

# Mechanisms of action & Metabolism

## Steve Stegen

Dr. Steve Stegen is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Clinical & Experimental Endocrinology lab (Prof. Geert Carmeliet) at the KU Leuven in Leuven, Belgium. He currently holds a senior postdoctoral research grant from the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).

Dr. Stegen completed his MSc in Biomedical Sciences in 2010 at the KU Leuven, where he studied the effect of posttranslational modifications on chemokine activity. During his PhD in the lab of Prof. Geert Carmeliet, he investigated the role of hypoxia signaling in skeletal cells and its application for bone tissue engineering. It was then that he developed his passion for bone research and cell metabolism. In 2016 and 2019, dr. Stegen got awarded with two consecutive FWO postdoctoral fellowships to investigate the role of glutamine metabolism in skeletal cells. His work on hypoxia signaling and metabolic regulation of skeletal cell function has been published in, amongst others, Nature, Cell Metabolism and Nature Communications.

Dr. Stegen's current research focusses on the in-depth characterization of the metabolic needs of healthy and diseased skeletal cells. His expertise includes preclinical mouse models for fracture healing and osteoporosis, bone imaging/histology, primary skeletal cell isolation and metabolomics.

Dr. Stegen is a representative for the ECTS Academy, and a member of several other scientific societies such as ECTS and ASBMR. He presented his findings at international meetings (ECTS, ASBMR, Gordon Research Seminar, TERMIS), and his work received several awards, including the ASBMR Young Investigator Award in 2016.

## Lena Thiebes

Dr. Anja Lena Thiebes is group leader of the Respiratory Tissue Engineering Group at the Department of Biohybrid & Medical Textiles (Prof. Stefan Jockenhoevel), RWTH Aachen University, Germany.

Dr. Thiebes is a Biomedical Engineer with a background in Biology. After her undergraduate studies, she did research visits to Uppsala University, Sweden (Department of Neuroscience, Prof. Klas Kullander) Eindhoven University, Netherlands (Department of Biomedical Engineering, Prof. Carlijn V.C. Bouten). During her PhD in an international consortium on the development of a biohybrid respiratory stent, she focused on cell aerosolization for implant coating. After finishing her PhD studies in 2016, Dr. Thiebes went to the Vermont Lung Center at the University of Vermont, USA (Prof. Daniel J. Weiss) to work on lung de- and recellularization as well as continuing studies on cell aerosolization. After her return to RWTH Aachen University, she started working on respiratory tissue engineering with a focus on biohybrid implants for lung and airways, generation of tracheal constructs and cell aerosolization for lung cell therapy and acquired funding for several projects to start her own group within the Department of Biohybrid & Medical Textiles.

She is elected member of the research committee of RWTH Aachen University Medical Faculty and reviews for different scientific journals. In 2020, she was awarded with the Research Prize of the Western German Respiratory Society.