

Arrhythmogenic remodeling in the elite athlete's heart: an animal study on dogs

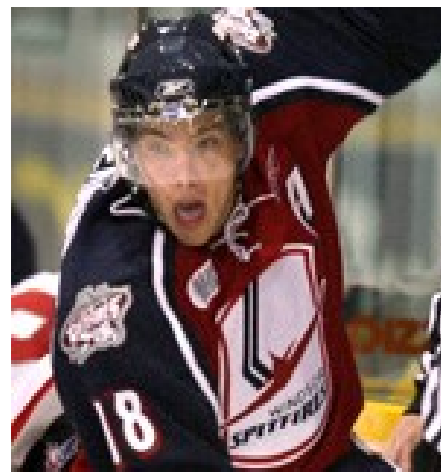
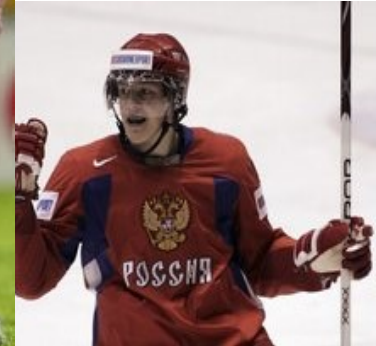
Andras VARRO

**Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School
University of Szeged, Hungary**

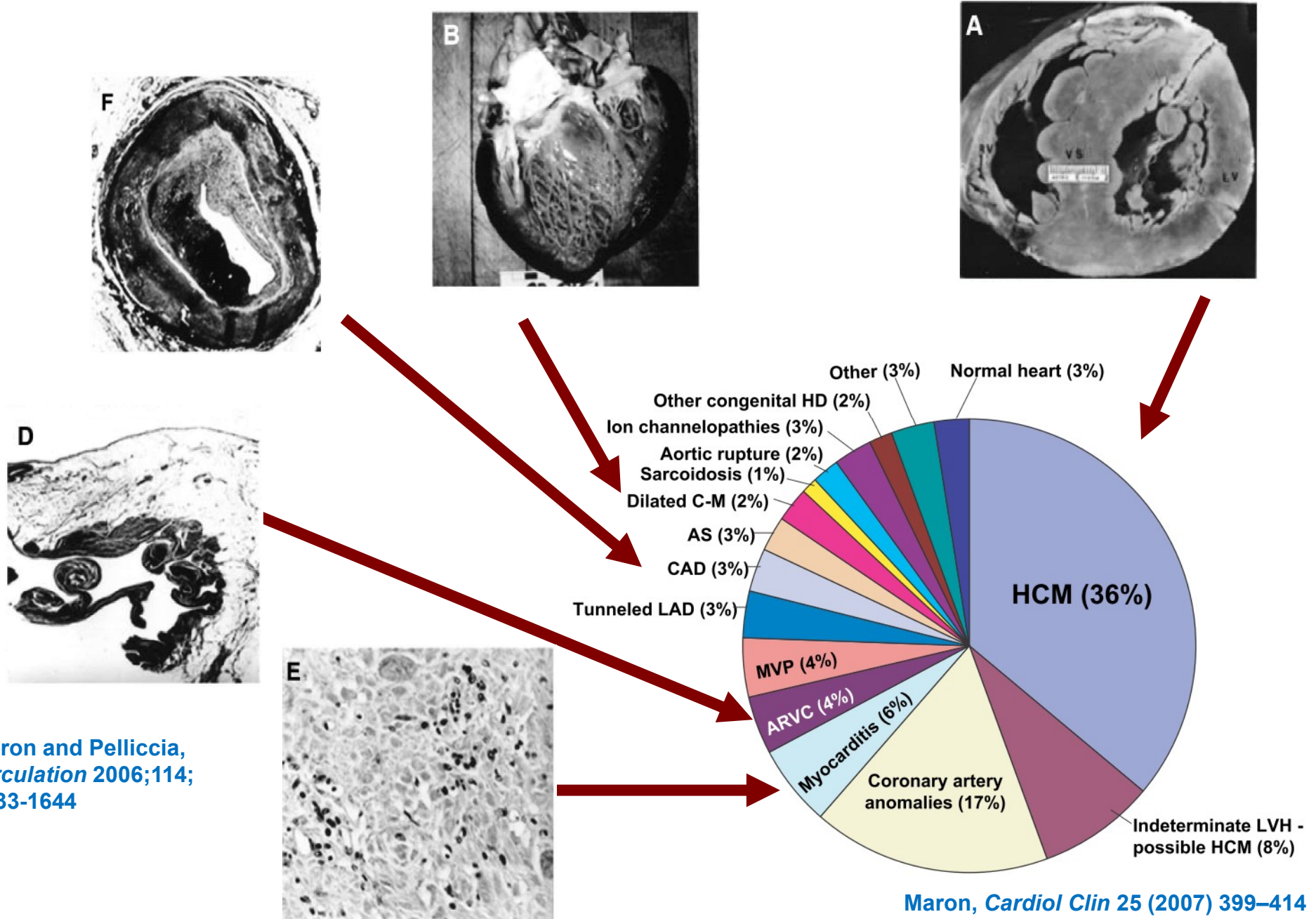


PRAG – Nov. 3-6., 2024

SCD in competitive athletes: cardiac repolarization reserve impairment and increased arrhythmia susceptibility?



