

Working Groups

Annual Report 2000-2001

The main activity of the WG is the organization of an annual meeting. The aim 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 The meeting is focused on latest, unpublished, data to be discussed freely and informally. Younger scientists are encouraged to participate and present their data.

This year the meeting took place in Bern from 14 to 16 September 2000 and was organized by the Laboratory of Physiology, with Prof. R. Weingart, Prof. Kleber, Prof. em. S. Weidmann, Dr. E. Niggli and Dr. S. Rohr. The invited speaker was Prof. R. Kass from Columbia University NY, who gave a lecture on 'Revisiting fundamental cardiac electrophysiology: unraveling the functional consequences of inherited ion channel mutations'. Over 100 reports were presented, the majority during a dedicated poster session on Friday. The meeting had an attendance of 250 members. As usual most labs from Europe were represented, and a few colleagues from outside Europe attended as well. Until now 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 also saw major changes in the nucleus, with 8 new members, aimed at a fair representation of different scientific focus and interest. 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. The new nucleus had a first meeting during the annual Biophysical Society meeting in Boston in February. A second meeting took place during the ESC Stockholm congress. Both were attended by approximately half of the nucleus members, reflecting the different focus. A full new nucleus meeting will take place during the next annual WG meeting in Dresden, in Sept. 2001.

At the ESC meeting in Stockholm one symposium was organized by the WG and the WG also participated in the cluster symposium organized with the WGs Cellular Biology and Myocardial Function. The symposium on 'Heart rate reduction: a new clinical target' was highly successful, underscoring that the clinical perspective is what attracts the audience to a symposium of Cellular Electrophysiology.

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