

## Stefan Frank: R&D - Bayer

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Stefan Frank studied Molecular Biomedicine at the University of Bonn, Germany from 2005 to 2010. Already back then, he became fascinated by human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) and their potential to model human diseases in vitro and performed his diploma thesis work on this topic in the lab of Prof. Oliver Brüstle. After that, Stefan moved to the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Biomedicine in Münster to conduct his PhD studies in the labs of Prof. Hans Schöler and Dr. Boris Greber. Also here, hPSCs were in focus, however this time for modeling cardiac diseases. During this time, Stefan developed his 2nd scientific passion - genome engineering - and worked with both TALENs and CRISPR/Cas9. After obtaining his PhD, Stefan moved to Cologne to perform his postdoc research in the field of long non-coding RNAs in human cardiac development in the lab of Dr. Leo Kurian. Since 2017, Stefan is a lab head in pharmaceutical R&D at Bayer AG in Wuppertal, Germany and is responsible for hPSC-based identification and validation of novel targets to treat cardiovascular diseases.