Autopsy findings in young athletes following SCD



Maron and Pelliccia,
Circulation 2006;114;
1633-1644

Maron, *Cardiol Clin* 25 (2007) 399-414

Research aims

To *develop an experimental model* of long-term intensive endurance exercise

Whether exercise training induces *potentially adverse myocardial morphological and/or electrical remodeling especially at a cellular level*

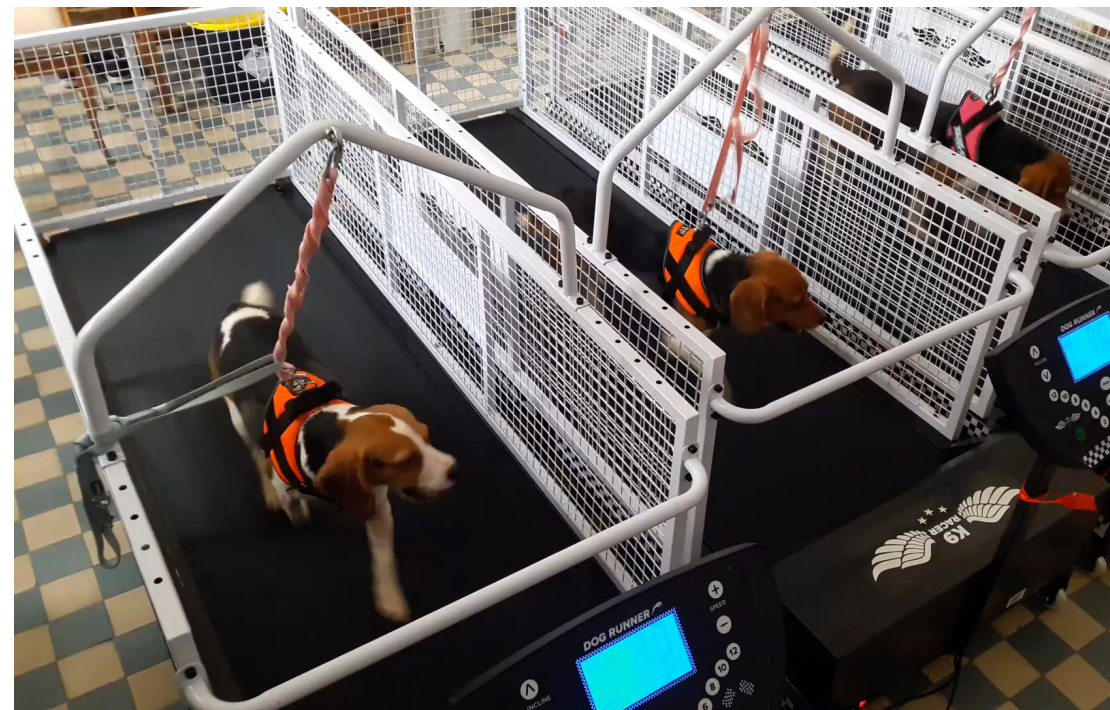
Experimental groups

'Control'
(n=12)

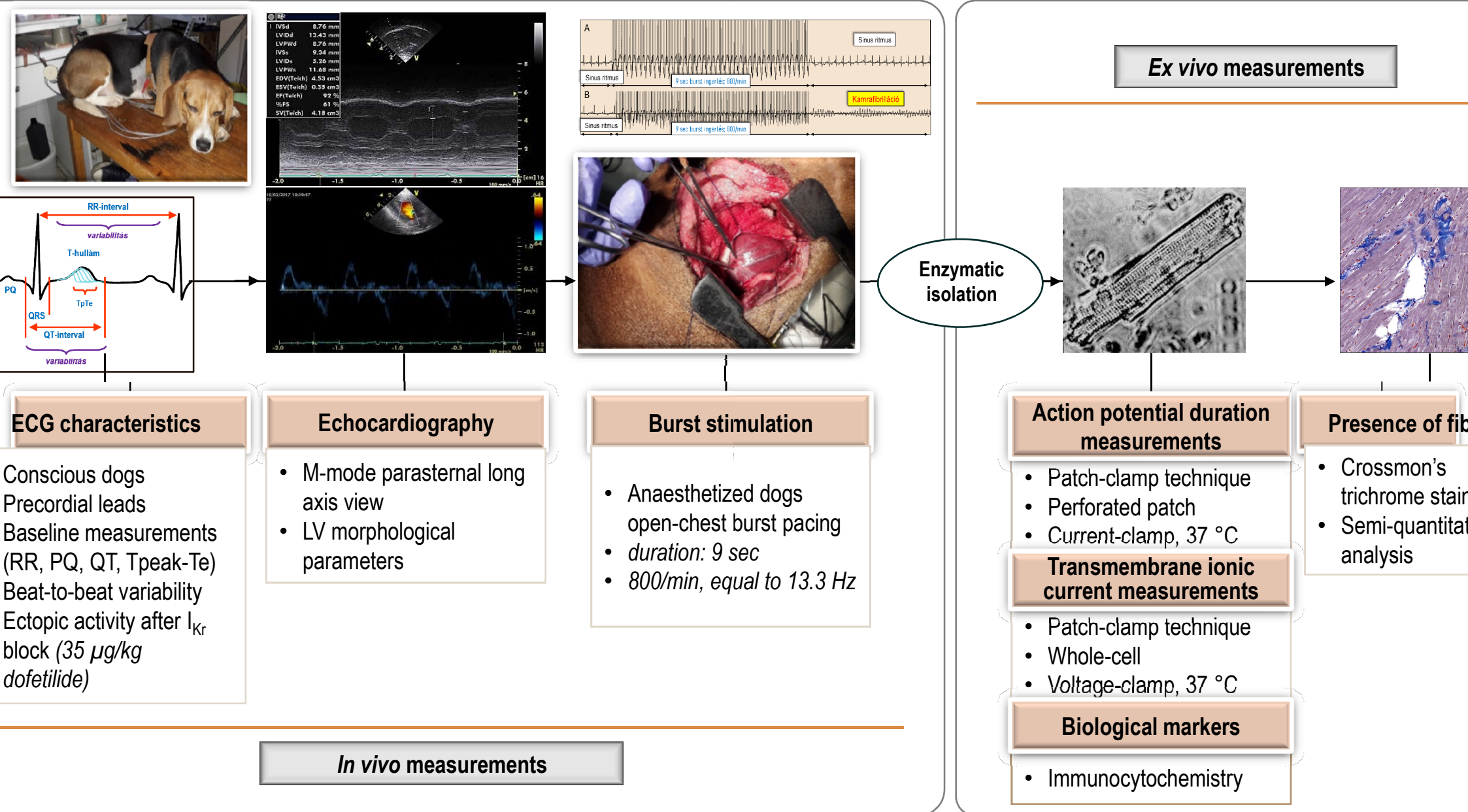
'Trained'
(n=12)

Training program duration:	16-week treadmill running
Frequency of trainings:	5 times /week
Training sessions:	2x90 min long-distance running + 2x50 min interval running
Acceleration:	0% - 5% - 12%
Target daily distance:	80 km
Target running speed:	22 km/h

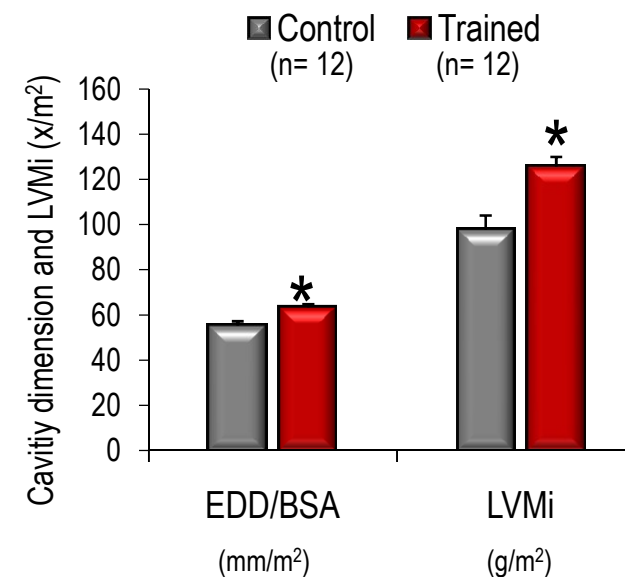
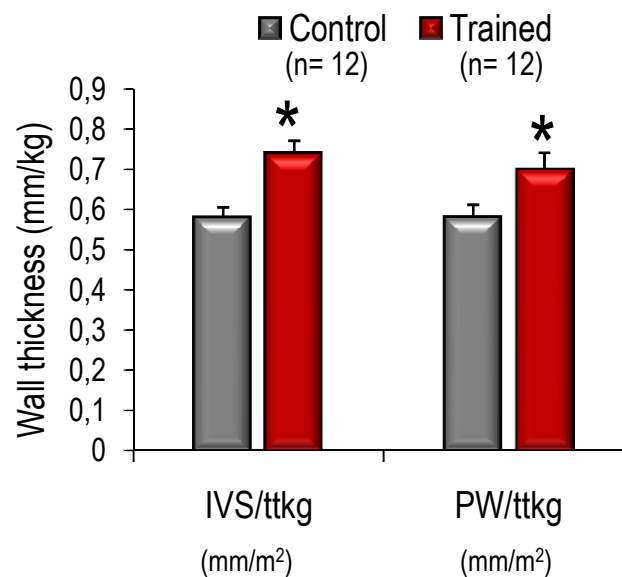
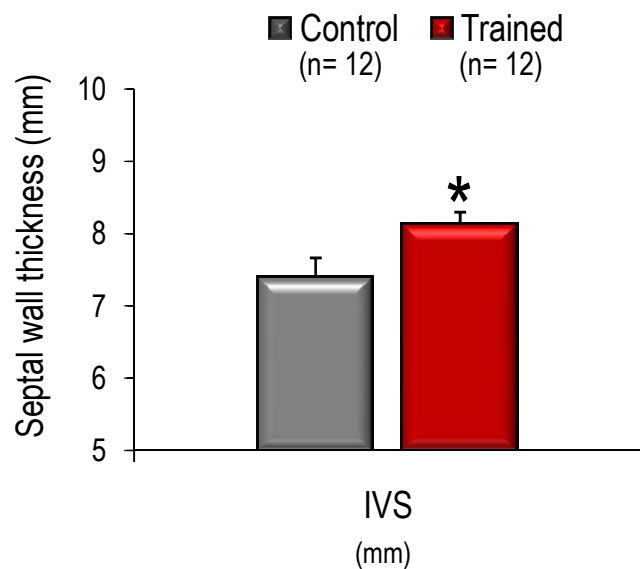
Sex ratio



