



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Cardiac microvascular dysfunction

Insights from COVID-19, myocardial infarction, and anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity

Jiang, Z.

Publication date

2026

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Jiang, Z. (2026). *Cardiac microvascular dysfunction: Insights from COVID-19, myocardial infarction, and anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, P.O. Box 19185, 1000 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Appendices

Appendices

- List of Publications
- Portfolio of Education
- Curriculum vitae
- Acknowledgements

List of Publications

- [1] **Zhu Jiang**, Linghe Wu, Britt van der Leeden, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. NOX2 and NOX5 are increased in cardiac microvascular endothelium of deceased COVID-19 patients. *International Journal of Cardiology*. Volume 370, 1 January 2023, 454-462.
- [2] Linghe Wu, **Zhu Jiang**, Eva R. Meulendijks, Umit Baylan, Ingeborg S.E. Waas, Marianna Bugiani, Pieter R. Tuinman, Judith Fronczek, Leo M.A. Heunks, Joris R. de Groot, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. Atrial inflammation and microvascular thrombogenicity are increased in deceased COVID-19 patients. *Cardiovascular Pathology*. Volume 64, May-June 2023, 107524.
- [3] **Zhu Jiang**, Giulia Sorrentino, Suat Simsek, Joris J. T. H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. Increased perivascular fibrosis and profibrotic cellular transition in intramyocardial blood vessels in myocardial infarction patients. *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology Plus*. Volume 10, December 2024, 100275.
- [4] **Zhu Jiang**, Ingeborg.S.E.Waas, Suat Simsek, Casper G. Schalkwijk, Joris J.T.H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen MD, Paul A.J. Krijnen. N^ε-(carboxymethyl)lysine-modified albumin exacerbates doxorubicin-induced NOX5-dependent oxidative stress in endothelial cells. *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*. Volume 796, 18 January 2026, 153135.
- [5] **Zhu Jiang**, Giulia Sorrentino, Madalena Lopes Natário Pinto Gomes, Amber Swan-Taylor, Suat Simsek, Joris J.T.H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. Exposure of endothelial cells to Doxorubicin inhibits ECM production by dermal fibroblasts in a paracrine manner. *Toxicological Sciences*. March 2026; kfag027.
- [6] **Zhu Jiang**, Suat Simsek, Aisha Raja, Joris J.T.H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. Endothelial Follistatin-like 3 expression is increased in Myocardial Infarction. *European Journal of Clinical Investigation*. Submitted
- [7] **Zhu Jiang**, Ingeborg.S.E.Waas, Kelly. A. Taal, Mitchell D. Fiet, Suat Simsek, Casper G. Schalkwijk, Lourens F.H.J. Robbers, Joris J.T.H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. A comprehensive analysis of early and late effects of very low cumulative dose Doxorubicin on the heart in rats. In preparation

Portfolio of Education

Name of PhD student:	Zhu Jiang
PhD period:	January 2021 – January 2026
Name PhD supervisor:	Prof. dr. J.J.T.H. Roelofs Prof. dr. J.W.M. Niessen
Name PhD co-supervisor:	Dr. P.A.J. Krijnen Dr. S. Simsek

1. PhD training	Year	ECTS
<i>Courses</i>		
- Bridging program Vrije University Amsterdam	2021	6.5
- Cellular imaging	2021	0.6
- Research integrity Course	2021	2.0
- Advanced qPCR	2021	0.7
- Program cardiovascular training course	2021	2.0
- Entrepreneurship in healthy and life sciences	2021	2.0
- Practical Biostatistics	2022	2.0
- Cell-based Assays and Live Cell Imaging	2022	0.3
- Proteomics in biomedical research	2024	3.0
<i>Seminars and Workshops</i>		
- Talk like TED	2022	0.1
- Science & Awards Day	2022	0.9
- Science Communication	2023	0.3
- ACS PhD retreat 2022/2023/2024	2022-2024	3.0
- Weekly laboratory and group meetings	2021-2026	4.0
<i>International Conference and Symposium</i>		
- Frontiers in CardioVascular Biomedicine (FCVB); With abstract, oral and poster presentation;	2024	2.0
- IMARS-15, Glycation in food, health and disease; With abstract, poster presentation;	2024	1.0
- yICSA 2025 symposium, senescence researchers; With abstract, poster presentation;	2025	1.0
- ACS monthly/annually symposia at VUmc and AMC; Attending;	2021-2026	2.0
PhD training in total		33.4

