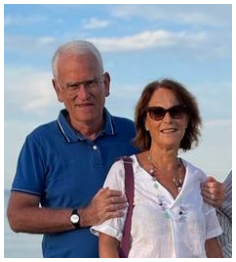
Regine Schneider-Stock

Where you are working at the moment? In which position?
I am the head of the Experimental Tumorpathology group at the University Hospital Erlangen, Germany
What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?
We are interested in the molecular mechanisms of colorectal cancer progression including metastasis. The CAM assay is an excellent model to evaluate the tumor aggressiveness reflecting most of the hallmarks of cancer. I have been sensitized to using alternatives to animal testing for a long time.
For the CAM model, we have taken on a pioneering role with our partners and in the meantime this has grown into a large interest community. Notably, I have organized the first CAM conference in 2022 with more than 300 participants from 36 countries worldwide.
What are the three most important points why you like the CAM model?
It is fast, it is easy to handle, and it gives me the maximum flexibility for planning the experiments.
When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?
After the study of Biology my first teacher Prof. Jürgen Matthies, Director of the Institute of Neurobiology and Brain Research in Magdeburg, took his hands on my shoulders and said:“girl, lets start with a dissertation …“
How important are family and friends in your career?
My family, my husband, my parents, my daughter and granddaughter are the cornerstones in every hurricane.
Something you´re inspired by: The atmosphere with friends and good food
Fun is: Motorcycling and smelling the nature
What are the two no-goes for a researcher? unreliability, arrogance
If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?
reliable, highly stressable, emotional
How do you spend your free time? Sewing, gardening, baking
My husband's note: Paving the way for my granddaughter wherever possible.
What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?
Cruise to see the Norwegian fjords and the Northern lights

Nassim Ghaffari Tabrizi-Wizsy

Where you are working at the moment? In which position?
I am an assistant professor and lecturer and head the CAM lab at the Medical University of Graz.
What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?
The focus is on cancer research. However, I have many collaborations with researchers where CAM also finds other applications (e.g. wound healing, angiogenic factors).
What are the three most important points why you use/like the CAM model?
CAM assay answers many questions in biology, it is reproducible, it is very aesthetic!
When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?
That has always been my desire!
How important are family and friends in your career?
Family and friends are important pillars in my life. Without their support, my life would be dull and boring.
Something you´re inspired by:
The nature. I get my inspiration when I go hiking in the nature and can let my soul dangle.
Fun is: Working with young people. They bring a breath of fresh air into life.
What are the two no-goes for a researcher?
- to forget about the controls
- doggedly pursuing an idea and hence overlooking unexpected results
If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?
Friendly, chaotic, honest
How do you spend your free time?
I do a lot! Beside spending time with family and friends, I love hiking, I am creative and paint and draw whenever I find time. And I love to listen to music and reading a good book and much more.
What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?
Discovering the country of my origin, hopefully in freedom and peace.

Domenico Ribatti



Where you are working at the moment? In which position?
I am full professor of Human Anatomy at the University of Bari Medical School, Bari, Italy.
What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?
The role in inflammatory cells in the modulation of tumor angiogenesis in tumor microenvironment and alternative mode of tumor vascularization (vascular co-option and vasculogenic mimicry).
What are the three most important points why you use/like the CAM model?
1. I have contributed to intrduce this assay in the scientific community 35 year ago.
2. It is an extremely versatile assay.
3. It is an inexpensive assay.

When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?
A long time ago, in 1983.
How important are family and friends in your career?
Extremely important, particularly my wife, co-author of many of my publications.
Something you´re inspired by: a blue sky.
Fun is: playing with the grandchildren.
What are the two no-goes for a researcher? Arrogance and absence of doubt.
If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?
Honest, open minded and egalitarian.
How do you spend your free time? Reading and collecting books.
What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?
Health and serenity.

Judy Coulson

Where you are working at the moment? In which position?
I am a Professor in Cellular and Molecular Physiology at the University of Liverpool (UK), where I lead a research group of 8 post-docs and PhD students. I am the Academic Lead for our Chick Embryo Facility and collaborate widely to spread use of this model as an alternative to rodent studies. I am also the Deputy Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Technology, Infrastructure & Environment in the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences, where I lead on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.
What is the main focus of your research, particularly related to the egg models?
My research focuses on cancer cell biology and translating our findings towards targeted precision therapies. We are interested in the deubiquitylase BAP1, which is inactivated in half of all mesotheliomas, and may determine sensitivity to specific drugs. My group have established CAM xenografts using fluorescent and bioluminescent labelled mesothelioma cell lines, which we will use to test drug efficacy. We are also establishing patient-derived CAM xenografts from biopsy samples to better replicate the tumour microenvironment.
What are the three most important points why you use/like the CAM model?
Replicates aspects of the tumour microenvironment, reduces the use of rodents in research, generates rapid and meaningful results.
When was the moment you decided to start a scientific career?
When I first learnt about the central dogma of molecular biology at school. I wanted to discover more about how cells control gene expression and regulate the proteins they express.
How important are family and friends in your career?
They are a great sounding board for practising how to explain research in simple terms, a key skill for effective public engagement about science.
Something you´re inspired by:
Opportunities to improve research environment and culture.
Fun is: Landing at an airport in a country you have never visited before. Once you get out of the airport (often not much fun) the joy of discovering new places, people, wildlife and food begins!
What are the two no-goes for a researcher?
Poor record keeping, and ignoring negative results - they are trying to tell you something.
If your best friend has only three words to describe you which are the words?
Likes red wine!
How do you spend your free time?
Gardening - growing flowers, fruit and vegetables, is very satisfying as I don't get chance to grow cell cultures anymore!
What is the only thing you will do definitely in your life?
Drive across Namibia.