JACC: BASIC TO TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE VOL. 11, NO. 3, 2026

COMMENTARY

Recognizing Early Career Translational Investigators

Matthias Nahrendorf, MD, *Editor-in-Chief: JACC: Basic to Translational Science*

JACC: Basic to Translational Science is committed to supporting and promoting early career investigators who are pursuing translational science. To achieve this, *JACC: Basic to Translational Science* will provide biographical information and a photograph of the first or senior authors who are early career investigators in the issue where their paper appears. Additionally, this biographical information will be shared on our social media platforms at the time of publication.

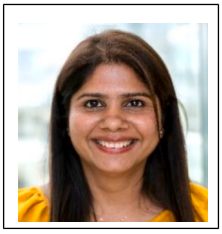
We are proud to recognize and showcase the work of the following early career investigators, whose research is featured in this issue of *JACC: Basic to Translational Science*.

Prashanth Thevkar Nagesh, PhD

Paper: HDL Regulates TGFß-Receptor Lipid Raft Partitioning, Restoring Contractile Features of Cholesterol-Loaded Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells

Prashanth Thevkar Nagesh, PhD, is junior faculty at BIDMC, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. His research investigates immune and inflammatory pathways driving atherosclerosis and liver inflammation in metabolic disorders. Using transcriptomics, cytokine profiling, and cellular immunology, he uncovers mechanisms of vascular inflammation and metabolic dysfunction. His work aims to identify novel therapeutic targets to prevent and treat metabolic disease. He is dedicated to translational research and recently received a National Institutes of Health K01 grant to study liver-specific signaling molecules in immune cell regulation.

Shruti Rawal, PhD



Paper: HDL Regulates TGFß-Receptor Lipid Raft Partitioning, Restoring Contractile Features of Cholesterol-Loaded Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells

Dr Shruti Rawal, PhD, is a faculty member in Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. She received her PhD from the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, in Cardiovascular Physiology. Her research is focused on elucidating molecular mechanisms of atherosclerosis regression, with expertise in animal models of cardiovascular disease. Trained in pharmacology, she integrates in vivo models with immunometabolic and molecular approaches to study plaque remodeling and inflammation resolution. Her work aims to identify novel therapeutic targets to reverse atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

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Fernando Pedro de Souza Neto, PhD

Paper: CXCL10 Regulates Pressure Overload-Induced Heart Failure

Fernando Pedro de Souza Neto, PhD, is a physiologist and postdoctoral fellow currently working in the laboratory of Jop van Berlo at the Lillehei Heart Institute, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. He earned his PhD from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. His translational research, supported by the American Heart Association, focuses on how cellular interactions among macrophages, T cells, and fibroblasts drive pathological cardiac remodeling and contribute to the decline of cardiac function in response to pressure overload, integrating murine models with mechanistic in vivo and in vitro approaches.