermeasure Development**  
**Tracy MacGill, PhD, CAPT, USPHS**  
Director, MCM Regulatory Science, Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats,  
Office of the Chief Scientist, Office of the Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- 1:25 – 1:50 p.m.      **Meet The Dean  
Training a diverse and innovative generation of “Physicianeers”**  
**Roderic I. Pettigrew, MD, PhD**  
Inaugural Dean of the School of Engineering Medicine  
Texas A&M University in collaboration with Houston Methodist
- 1:50 – 2:15 p.m.      **HumanN Symposium  
The Role of Nitric Oxide in Cardiovascular Regeneration**  
**John P. Cooke, MD, PhD**  
Joseph C. Walter and Carole Walter Looke Presidential Distinguished Chair  
Professor and Chair, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences  
Director, Center for Cardiovascular Regeneration  
Medical Director, Center for RNA Therapeutics  
Chief Translational Officer, Houston Methodist Academic Institute



# THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

## SESSION 6: Metabolite, Epigenetics, and Cardiovascular Regeneration

Session Chairs: **Reza Ardehali, MD, PhD** and **Keith Youker, PhD**

2:15 p.m. **Cells and Cell-Products for Myocardial Repair in Large Animal Models**

**Jianyi (Jay) Zhang, MD, PhD, FAHA**

T. Michael and Gillian Goodrich Endowed Chair of Engineering Leadership  
Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Professor of Medicine and Engineering School of Medicine  
School of Engineering The University of Alabama at Birmingham

2:40 p.m. **Protein Translation Control in Cardiac Hypertrophy**

**Yibin Wang, PhD**

Professor, Medicine, Duke University, Duke NUS: Medical School, Singapore

3:05 p.m. **HFpEF: Metabolism and Meta-inflammation**

**Joseph A. Hill, MD, PhD**

Director, Harry S. Moss Heart Center  
Professor, Internal Medicine and Molecular Biology  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

3:30 p.m. **Coffee Break**

## SESSION 7: Biomaterials for CV Regeneration

Session Chairs: **Abhishek Jain, PhD** and **Gang Bao, PhD**

3:55 p.m. **Bioprinting a Human Heart**

**Mark Skylar-Scott, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Bioengineering, Basic Science and Engineering Initiatives  
Betty Irene Moore Children's Heart Center, Stanford Medicine

4:20 p.m. **Regenerating Lymphatic Vessels and Valves**

**Feng Zhao, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Texas A&M University

4:45 p.m. **Reconstructing Organotypic Vasculature from Human iPSCs**

**Mingxia Gu, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor, UC Department of Pediatrics  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

5:10 p.m. **Imaging Atherosclerosis**

**Laura Marcu, PhD**

Director, NIH-NIBIB National Center for Interventional Biophotonics Technologies  
Professor, Biomedical Engineering and Neurological Surgery, University of California, Davis

## Banquet & Awards

7 – 10 p.m. Houston Museum of Natural Science

# FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Reception**

## **SESSION 8: Genome Editing in Cardiovascular Regeneration**

Session Chairs: **Gang Bao, PhD** and **Wolfram-Hubertus Zimmerman, MD**

8:30 a.m. **Gene Editing in the Treatment of Hyperlipidemia and Atherosclerosis**  
**William R. Lagor, PhD**  
Professor, Integrative Physiology, Baylor College of Medicine

8:55 a.m. **Mechanisms and Genetic Strategies to Promote Cardiac Xenotransplantation**  
**Daniel Garry, MD, PhD**  
Professor, Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School

9:20 a.m. **Genome Editing Based Approaches for Treating Cardiovascular and Blood Diseases**  
**Gang Bao, PhD**  
Professor and Chair, Biomedical Engineering, Rice University

9:45 a.m. **Long-Range Genome Engineering in Human Cells With CRISPR-Cas3**  
**Yan Zhang, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan Medical School

