

Working Groups

Annual report of the E.S.C. Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology

The European Working Group of Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology was founded in 1978 by E. Coraboeuf (Paris) & E. Carmeliet (Leuven). The first meeting took place in Leuven, bringing together all labs of Europe investigating the properties of the cardiac action potential and the underlying ionic currents. This first meeting was attended by some 100 people, and the major goal was to share scientific information in order to advance research in a quickly developing field.

As established at the first meeting, the major goal of the WG is to foster exchange of scientific information in the field of cellular electrophysiology. The WG has been the catalyst for collaborations and exchange visits between European laboratories, as well as for establishing joint research proposals within the EC.

At the annual meeting of the ESC, the WG contributes with overview sessions of the latest developments in the field of cellular and molecular aspects of ion channel function, covering the basic properties as well as the clinical perspectives. At the latest ESC Congress in Barcelona, the WG organized 1 Symposium entitled "Molecular basis of arrhythmias beyond genetic diseases".

For this year Congress in Amsterdam, the WG organized 1 Symposium entitled "T-type calcium channels beyond mibefradil: functional relevance and potential as therapeutic target".

The major activity of the WG outside the ESC annual Congress is the annual meeting of the WG, a forum for presenting new and unpublished data with emphasis on informal discussion. The 23rd annual Meeting was held in Oxford, 10-12 September 1999. The local organizer were Patricia Cooper, Alan Gamy, Peter Kohl. The Programme Committee included: Barbara Casadei, George Hart, Denis Noble, David Paterson, Trevor Powell, Derek Terrar, Richard Vaughan-Jones. As usual, The scientific programme consisted of 4 sessions of oral presentations and 2 sessions of poster presentations. A session on current controversy in Physiology was included for the first time in the program. The meeting began with a lecture on "Computational models in the heart" by P. Hunter.

The WG supported the organization of the meeting "1949-1999 50 years of Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology, A tribute to Professor Edouard Coraboeuf" (Paris, September 8-10, 1999).

Requirements for membership

- being active in the field of cardiac electrophysiology, as evidenced by C.V./track record
- contribute to the goals of the WG by regular (at least once every 3 years) participation in the annual meeting.

Prof. A. Mugelli
Chairman of the Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology