

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2002 - 2003

ESC WORKING GROUP ON

CARDIAC CELLULAR ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY (#11)

Objectives of the Working Group

The main activity of the WG has been the organization of the annual meeting. The objective of the meeting is to bring together all labs in Europe working in cardiac electrophysiology and calcium homeostasis at the cellular and molecular level. The meeting has focused on latest, unpublished, data to be discussed freely and informally. Younger scientists were encouraged to participate and present their data.

There was no major changes in the nucleus. The nucleus had a meeting during the annual Biophysical Society meeting in San Antonio in February. A second meeting took place during the ESC-HFWG / ISHR in Strasbourg in June. Both were attended by approximately half of the nucleus members, reflecting different focus. A full new nucleus meeting will take place during the next annual WG meeting in Utrecht, in Sept. 2003.

A key point already discussed in Nice, Strasbourg and which will be addressed again in Vienna, is whether or not our WG should join with the *arrhythmia* and *pacing* WGs. In Strasbourg, we (S. Richard, A. Zaza) informed the nuclei of these WGs that, though we are very much willing to increase scientific collaboration and exchanges, any final decision on such a sensitive issue can be taken only after a plenary discussion, to be held in September during the annual WG assembly in Utrecht. An alternative possibility could be to merge with other basic science WGs.

To increase attendance of basic scientist to the annual ESC meeting is among the priority goals of the current management of WG11; this issue has been extensively discussed in various occasions among WG members. In the case of basic scientists, sponsorship is very unusual and participation to meetings is financially supported by the labs, mostly on research funds. Thus, a priority choice has to be made among the few meetings that are considered for attending. A widespread feeling among members of our community is that the balance between the attendance costs of the ESC meeting and the proportion of its program devoted to basic science remains unfavourable. The vicious circle resulting from this condition needs to be broken and we are willing to discuss with ESC officials any mutual initiative suitable to achieve this goal.

Number of sessions organised at the ESC Annual Congress

At the ESC meeting in Vienna, one symposium was organized by the WG ("Role of gender in cardiac remodeling and arrhythmogenesis" *Symposium Bench to Bedside*). The WG also participated in the cluster symposium organized with the WGs Cellular Biology and Myocardial Function and organized one session (Update on free radicals in cardiac pathophysiology).

Activities run outside the ESC Annual Congress

This concerns exclusively our annual meeting which took place in Montpellier from 13 to 15 September 2002. The meeting was organized by the Laboratory of *Cardiovascular Physiopathology*, by Dr. Sylvain Richard, Dr. Guy Vassort, and Prof. Joël Nargeot. The invited

speaker was Prof. Michel Lazdunski from Institut de Pharmacologie Moleculaire et Cellulaire, CNRS, Sophia Antipolis (Valbonne, France), who gave a lecture on '2P-DOMAIN K⁺ CHANNELS: STRUCTURE, MECHANISMS, REGULATION, PHARMACOLOGY AND ASSOCIATION WITH DISEASE STATES'. More than 100 reports were presented, the majority during a dedicated poster session on Friday. The meeting had an attendance of 200 members. As usual most labs from Europe were represented, and a few colleagues from outside Europe attended as well. The meeting was not advertised in journals, only on the ESC website. It has not been a goal to expand outside, as the smaller size of the meeting has fostered the very fruitful informal interaction, and because the small size allows for a low budget organization.

This year (2003), the meeting will be held in Utrecht. Efforts have also been dedicated to improving the quality of the science. Several resolutions were made by the nucleus. In particular, actions have been taken to improve the selection of the best abstracts for oral presentation. Several travel grants are open for the best young people to attend the meeting and present their data.

Membership of Working Group

About 250 persons are members of the WG11. Although all WG members are in the field of cellular electrophysiology and calcium homeostasis, some focus more on the basic mechanisms whereas others focus more on the pathophysiology.

Registries, Surveys

None

Study Groups

None

Sylvain Richard, Chair WG Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology
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