10:10 a.m. **Coffee Break**

## **SESSION 9: Blood Vessel and Metabolic Disease**

Session Chairs: **Jun-ichi Abe, PhD** and **Mikhail Kolonin, PhD**

10:30 a.m. **Vascular Senescence and Dysmetabolic State**  
**Mikhail Kolonin, PhD**  
Harry E. Bovay, Jr. Distinguished University Chair in Metabolic Disease Research  
Professor and Director, Center for Metabolic and Degenerative Diseases  
The University of Texas Health Science Center

10:55 a.m. **Angiogenic Transdifferentiation in Ischemic Tissues**  
**John P. Cooke, MD, PhD**  
Chair and Professor, Cardiovascular Sciences  
Director Center for Cardiovascular Regeneration  
Medical Director, Center for RNA Therapeutics,  
Houston Methodist Research Institute

11:20 a.m. **Pathological Angiogenesis and Therapeutic Approaches**  
**Napoleone Ferrara, MD**  
Distinguished Professor, Ophthalmology and Pathology, Senior Deputy Director for Basic Sciences  
UCSD Moores Cancer Center, University of California San Diego

11:45 p.m. **Bioengineering the Lymphatics in Hypertension**  
**Ying-Nan Bai, MD**  
Associate Professor, Cardiology, Zhongshan Hospital, Fudan University,  
Shanghai Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases

12:30 – 1 p.m. **Lunch Break**

## Concurrent Luncheon Seminars:

- 12:30 – 1 p.m.      **Advances in Engineering Human Heart, Lung and Vascular Models of Disease**  
**Joan Nichols, PhD**  
Director, Regenerative Medicine Program, Houston Methodist Research Institute
- 1 – 1:30 p.m.      **Surgeon Scientists Leading Cardiovascular Device Development**  
**Shock Wave Therapy – Johannes Holfeld, MD**  
Clinician and Staff Surgeon, University Clinic of Cardiac Surgery Founder and Head  
CARE Cardiac Regeneration Research Group
- 1:30 – 2 p.m.      **Next Gen Artificial Heart – William E. Cohn, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer, BiVACOR Inc.  
Executive Director, Center for Device Innovation, Texas Medical Center  
Professor of Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine

## SESSION 10: Insights Gained from Reprogramming to a Cardiovascular Fate

Session Chairs: **John P. Cooke, MD, PhD** and **Li Lai, PhD**

- 2 p.m.      **Single Cell Omics Approach to Study Somatic Cell Reprogramming to Cardiomyocytes**  
**Qian Li, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
University of North Carolina
- 2:25 p.m.      **Insights into Polycystic Kidney from iPSC-derived Cardiomyocytes**  
**Francisco Altamirano, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Sciences  
Houston Methodist Research Institute
- 2:50 p.m.      **Modulation of Cardiovascular Cell Fate by Extracellular Matrix**  
**Brenda Ogle, PhD**  
Professor and Department Head, Biomedical Engineering College of Science and Engineering  
University of Minnesota
- 3:15 p.m.      **The Impacts of Microenvironment on Direct Cardiac Reprogramming**  
**Reza Ardehali, MD, PhD**  
Professor and Chief of Cardiology  
Baylor College of Medicine
- 3:40 p.m.      **Epigenetic Determinants of Direct Cardiac Reprogramming**  
**Yang Zhou, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

# GEORGE AND ANGELINA KOSTAS RESEARCH CENTER FOR CARDIOVASCULAR NANOMEDICINE

## SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024

7:30 – 8 a.m. **Breakfast Reception**

8 – 8:15 a.m. **Event Check-In**

8:15 – 9 a.m. **Keynote Lecture**

**ARPA-H – Advancing Bold Cardiovascular Breakthroughs**

**Ryan Spitler, PhD**

Program Manager, Health Science Future, ARPA-H

### **SESSION 11: Nanomedicine for the Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease**

Session Chairs: **John P. Cooke, MD, PhD** and **Kristopher Brannan, PhD**

9:05 a.m. **In Vivo High Throughput Screening Approaches for Extrahepatic, Tissue-Specific Nucleic Acid Delivery Vehicles**

