

Georg Flügen



Where you are working at the moment? In which position?

Consultant surgeon / research group leader

Department of Surgery (A), University Hospital Duesseldorf, Duesseldorf, Germany

Department of Surgery and Transplantation, University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany

What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?

Metastasis and dissemination in gastrointestinal and HPB cancer; circulating tumor cells.

When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?

During medical school, seeing the effect new and better therapies have on oncology patients.

How important are family and friends in your career?

Very. Without the support of my wife and family, I would not be able to be present in both research and clinical practice.

Something you're inspired by: Seeing basic science being translated to help real patients.

Fun is: Being with friends and family; being inspired by great results in the lab or clinic.

What are the two no-goes for a researcher? Falsification and narrowmindedness.

If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?

Fast, genuine, busy.

How do you spend your free time? I don't understand the question...

What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?

Try to help others; support my family.

Ruby Yun-Ju Huang



Where you are working at the moment? In which position?

I am currently Professor in School of Medicine, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University (NTU). I also hold several joints appointments including Professor in Graduate Institute of Oncology, College of Medicine NTU, Professor in Department of BioMedical Engineering, College of Engineering NTU, Professor in SMART MHI Program, International College NTU, Professor and Director in Social Innovation Research Center, D-School NTU. I am also holding Visting Professor positions in IRCMS, Kumamoto University and in Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS).

What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?

My research interest has been focusing on understanding how the plasticity and fluidity is shaped along the epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) spectrum and how various EMT states differ in their functions during carcinoma progression. We utilized the CAM model to assess the ability of tumor growth and dissemination of cancer cells at different EMT states.

When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?

I decided to start a scientific career during my second year of ObGyn residency training when I saw ovarian cancer patients having very bad disease outcomes. I realized that embarking on a scientific career and becoming a physician scientist would enable me to find cures for these patients. So when I finished my residency training, I was enrolled into a PhD program in the Graduate Institute of Anatomy and Cell Biology in NTU while working at the same time as a gynecologic oncology fellow in the NTU Hospital. After obtaining my PhD, I decided not to go back to the medical practice but to continue with a postdoctoral fellowship stint and established a scientific career ever since.

How important are family and friends in your career?

My family is my rock. I am extremely fortunate to have a supportive husband who admires and celebrates my achievements in career. He made an exceptional decision to move with me to Singapore when I decided to pursuit my postdoc training there. He himself had to start all over again in his career journey when he was already a young promising urologist at that time. I wouldn't be where I am and who I am today without his support.

Something you're inspired by:

I am inspired by young people. Listening to their visions for the future makes me realize that what I am doing now is sustainable for the future.

Fun is: Talking nonsense with likeminded and laughed our heads out. Of course, over drinks!

What are the two no-goes for a researcher?

The first is violation of research ethics. The second is damaging collegial relationship.

If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?

Creative, crazy, compassionate

How do you spend your free time? Binge watching Netflix series.

What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?

Organize my own funeral.

**Marta Teixeira
Pinto**



Where you are working at the moment? In which position?

I'm the head of the "in vivo CAM assays" Scientific Platform at i3S – Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde (Institute of Investigation and Innovation in Health) at Porto, Portugal.

What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?

The "in vivo CAM assays" Scientific Platform offers scientific expertise and services utilizing the chick embryo chorioallantoic membrane (CAM). The applications of the model range all i3S research integrative programs namely, Cancer; Infection, Immunity and Regeneration; and Neurobiology and Neurologic Disorders.

When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?

When I was 6 years old, I knew that I wanted to be a scientist. Following this childhood dream, I pursued a degree in biochemistry and furthered my education with a MSc and PhD in Neurosciences. After these, I eagerly embraced the challenge of exploring and implementing innovative approaches to studying cancer, particularly utilizing the chick embryo model. This was a pivotal decision made 15 years ago, and today, I am pleased to be able to utilize my knowledge and expertise in areas beyond cancer research, enabling me to make confident and impactful contributions to various fields of study.

How important are family and friends in your career?

My family is my rock, supporting me unconditionally throughout my career. Their encouragement has been pivotal, guiding me through every stage of my journey. With their unwavering support, I've been able to pursue my passions and achieve my goals with confidence.

Something you're inspired by:

Nature's remarkable action spanning from a single cell to an entire forest.

Fun is: Exploring the wilderness or venturing to new destinations with my family.

What are the two no-goes for a researcher? Lack of research ethics.

If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?

Kind, trustworthy, super-organized, effective (I actually asked my best friend!)

How do you spend your free time?

Mostly with my kids, I also enjoy reading, photography, and cinema.

What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?

Provide my children with enriching experiences, hopefully taking them to as many places as I can.

Xavier Rousset



Where you are working at the moment? In which position?

I am the R&D team leader at INOVOTION since the creation of the company in 2015.

What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?

At INOVOTION, as a company providing the use of the CAM model as a service for our customers (research lab, biotechs, pharma...), we are interested by every possible uses of the model for scientific research. During the first years of the company, we were more focused on oncology, developing specific tools for the test of immune therapies, ADCs, ...

We are now moving forward, to other fields, like angiogenesis, biomaterial testing, toxicity.

When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?

I was interested by biology since childhood. But during Master degrees, I had some doubt about what should be my future career. This doubt disappeared rapidly, when I went in a research lab for a first stage. I had definitely solve the question and I started a PhD the year later. Almost 20 years later, the envy is still there !

How important are family and friends in your career?

My parents are were still supporting my decisions in terms of education even I failed on a few steps. And I met my wife at the university. She is scientific too, and we had never did a postdoc in US if we were not supporting each other. Few years later, I followed her to Grenoble when she found a job... which was finally the first step on the way to INOVOTION and the discovery of the CAM model for me. Concerning my friends many of them are from the years at the university. Scientific friends were my closest "family" during the years in US. Two of them are now my children's godfathers !

Something you're inspired by: Nature

Fun is: Be with friends and share great time (with cheese and wine).

What are the two no-goes for a researcher? Absence of doubt, or ethics.

If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?

Honest, faithful and... grouchy !

How do you spend your free time? Sport, Train modelism, family time

What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life? Let and watch my kids growing.