Methods



Echocardiography: Left ventricular hypertrophy



Abbreviations:

Interventricular septal wall thickness

Left ventricular posterior wall thickness

Left ventricular end diastolic diameter

Body surface area (m²) = $10,1 \times (\text{body mass (g)}^{2/3}) \times 10^{-4}$ (1)

Left ventricular mass (g) = $0,8 \times (1,04 \times (\text{EDd} + \text{PWd} + \text{IVSd})^3 - (\text{EDd})^3 + 0,6) / 1000$. (2)

Left ventricular mass index: LVM/BSA (g/m²)

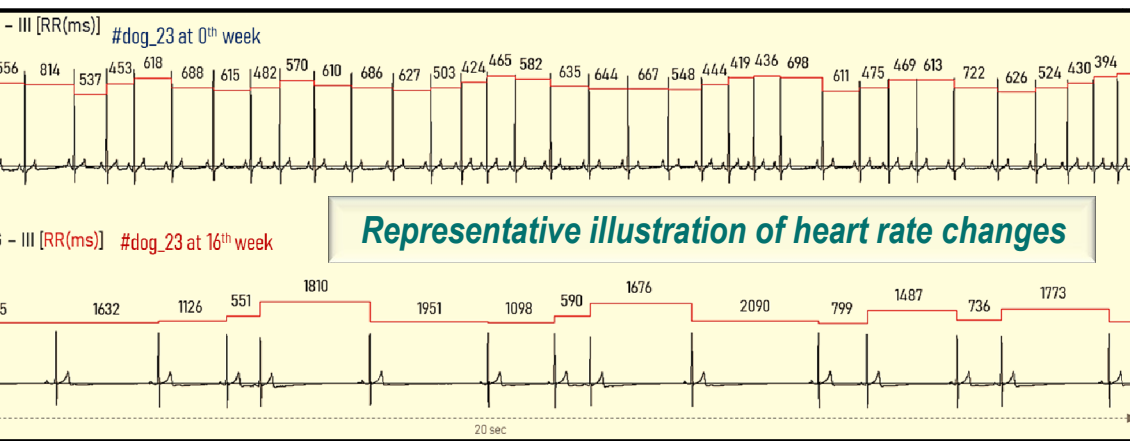
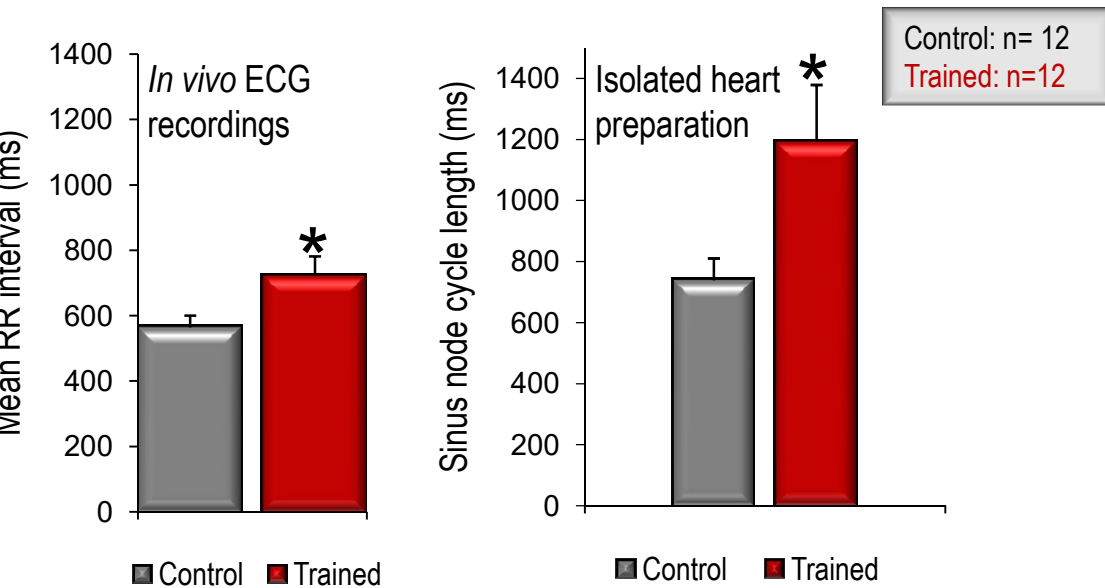
* $p < 0.05$ Trained 16th week vs. Control

