

Biosketch: Prof Dunja Aksentijevic, Professor of Cardiovascular Physiology and Metabolism

Dunja graduated from the University of Hull in 2004 with a BSc in Biomedical Science as the recipient of the Faculty of Science Academic Scholarship. She was awarded the University of Hull Frederick Atkinson Prize Scholarship and NHS Renal Research Fund Fellowship for her doctoral studies to examine myocardial insulin resistance in chronic kidney disease. In 2008, Dunja joined the University of Oxford and in 2013, she moved to King's College London, as senior research fellow. In 2017 Dunja was appointed Lecturer in Physiology at Queen Mary University of London. In 2020, she joined William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London as the British Heart Foundation Accelerator Award Fellow. In 2021 she was awarded the Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellowship. Her research aims to determine how metabolic remodelling contributes to the pathophysiology of heart failure and from this develop novel therapies targeting metabolism. She is an elected trustee of the British Society for Cardiovascular Research. She was awarded a personal Chair in Cardiovascular Physiology and Metabolism by Queen Mary University of London, Barts and the London Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in 2024. She is passionate advocate for women in STEM. In 2023, she led her faculty to achieving an Athena SWAN Gold Award (UK charter for gender equality in academia). Work in her laboratory is funded by Diabetes UK, British Heart Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Bart's Charity and industrial partners.

