

Speaker's Biosketch

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Jacob Fog Bentzon (Aarhus University, Denmark)

Jacob Fog Bentzon, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Experimental Atherosclerosis at Aarhus University in Denmark and a visiting group leader at the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC) in Madrid, Spain. He trained in experimental research with Professor Erling Falk, completing a PhD on the cellular biology of atherosclerosis. He subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in genetic engineering before starting as an independent investigator in 2010.

His team studies disease mechanisms in atherosclerosis, focusing on the fate and functions of smooth muscle cells (SMCs) and their progeny. They have shown that clonal expansion of a few pre-existing SMCs gives rise to most plaque cells in murine models of atherosclerosis. These clonally expanding cells undergo phenotypic transitions into other mesenchymal cell types, such as fibroblasts and osteochondrogenic cells, via mechanisms shared with embryonic development. Other contributions include the development of techniques to induce atherosclerosis in mice and minipigs, as well as critical reassessments of clinical imaging modalities for atherosclerosis.

Jacob Fog Bentzon has published 88 papers and editorials and serves on the editorial board of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology. His current research is primarily funded by the European Research Council and the Novo Nordisk Foundation.