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Dr. Yanagisawa received her M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Tsukuba. She then completed postdoctoral training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where she was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology in 2003 and promoted to tenured Associate Professor in 2011. In 2014, she returned to the University of Tsukuba as a Professor at the TARA Center, relocating her research laboratory from Dallas to Tsukuba Science City in 2015.

Dr. Yanagisawa's research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of cell–matrix interactions and their roles in disease pathogenesis, with a particular emphasis on aortic diseases. Her recent work includes the development of a novel mouse model of aortic dissection carrying a pathogenic fibrillin-1 variant identified in familial case. She is also investigating how vascular cells sense and respond to mechanical stress, and how these cues are translated into biochemical signaling pathways.