2. Teaching	Year	ECTS
<i>Supervising</i>		
- Bachelor internship supervision, Ennia J. van Loon; 4 months;	2022	1.6
- Master internship supervision, Giulia Sorrentino; 9 months;	2022-2023	3.0
- Bachelor internship supervision, Amber Swan-Taylor; 9 months;	2023-2024	3.0
- Bachelor internship supervision, Kelly A.Taal; 9 months	2024-2025	3.0
- Master internship supervision, Aisha Raja; 6 months;	2025	2.0
<i>Other</i>		
- Praktijkstage academische Vorming (PVA), 1st year medical students, 6 months;	2022	1.0
Teaching in total		13.6

3. Publications	Year
<i>Peer reviewed</i>	
- Z. Jiang , L. Wu, B. Leeden, H.W.M. Niessen, P.A.J. Krijnen. NOX2 and NOX5 are increased in cardiac microvascular endothelium of deceased COVID-19 patients. <i>International Journal of Cardiology</i> . Volume 370, 1 January 2023, 454-462.	2022
- L.Wu, Z. Jiang , E.R.Meulendijks, U.Baylan, I.S.E. Waas, M. Bugiani, P. R. Tuinman, J. Fronczek, L. M.A. Heunks, J. R. de Groot, H. W.M. Niessen, P. A.J. Krijnen. Atrial inflammation and microvascular thrombogenicity are increased in deceased COVID-19 patients. <i>Cardiovascular Pathology</i> . Volume 64, May-June 2023, 107524.	2023
- Z. Jiang , G. Sorrentino, S. Simsek, J. J.T.H. Roelofs, H.W.M. Niessen, P. A.J. Krijnen. Increased perivascular fibrosis and pro-fibrotic cellular transition in intramyocardial blood vessels in myocardial infarction patients. <i>Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology Plus</i> . Volume 10, December 2024,100275.	2024
- Z. Jiang , I.S.E.Waas, S. Simsek, C. G. Schalkwijk, J. J.T.H. Roelofs, H. W.M. Niessen MD, P.A.J. Krijnen. Nε-(carboxymethyl)lysine-modified albumin exacerbates doxorubicin-induced NOX5-dependent oxidative stress in endothelial cells. <i>Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications</i> . Volume 796, 18 January 2026,153135.	2025

<p>- Z. Jiang, G. Sorrentino, M. L. N. P. Gomes, A. Swan-Taylor, S. Simsek, J. J.T.H. Roelofs, H.W.M. Niessen, P.A.J. Krijnen. Exposure of endothelial cells to Doxorubicin inhibits ECM production by dermal fibroblasts in a paracrine manner. <i>Toxicological Sciences.</i></p>	2026
<p>Other</p>	
<p>- Zhu Jiang, Suat Simsek, Aisha Raja, Joris J.T.H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. Endothelial Follistatin-like 3 expression is increased in Myocardial Infarction. <i>European Journal of Clinical Investigation.</i></p>	Submitted
<p>- Zhu Jiang, Ingeborg.S.E.Waas, Kelly. A. Taala, Mitchell D. Fiet, Suat Simsek, Casper G. Schalkwijk, Lourens F.H.J. Robbers, Joris J.T.H. Roelofs, Hans W.M. Niessen, Paul A.J. Krijnen. A comprehensive analysis of early and late effects of very low cumulative dose Doxorubicin on the heart in rats.</p>	In preparation

Curriculum Vitae

Zhu Jiang was born on December 4th, 1994, in Jilin Province, China. She obtained her Bachelor of Engineering degree in Biological Engineering from Jiangnan University (Jiangsu, China) in 2016. During her studies, she participated in an exchange program at Kasetsart University in Thailand with financial support from the China Scholarship Council, focusing on the screening of probiotics from human milk.



In 2019, she received her Master of Engineering in Fermentation Engineering from Jiangnan University. She focused on developing enzymatic pathways for glucosamine production and enhancing catalytic performance through protein engineering, where her research in enzyme engineering led to two first-author publications and an international patent now applied in industrial bioprocesses.