¹ Wey et al. Allometric Scaling of M-Mode Cardiac Measurements in Normal Adult Mice

² Troy et al. Measurement of left ventricular wall thickness and mass by echocardiography

Bradycardia and increased heart rate variability

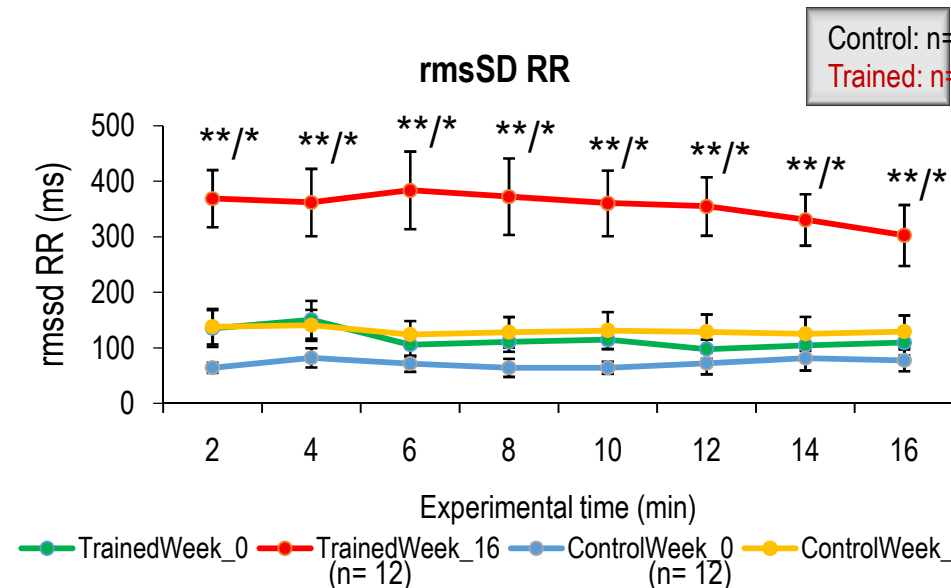
A) Bradycardia



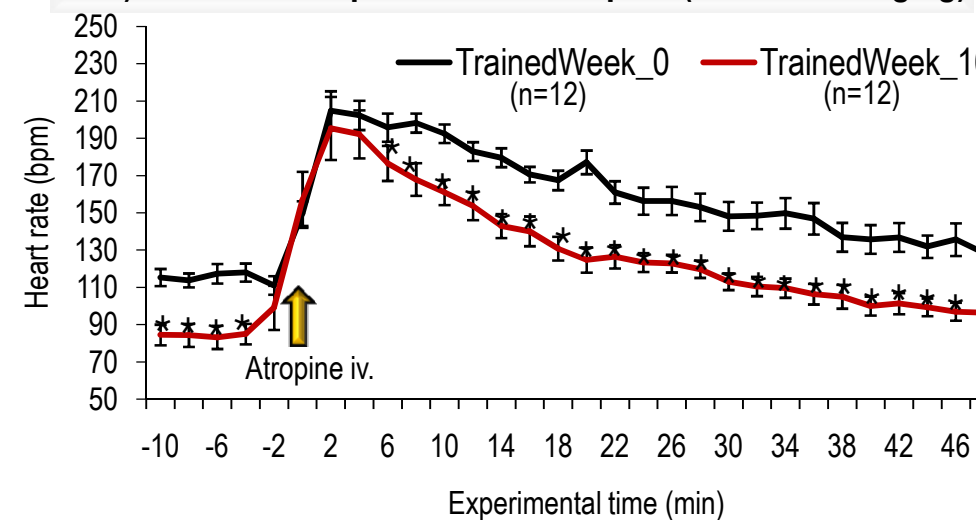
Measurements: **rmsSD**, root mean square of the successive differences;

Trained 16th week vs. Control 16th week; * * p<0.05 Trained 0th week vs. Trained 16th week

B) Heart rate variability increase



C) Heart rate response to i.v. atropine (Dose: 0.04 mg/kg)



