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Gene Regulation in Cardiac Development and Disease

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Message from the Guest Editor

Formation of the heart is among the most dynamic and fascinating processes in animal development. A multitude of cardiac cell types are specified from distinct mesodermal progenitors and assembled with such anatomical precision that ensures this vital contractile organ will fulfill its ultimate role: the lifelong uninterrupted pumping of blood. Despite the wealth of information that has accumulated over several decades, new and unexpected regulatory mechanisms that drive cardiac lineage progression and morphogenesis continue to emerge. A better understanding of the gene regulatory networks in cardiac development is a prerequisite for the development of therapies to treat a range of heart diseases from congenital abnormalities to adult cardiomyopathies.



