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2025 Finalist Juliette Fedry

Cellular proteostasis networks in physiology and diseases

»My research combines functional and structural approaches across scales to address long standing questions in cell biology.

During my PhD, I identified HAP2 as the first eukaryotic gamete fusion protein and determined its crystal structure, revealing homology with viral fusion proteins.

As a postdoc, I developed my research towards larger length scales and native cellular contexts. I established a workflow for high-resolution subtomogram averaging in native human endoplasmic reticulum (ER) membranes. These results uncovered fundamental insights into how various types of nascent protein chains recruit different ER translocon complexes to enter the secretory pathway. I further developed FIB-milling approaches to visualize translation in intact mammalian cells, revealing that the elongation factor eEF1A remains bound to human ribosomes during proofreading after hydrolysis. This finding contributes to rationalise why the human ribosome operates slower than its bacterial counterpart. I leveraged these methods to elucidate the effect of cellular stress on translation dynamics and on the remodelling of the nuclear membrane. I recently started my group at the MRC LMB, where I develop an integrative approach to study the regulation of proteostasis networks in healthy and diseased mammalian cells.«

Dr. Juliette Fedry

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