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*Extracellular Matrix: The New Old Player in Regenerative Medicine*

Dr. Camila Hochman-Mendez is Texas Heart Institute's Assistant Director of Regenerative Medicine Research and Director of the THI Biorepository and Cell Profiling Lab. She received her Ph.D. in Biophysics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 2014. Dr. Hochman-Mendez's research centers on the role of extracellular matrix proteins on cardiac stem cell differentiation, tissue repair, and regeneration. The goal of her research program at Texas Heart Institute is to build in vitro and ex vivo cardiovascular tissue models and to develop advanced technologies required for reproducibility, scale up and translation of engineered cardiac tissues.