

Dr. Deli Zhang

Assistant Professor, Wageningen University & Research

Dr. Deli Zhang is a tenured assistant professor at Wageningen University, leading an innovative research program on cardiac health, with a focus on the metabolic drivers of atrial fibrillation (AF). She received training in molecular genetics (MSc, Sun Yat-sen University), experimental pharmacology (PhD cum laude, University Medical Center Groningen), and mitochondrial metabolism and physiology (postdoc, Amsterdam UMC).

Using cross-species models, her interdisciplinary research investigates how mitochondrial dysfunction and metabolic imbalances drives cardiac arrhythmias, particularly AF. By exploring molecular links between diabetes, obesity, ageing, and cardiac health, her team aims to identify novel therapeutic targets to prevent AF through diet-based interventions.

Dr. Zhang has secured several prestigious grants, including personal awards from the Dutch Heart Foundation and the Dutch Research Council. She supervises more than 10 PhD students and numerous MSc students, fostering the next generation of cardiovascular researchers.