ECG: Repolarization changes and ectopic activity

A) **Baseline (drug free) ECG measurements**

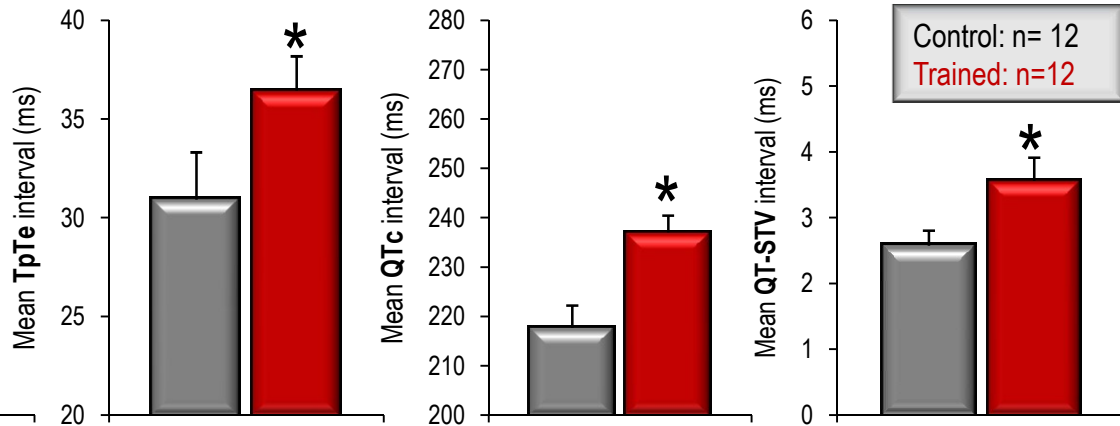
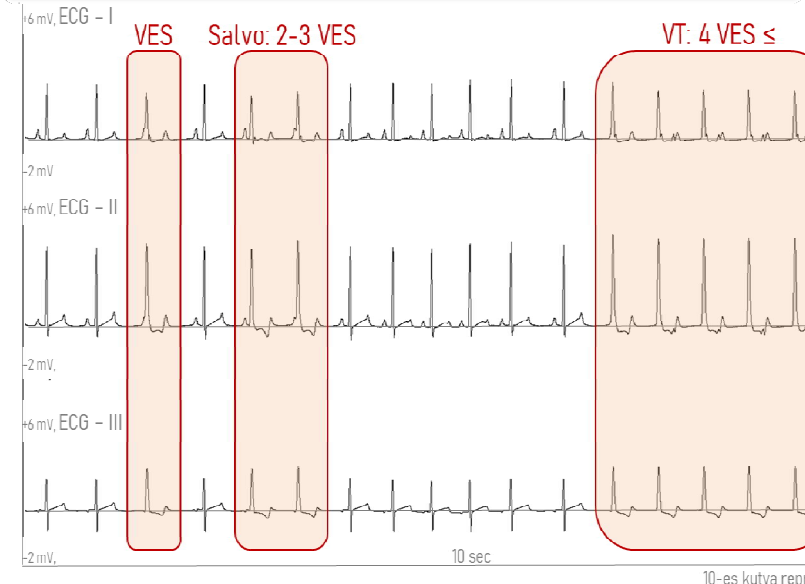
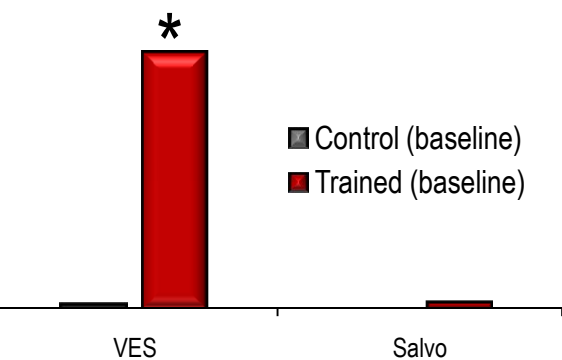


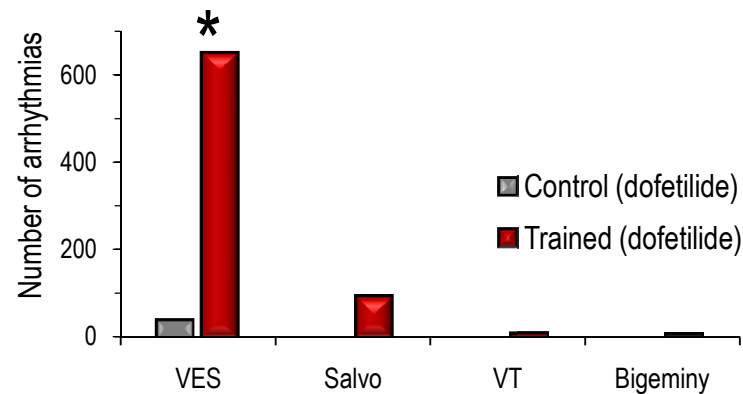
Illustration of ventricular arrhythmias in trained dogs



