

(F) are observed. The applied salts were 10^{-1} M NaCl (1); 10^{-1} M Ch-Cl (2) and 5×10^{-2} M (4) or 10^{-1} M ACh-Cl (3). It is clear that only in the case in which ACh-Cl was applied on a membrane containing the cholinergic proteolipid (E4a) a transient change in conductance was observed. In E4b several responses to acetylcholine in the same membrane were superimposed in the screen of the storage oscilloscope. In E4c the response to ACh-Cl was elicited in the presence of Ch-Cl that replaced NaCl in the bath. In F4 the response to ACh-Cl was induced in membranes containing only cholesterol and the cholinergic proteolipid. In this case the response is a sustained one. It is important to remark that membranes containing only cholesterol as the amphipatic molecule (B, D, F) are very stable and in no case showed conductance changes, except when ACh-Cl was added and the MFS contained the peak III protein (F4).

When lecithin was present in the MFS step changes in conductance due to changes in the hydrostatic pressure associated to the drug application were sometimes observed (C1; C2). When the pressure conditions were returned to the initial state, the rise in conductance disappeared. The problem of the conductance fluctuations induced by hydrostatic pressure has been discussed elsewhere⁸.

Experiments actually under course in our laboratory are directed to uncover the molecular mechanism underlying the effect of ACh-Cl⁹.

Resumen. El objetivo de este trabajo fué dar una exhaustiva descripción de la técnica empleada para estudiar la respuesta a la acetilcolina desarrollada por membranas artificiales que contienen una fracción proteolipídica especial extraída de la electroplaca del *Electrophorus electricus*. Se observó que esta respuesta no se obtiene con otras fracciones de este u otro tejido ni tampoco con diferentes soluciones salinas o con cloruro de colina.

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⁸ M. PARISI and E. RIVAS, *Biochim. biophys. Acta* 233, 469 (1971).

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CONGRESSUS

Switzerland

4th International Conference on Magnetic Resonance in Biological Systems

at Kandersteg, 16–21 September 1974.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together scientists of many disciplines who are concerned with the application of magnetic resonance in biochemistry, molecular biology, biophysics, pharmacology, and medicine. The program will include papers presented by invited lecturers, contributed communications, an discussion periods.

For further information write to: Professor Dr. K. Wüthrich, Institut für Molekularbiologie und Biophysik, ETH-Hönggerberg, CH-8049 Zürich (Switzerland).

Switzerland

9th EUCHEM Conference on Stereochemistry

at the Bürgenstock, near Luzern, 5–12 May 1974.

The number of participants will be limited. Inquiries and applications (no special forms are required) should be addressed before January 15, 1974 to the Chairman: Prof. J. M. Lehn, Institut de Chimie, Université de Strasbourg, 1, rue Blaise Pascal, F-6700 Strasbourg (France).

PRAEMIA

The Roussel Prize

In view of the ever growing importance of steroids in therapeutic medicine, the late President J. C. Roussel, chairman of the well known French pharmaceutical Company, created in 1969 an international Prize intended to stimulate further new research in this particular area. The Prize is given every 2 years to a chemist or a biochemist whose work has been chosen as the best by an international Committee of outstanding scientists in the field.

The next Prize (\$10,000) which is scheduled for June 1974, will be concerned with the work, in the field of steroids and related compounds, published before December 1973.

The Award Committee for the year 1974 is as follows: President: Sir Derek Barton. Members: Professors K. Bloch, E. Diczfalusy, A. Eschenmoser, M. Getizon, J. Jacques, G. Stork. Secretary: Prof. J. Mathieu, Centre de Recherches, Roussel Uclaf, F-93230 Romainville (France).

Candidates for the Prize may be of any nationality and from any laboratory. They should be introduced by a person of high scientific standing and supported by two other referees. Nomination should be submitted to the President or to the Secretary before March 1st, 1974. Any supplementary information may be obtained from the Secretary.