



Davy Vanhoutte, PhD

Dr. Davy Vanhoutte is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Cardiovascular Biology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. For the last 20 years, his research has centered on deciphering novel molecular mechanisms through which the extracellular matrix (ECM) dictates (patho-) physiological remodeling of the heart and skeletal muscle. Davy obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Leuven in Belgium under the mentorship of Dr. Stephane Heymans and Dr. Frans Van de Werf, where he identified several stress-induced matricellular proteins as critical extracellular regulators of inflammation and adverse collagen remodeling during hypertensive, ischemic and inflammatory heart disease. For his postdoctoral training, Davy joined the laboratory of Dr. Jeffery Molkenin at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Here, his combined studies made fundamental contributions to our current understanding of the thrombospondin (Thbs) family of matricellular proteins. While traditionally characterized as secreted proteins, his work revealed an essential role for Thbs in modulating protein homeostasis, secretory pathway activity, ECM production, growth factor activity, and cell membrane integrity within muscle cells. Now an assistant professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Dr. Vanhoutte's independent research program builds upon these foundational findings with the long-term goal of developing innovative, personalized therapies for a wide range of cardiac and skeletal muscle disorders.

Dr. Vanhoutte serves on the editorial board of the journals *Matrix Biology*, *Matrix Biology Plus* and *Scientific Reports*, as invited peer-reviewer for various internationally renowned scientific journals, and received numerous awards and invitations to speak at national and international conferences. In addition, Davy has been a dedicated and active member of the *American Society for Matrix Biology* (ASMB) since joining in 2018, consistently contributing to its mission and advancing its activities. For example, he has organized and chaired scientific sessions at the ASMB Biennial Meetings in 2018, 2021, and 2023; in 2019, he became a member of the ASMB *Outreach and Communication Committee*, and he currently serves as its co-chair alongside Dr. Joan Chang from the University of Manchester, UK. Furthermore, he co-founded the *ASMB eSymposia*, further highlighting his leadership and commitment to advancing our field. Besides this, Dr. Vanhoutte is also member of the *Membership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee*, where he brings a unique perspective as an immigrant and a member of the LGBTQIAP+ community, ensuring that underrepresented voices are heard and valued.

Dr. Vanhoutte envisions a future for ASMB that not only builds upon its strong foundation but also introduces forward-thinking initiatives designed to expand its impact and inclusivity. His goals include increasing ASMB's visibility within the broader scientific community and developing programs that attract new members—particularly focusing on the needs of the next generation of matrix biologists. This vision includes initiatives centered on career development, as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), ensuring that all voices are heard and supported. He is also committed to fostering greater collaboration and interaction with the International Society of Matrix Biology (ISMB) and other sister organizations globally, further strengthening the society's influence and reach. As co-chair of ASMB's Outreach and Communication Committee, Dr. Vanhoutte will be uniquely positioned to effectively promote, implement, and translate ASMB's future strategic priorities into concrete actions that directly benefit the membership, helping ASMB thrive in a rapidly evolving scientific landscape.