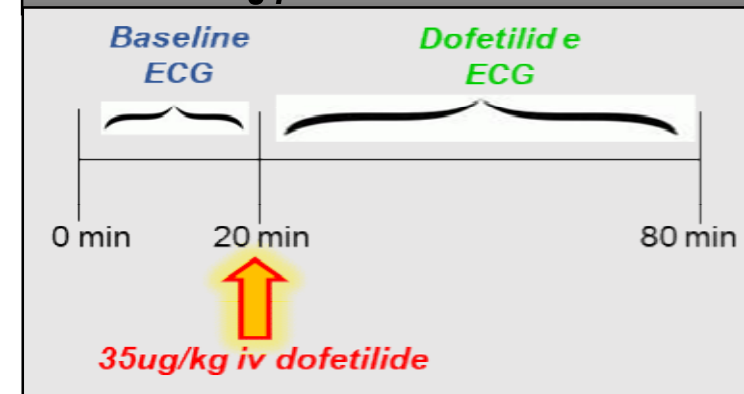
A) Arrhythmias on **baseline ECG**
(t=20 min)



B/2) Arrhythmias on **dofetilide ECG**
(t=60 min)



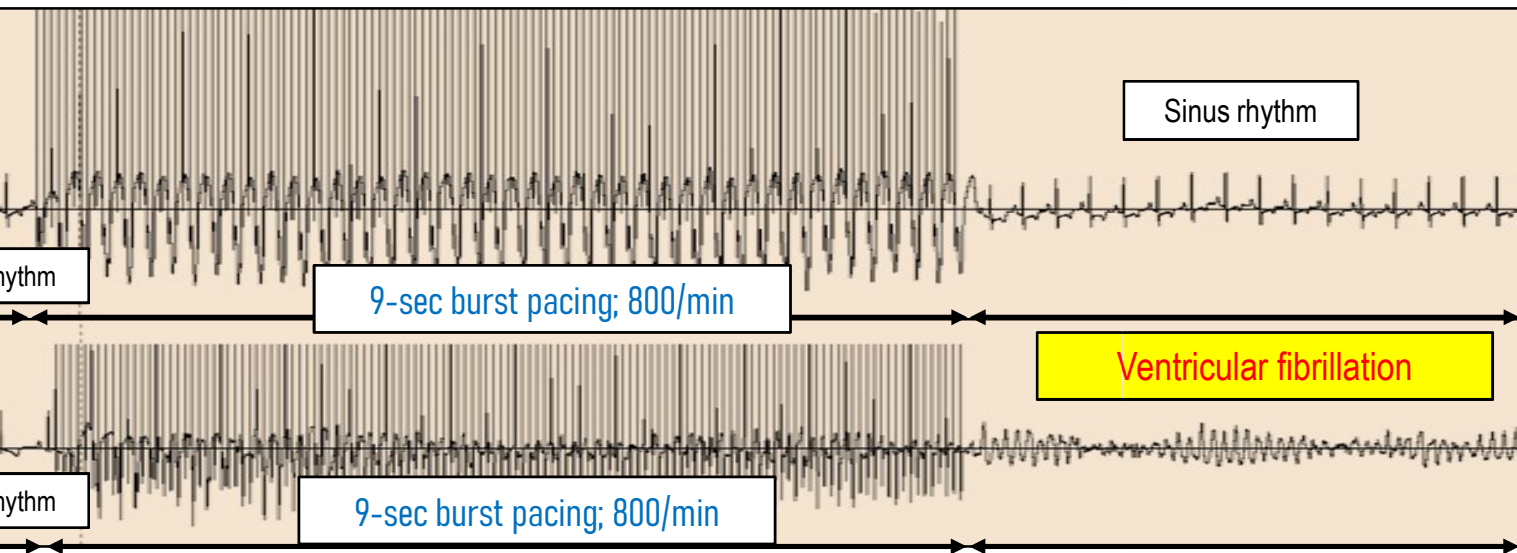
ECG recording protocol



Abbreviations: STV: Short term variability; QTc: QT corrected for heart rate

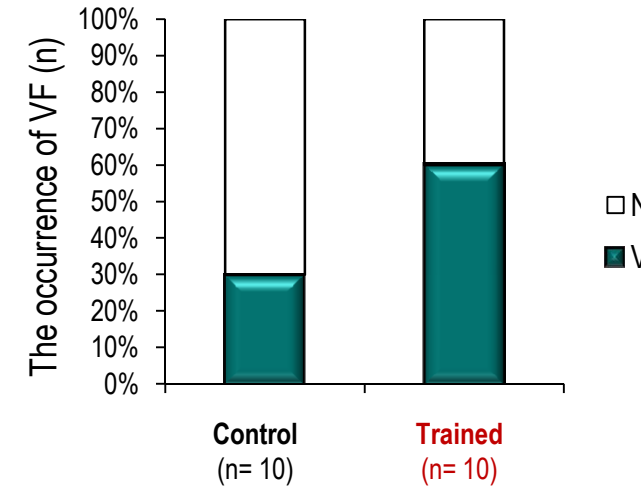
*p<0.05 Trained 16th week vs. Control

Arrhythmia (VF) susceptibility and LV fibrosis

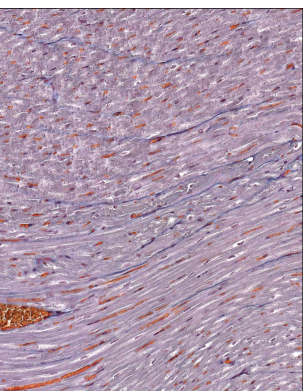