**Kristopher W. Brannan, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Sciences and The Center for RNA Therapeutics, Houston Methodist

9:30 a.m. **Secretome as Diagnostic and Therapeutic Tool for Cardiac Therapies**

**Carmen Sucharov, PhD**

Professor, Cardiology, University of Colorado Denver

9:55 a.m. **Coffee Break**

### **SESSION 12: Advances in RNA Nanoengineering**

Session Chairs: **Alessandro Grattoni, PhD** and **Ewan McRae, PhD**

10:15 a.m. **Engineering Highly Stable RNA Nanoparticles**

**Junhua Mai, PhD**

Assistant Research Professor, Nanomedicine, Houston Methodist Academic Institute

10:40 a.m. **Circular RNA and its Therapeutic Potential**

**Daniel Kiss, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Sciences, Houston Methodist Academic Institute

11:05 a.m. **RNA Origami and Therapeutic Applications**

**Ewan McRae, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Sciences, Center for RNA Therapeutics, Houston Methodist

11:30 p.m. **Engineering New Nanoparticles for Better Drug Delivery**

**Henry J. Pownall, PhD**

Sanford I. Weill and Antonio M. Grotto Jr., MD Centennial Chair in Translational Biomedical Sciences Education

Professor, Biochemistry in Medicine

Houston Methodist Academic Institute

Weill College Medical College

11:55 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch Break and Poster Session**

## SESSION 13: Nanomedicine-Based Therapies

Session Chairs: **Alessandro Grattoni, PhD** and **Biana Godin, PhD**

- 2:30 p.m.      **RNA Nanotherapeutic for Skin Regeneration**  
**Biana Godin, MScPharm, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Nanomedicine, Houston Methodist Academic Institute  
Weill Cornell Medical College
- 2:55 p.m.      **RNA Nanoparticle Delivery for Vascular Regeneration**  
**Yun Fang, PhD, FAIMBE, FAHA**  
Associate Professor, Medicine  
Co-Director, Research Training in Respiratory Biology Program, Medicine  
University of Chicago
- 3:20 p.m.      **In Vivo Delivery Systems for Genome Editing Tools**  
**YouYang Zhao, PhD**  
William G. Swartzchild, Jr. Distinguished Research Professor  
Director, Program for Lung and Vascular Biology  
Head, Injury Repair and Regeneration Research, Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Professor, Pediatrics, Medicine (Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Pharmacology)  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- 3:45 p.m.      **Kostas Strategic Impact Project Presentations**  
Session Chair: **Alessandro Grattoni, PhD**
- **Co-Investigators 1:** 8 min.
  - **Co-Investigators 2:** 8 min.
  - **Co-Investigators 3:** 8 min.

## Shark Tank Session: Cardiovascular Nanomedicine

- 4:10 – 4:55 p.m.      **Introduction of Judges**  
**John P. Cooke, MD, PhD**  
Shark Tank Judges: **Alessandro Grattoni, PhD**, Houston Methodist  
**Christopher Lincoln, PhD**, Houston Methodist  
**John Schultz**, Houston Methodist  
**Ryan Spitler, PhD**, Health Science Futures, ARPA-H
- Shark Tank Competitors:
- Team 1:** 15 min. (5-minute pitch; 10 min. Q&A)
  - Team 2:** 15 min. (5-minute pitch; 10 min. Q&A)
  - Team 3:** 15 min. (5-minute pitch; 10 min. Q&A)
- 5:00 – 5:10 p.m.      **Shark Tank Award Announcement**  
Session Chair: **John P. Cooke, MD, PhD**
- 5:10 – 5:15 p.m.      **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**  
**John P. Cooke, MD, PhD** and **Alessandro Grattoni, PhD**



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## George and Angelina Kostas Research Center for Cardiovascular Nanomedicine



### Many thanks to the following individuals for their help organizing this meeting

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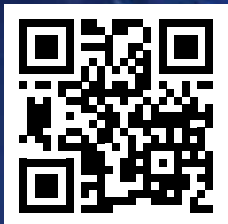
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