After completing her master's degree, she joined WuXi Biologics as a purification researcher, where she specialized in antibody purification and downstream process development for biopharmaceutical production.

Since January 2021, Zhu has been pursuing her PhD, supported by the China scholarship council, in the Department of Pathology at Amsterdam University Medical Centre (AUMC), The Netherlands. Her doctoral research investigates cardiac microvascular dysfunction, with special interest in endothelial dysfunction, fibrosis, and cellular communication in cardiovascular pathology.

Acknowledgements

This PhD journey has been long and challenging. I would first like to thank myself for the perseverance and resilience that carried me to this milestone. At the same time, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported and accompanied me throughout my PhD journey.

First and foremost, I would like to thank **Dr. Paul A.J. Krijnen** for his invaluable guidance and support. As a PhD student trained across disciplines, I often found uncertain when navigating unfamiliar scientific territory. At those moments, you offered me not only clear scientific direction but also genuine encouragement. I am deeply grateful for the way you patiently explained complex concepts in plain language and through vivid illustrations when I felt lost, helping me complete one project after another with growing confidence. I will never forget the moment when, after making a stupid mistake, I sat alone at the lab bench feeling overwhelmed and defeated, and you comforted me with a simple sentence: "It's not the end of the world." That sentence comforted me in every moment when I felt as though the world was falling apart. I feel truly fortunate to have had you as my daily supervisor, and I am deeply thankful that your mentorship guided me to the successful completion of my PhD journey.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Prof. Hans W.M. Niessen**, my promoter. To me, you are a scientist of remarkable depth and breadth. Whenever a question seemed unsolvable or a problem remained unclear, turning to you invariably brought clarity. With extraordinary efficiency and insight, you had an exceptional ability to identify the essence of a problem and explain it in just a few precise sentences. I am deeply grateful for your constant availability, your remarkably prompt responses to emails regardless of time or place, and your genuine patience and warmth toward students. You consistently went above and beyond to help us achieve our goals, and your guidance and support have been invaluable throughout my PhD journey.

My sincere thanks go to **Dr. Suat Simsek**, for your important contributions and support during my PhD. Your involvement made my doctoral journey smoother and more manageable. The clinical perspectives you brought into our discussions greatly broadened my understanding of the research and helped me see my work in a wider context. I am also grateful for your humor, which often eased my tension and anxiety,

and for your encouragement and recognition, which consistently strengthened my confidence.

I would like to sincerely thank **Prof. Joris J.T.H. Roelofs** for kindly agreeing to serve as my PhD promoter. Your kindness, approachability, and steady support made a meaningful difference during the final stages of my PhD. I am deeply grateful for your willingness to help with every question, for your thoughtful advice on my thesis, and for the reassurance you provided throughout the graduation process. Your guidance allowed me to move forward with confidence and enabled me to complete my PhD smoothly and with peace of mind.

I am deeply grateful to **Ingeborg. S.E. Waas**, our wonderful technician, for your essential support throughout my PhD. Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and reliability, which allowed my research to progress efficiently. I also sincerely appreciate the group activities you organized, which enriched our lives beyond the lab. Your thoughtful reminders about meetings and events, especially helpful to me, as I do not speak Dutch, made me feel included and cared for. Your kindness and attentiveness made a great difference.

To **Madalena Lopes Natário Pinto Gomes**, as fellow international students far away from home, we shared many moments of loneliness, adjustment and quite understanding. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been welcomed into your life and to have met your family, which allowed me to witness what a loving and happy family truly looks like. Thank you for your companionship, empathy, and warmth throughout these years. I am very grateful to have met **Jackson (Linghe Wu)** during my first year of PhD. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a period marked by uncertainty, challenges, and unexpected opportunities. I feel fortunate that we were able to collaborate closely on two COVID-19 related projects. Working together during such a formative and demanding time was both meaningful and inspiring. Thank you for your help, support, and collaboration, which made that challenging period more productive and memorable. Sincerely thank **Britt van der Leeden** for your constant support throughout my PhD. Your help and advice, both academically and personally, made many challenging moments easier. Your kindness, patience, and willingness to help made a meaningful difference to me. I am deeply grateful for your presence and support during these years.

I would also like to thank **Amber Korn** for the many conversations, shared thoughts, and constant openness along the way. Your willingness to listen, talk things through,

and exchange ideas, often at just the right moment, made both work and life during my PhD lighter and more enjoyable. Thank you for your support and for all the good conversations. Sincerely thanks to **Mitchell D. Fiet**, I really appreciated your help with my animal experiments. Beyond the experiments, I also very much enjoyed the moments we shared over meals, your genuine love for food always brought a light and cheerful atmosphere. Thank you for your help, companionship and the many pleasant moments along the way. I would also like to thank **Thijs van der Mark** for the pleasant atmosphere and the many good moments we shared during the late stage of my PhD.

Thanks for the **Cardiovascular Pathology group**, a group full of warmth, energy, and care. We partied together, attended PhD retreats, shared drinks and laughter, and supported one another through both scientific and personal challenges. Thank you for making these years not only productive but also joyful and memorable.

I am also deeply grateful to the interns who joined my project, **Giulia Sorrentino, Kelly A. Taal, Aisha Raja, Amber Swan-Taylor and Ennia J. van Loon**. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and valuable contributions to the research. Working with each of you not only advanced the project but also helped me grow as a researcher and supervisor. Through our collaboration, I gained a deeper understanding of the science itself and learned how to guide, communicate, and mentor others. We learned from one another and progressed together, and I truly value the time we spent working as a team.

I would like to thank all members of the **Department of Pathology** for their support and assistance throughout my PhD. I also express my sincere gratitude to the **China Scholarship Council (CSC)** for its financial support, and to **Amsterdam University Medical Center (Amsterdam UMC)** and **Amsterdam Cardiovascular Sciences (ACS)** for providing the institutional resources and research infrastructure that made this work possible.

Acknowledgement of BioRender

The following figures were designed by the author and created using BioRender.

The appropriate licences for inclusion in this thesis were obtained:

Figure 1 in Chapter 1: <https://BioRender.com/1dkri1>; *Figure 2 in Chapter 1:* <https://BioRender.com/knv1udw>;

Figure 3 in Chapter 1: <https://BioRender.com/mq41z65>; *Figure 1 in Chapter 9:* <https://BioRender.com/u0vse4p>;

Figure 2 in Chapter 9: <https://BioRender.com/ce3clal>;

科研与学术的旅程可以用英文完整记录，但有些感谢，源于生活、归于情感，更适合用母语来表达。以下致谢，献给那些陪我走过这段人生旅程的人。

常有人说，朋友是自己选择的家人。孙培洪、李宇鑫、任芷葶（芒果和小九）、感谢你们在我远离家乡、独自前行的日子里，始终给予我如家人般的陪伴与支持。那些被压力、迷茫和疲惫包围的时刻，因为有你们的倾听与理解而变得不再那么沉重；那些属于喜悦与纪念的瞬间，也因为与你们分享而更加珍贵。

我也由衷感谢在荷兰结识的同仁们。熟悉的语言、相近的文化与生活方式，让我在异国他乡的日子里，多了一份被理解的踏实与温暖。感谢农璐源、刘大佳、赵文瑞、黄文聪、许珍珍、杨柳、卫军杰、郭立辉、王小婉、钱海斌、张晓萌、陈俊宇、彭雪米、郑培锋、丁乙、唐一丁，以及所有在异国他乡萍水相逢、却以善意与真诚温暖过我的朋友们。

感谢李畅和李哲。虽然身处不同时区，但我们始终保持着联系。你们通过手机的陪伴，出现在我生活中许多重要而普通的时刻，让我在忙碌和压力之中感到被惦记、被支持。谢谢你们一直以来的陪伴与关心。

我谨此衷心感谢中国国家留学基金委对我学业的资助与支持。正是这份支持，使我得以走出国门，在异国他乡完成学业、拓展视野、追求科研理想。让我能够以更开阔的视角理解科学、理解世界，也重新理解自己。衷心祝愿祖国繁荣昌盛，山河无恙。

最深切的感谢，献给我的母亲——李晶红女士。感谢您多年来的理解、支持与守护，让我能够在迷茫与困难中依然努力前行。是您在行动上的勇敢，让我得以走到今天。您以一次次清醒而坚定的选择，为我铺出了前行的道路。感念至深，言难尽意，前路万里，皆承此力。

