Part II*

Intracellular Events

13. T. Tomita, A. Takai and H.Tokuno: Possibility of metabolic control of membrane excitation
14. R.M. Lynch and R.J. Paul: Energy metabolism and transduction in smooth muscle
15. S. Ebashi: Ca^{2+} in biological systems
16. A.P. Somlyo, A.J. Wasserman, T. Kitazawa, M. Bond, H. Shuman and A.V. Somlyo: Calcium and sidium distribution and movements in smooth muscle
17. T. Itoh, H. Ueno and H. Kuriyama: Calcium-induced calcium release mechanism in vascular smooth muscles – Assessments based on contractions evoked in intact and saponin-treated skinned muscles
18. J.C. Rüegg and G. Pfitzer: Modulation of calcium sensitivity in guinea pig taenia coli – Skinned fiber studies
19. U. Mrwa, K. Guth, J.C. Rüegg, R. Paul, S. Boström, R. Barsotti and D. Hartshorne: Mechanical and biochemical characterization of the contraction elicited by a calcium-independent myosin light chain kinase in chemically skinned smooth muscle
20. M. Ikebe and D.J. Hartshorne: the role of myosin phosphorylation in the contraction-relaxation cycle of the smooth muscle
21. K.E. Kamm and R.A. Murphy: Velocity and myosin phosphorylation transients in arterial smooth muscle: Effects of agonist diffusion

Mechanical Properties

22. B. Johansson: Current problems in smooth muscle mechanics
23. M.J. Siegman, T.M. Butler and S.U. Mooers: Energetics and regulation of crossbridge states in mammalian smooth muscle
24. R.N. Speden: The use of excised, pressurized blood vessels to study the physiology of vascular smooth muscle

*Part II will appear in the August issue of Experientia.

Introductory Comments

The concept of a special review in Experientia devoted to smooth muscle research sprang from our consideration of how to celebrate Edith Bülbring's 80th birthday in 1983. Those who know Edith will appreciate that owing to the power of her veto a 'Festschrift' was out of the question. Publication of 'Smooth Muscle' in 1970 on her retirement and of 'Smooth Muscle: an assessment of current knowledge' some 10 years later were undertaken by authors who had all been Edith's colleagues. We have felt, however, that these volumes suffer omissions, both in content and particularly in authors, since there are an increasing number of excellent scientists working in the field who have never worked with Edith. In 1983 there was the 29th International Congress of Physiological Sciences in Sydney, an excellent satellite meeting on smooth muscle at Hayman Island and a dinner party to celebrate Edith's 80th birthday – an event which those who attended will long remember. This occasion triggered those working in the field of smooth muscle to instigate this Experientia review, and as a consequence invitation to contribute was limited to scientists who had participated in these meetings. Unfortunately many people we would have liked to ask have been eliminated by this rather arbitrary criterion, and to them we apologize, and hope they will forgive us. We know they all, like us, appreciate the tremendous influence Edith has had, and still has, in establishing the field of smooth muscle research.

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