



Florian Merkle is a stem cell biologist and neuroscientist at the WT-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science (IMS) at the University of Cambridge, whose group used human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) to model the genetic and environmental contributions to neurological disease. In particular, the Merkle lab differentiates hPSCs into hypothalamic cell populations that regulate appetite, such as pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC) neurons. The ultimate aim of this work is to harness the scalability and genetic accessibility of stem cell models to discover new therapeutic targets for obesity.