

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2001 - 2002

ESC WORKING GROUP ON CARDIAC CELLULAR ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY (#11)

Objectives of the WG

The major goal of the WG is to foster exchange of scientific information in the field of cellular electrophysiology and excitation-contraction coupling. This covers the fundamental biophysical aspects as well as the more applied pathophysiology. The annual meeting is the forum for presenting new and unpublished data with emphasis on informal discussion. It is organized in a way that makes it possible for younger scientists and PhD students to attend and present their data.

At the annual meeting of the ESC, the WG contributes overview sessions on developments in the field of cellular and molecular aspects of ion channel function, in a clinical perspective.

Sessions organised at the ESC annual meeting 2002

The WG is responsible for 3 symposia at the ESC Berlin 2002 congress, on 'Electrical remodeling during ventricular pacing', together with the WG Pacing, 'Downregulation of K channels in heart failure', and 'New concepts in atrial fibrillation', supported by the ISHR. In addition the WG contributes to the cluster symposium 'An update on ischemic preconditioning' (WGs Cellular biology, Myocardial function and Cellular Electrophysiology). These topics reflect the activities of the WG with the closest links to Cardiology practice. The more fundamental research activities are covered in some of the ESC abstract sessions, but are generally less well represented at the ESC annual meeting, because of the primarily clinical attendance of this meeting.

Activities run outside the ESC congress

The annual WG meeting 2001 took place in Dresden from September 14-16. The meeting was organized by Prof. Dr. Ursula Ravens and PD Dr. Erich Wettwer of the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the University of Dresden Medical Faculty. Before the actual WG meeting, a symposium took place "Gating and physiological function of voltage-gated ion channels". This symposium was a joint initiative with the subgroup on Ion Channels of the German Physiological Society and was organized by Prof. Benndorf, from the University of Jena, and Dr. Terlau from the MPI in Goettingen. The half-day symposium consisted of invited lectures by experts in the field and replaced the traditional opening lecture of the annual WG meeting. Because of the events of Sept. 11, American invited speakers were unfortunately unable to come, and these events also caused cancellations among the members, of whom some 140 eventually attended. On the next 2 days, only original and on-going research was presented during 4 oral sessions, and on one afternoon dedicated to poster presentations. In addition to novel mechanistic studies on ion channel function and cell signalling, a large numbers of studies on pathology was presented, in particular on atrial fibrillation and arrhythmic mechanisms.

The nucleus convened at the annual meeting, and in February at the annual Biophysics meeting in San Francisco.

The WG is also endorsing the '3rd International Workshop on Cardiac Mechano-Electric Feedback and Arrhythmias' organized by Dr. Peter Kohl in Oxford, 6th - 8th September 2002.

Membership

Membership was at 249 in 2001, and will be updated at the next annual WG meeting in September.

Karin Sipido

Chairperson, Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology