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Editorial

Preface

On September 13–17, 2014, Aix-en-Provence attracted about 200 Scientists from 30 different countries worldwide to enjoy the lovely environment of South of France and to discuss all about calcium at the 13th Symposium of the European Calcium Society (ECS). Special at this meeting was the organization by the ECS and not by a local committee. Furthermore, members of the ECS have been asked to suggest attractive topics (and possible speakers) which then were selected by the Scientific Committee headed by Stephen Moss. This arrangement proved to be very successful and stimulated lively discussions.

The meeting was opened by a plenary lecture presented by Hon Cheung Lee from HongKong who discussed the history and present knowledge of two messengers derived from one enzyme: cyclic ADP ribose (cADPR), a regulator of the ryanodine receptor, and nicotinic acid adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NAADP), suggested to regulate the two-pore channel of lysosomes. Both messengers are derived from the same enzyme, CD38. The Michael Berridge Lecture at the end of the meeting was given by Richard W. Tsien (USA) who in an excellent presentation demonstrated the importance of both, nanodomain and long-distance signaling for neuronal development, homeostasis and memory. Key for his observations was the discovery of a new shuttle mechanism transporting Ca^{2+} /calmodulin from the surface membrane to the nucleus by γCaMKII as the shuttle protein.

The 5 day symposium was divided into 11 sessions (including 3 invited speakers and 1–2 presentations from selected abstracts) covering a wide range of topics in the calcium field including the influence of cellular stress, structural properties of calcium binding proteins, calcium signaling in the nervous system or in the development of cancer, or emphasizing the importance of membrane contact sites for Ca^{2+} signaling.

It was always the philosophy of ECS to support young scientists or established scientists from various countries. Therefore, the Society was pleased to be able to award 10 Junior and 3 Senior Travel Fellowships. The Drabikowski award for the best oral presentation, selected from the submitted abstracts, was given to Abhishek Aggarwal (Austria) and the 2 Poster prizes (selected from 90 Posters) were given to Ilari Pulli (Finland) and Ellie Himschoot (Belgium).

In summary, this was a very stimulating meeting with excellent presentations and lively discussions. We also think that the success of the idea to design the scientific program by inviting ECS members to propose topics for scientific sessions was very convincing and will be continued in the future. However, to make this event possible we should not forget to express our sincere thanks and special gratitude to Roland Pochet, the Treasurer of ECS, to Jan Parys, the General Secretary of ECS, and to Stephen Moss, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, for their outstanding commitments to make this meeting possible.

Special thanks are also due to our sponsors for their generous support. These include ECS, NIH, BBA, IDIL Fibre Optiques and Femtonics Advanced Microscopy. We are looking forward to the 14th ECS meeting, September 25–29 2016 in Valladolid, Spain.



Dr. Jacques Haiech is a professor at the School of Biotechnological Engineering of Strasbourg (France). He is also an expert in biotechnology and bioinformatics and acts as an expert counselor for the French Ministry of Research in life science domain. His main area of research is the role of calmodulin in deciphering calcium signals. He obtained his Masters in Mathematics in 1974 and his PhD in Biochemistry in 1978. In 1987 and 1993, he was a visiting associate professor of the Pharmacology Department of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, and a visiting professor at Northwestern University in the Molecular Pharmacology Department, Chicago (USA). He is the author of more than 150 scientific publications and awarded 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite', a high French distinction for outstanding services to the country.



Dr. Claus W. Heizmann is Professor of Clinical Biochemistry at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. He received his Diploma in Chemistry from the University of Basel and his PhD in 1970 from the University of Konstanz, Germany. Subsequently he was trained as a post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Edmond Fischer at the University of Washington, Seattle and at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. In 1989–2007 he was Director of Clinical Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Zurich. His research focuses on the structure and functions of calcium-binding proteins and RAGE in health and disease. Recently, he edited the book: Calcium-Binding Proteins and RAGE: from structural basics to clinical applications

published in: *Methods in Molecular Biology*, Vol 963, Springer Protocols/Humana Press, 2013.



Dr. Joachim Krebs has been working in the field of calcium-binding and calcium-transporting proteins for many years. After receiving his PhD from the University of Tübingen, Germany, he spent 2 years as a postdoctoral fellow in the Lab of Prof. R.J.P. Williams at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Oxford, UK. In 1977 he accepted a position at the Institute of Biochemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Switzerland. He has authored, coauthored, and edited numerous articles in international journals and books in the field of calcium biochemistry and calcium signaling. After his retirement from the ETH he continued his research at the Department of NMR-based Structural Biology of the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen, Germany. Recently, he edited together with Marek

Michalak from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, the book "Calcium: A Matter of Life or Death", published by Elsevier in 2007. He is also on the Editorial Board of BBA Molecular Cell Research and a Section Editor of Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

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