A) Control dog (#20) burst pacing B) Trained dog (#13) burst pacing at 16th week

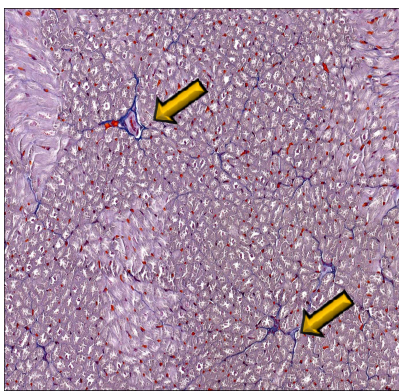
Ventricular fibrillation (VF) after burst pacing



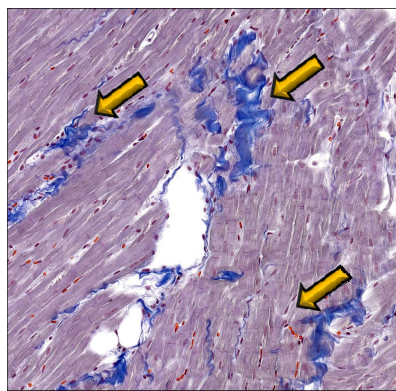
Score 0 = no fibrosis
Control dog



Score 1 = mild fibrosis
Exercised dog



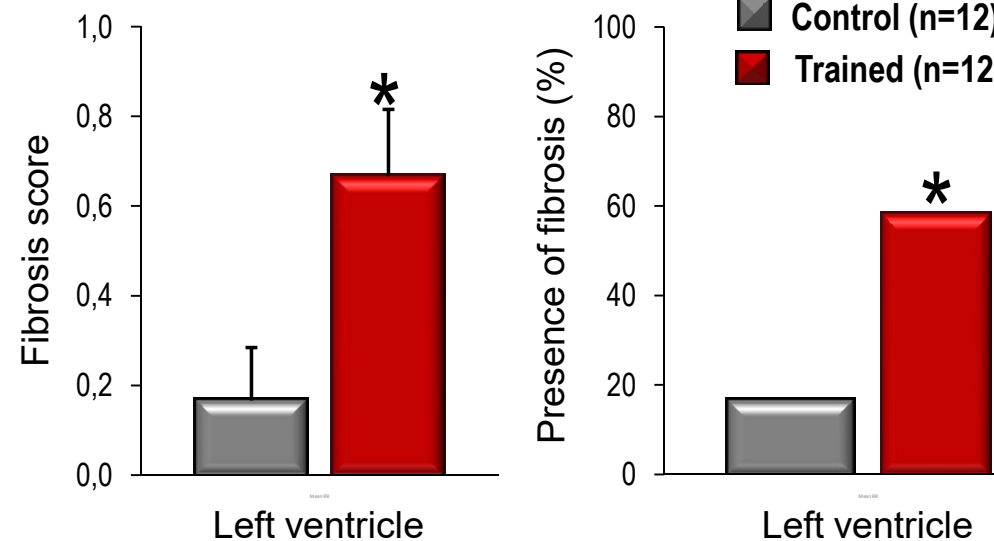
Score 2 = moderate fibrosis
Exercised dog



Crossmon's trichrome staining

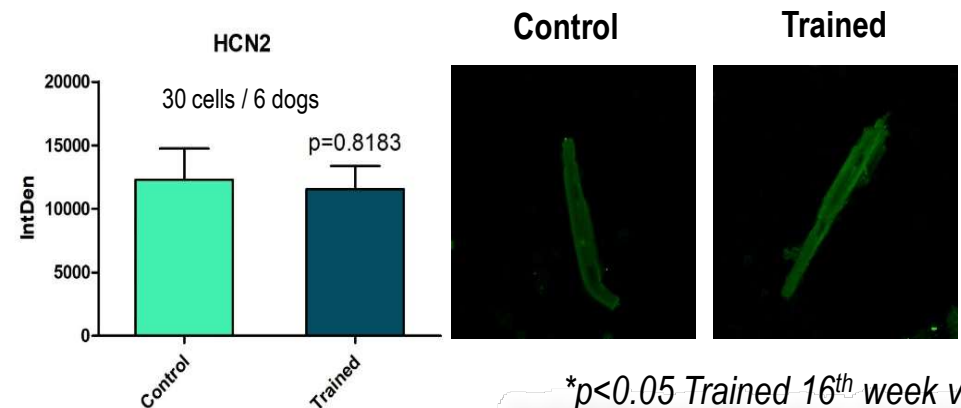
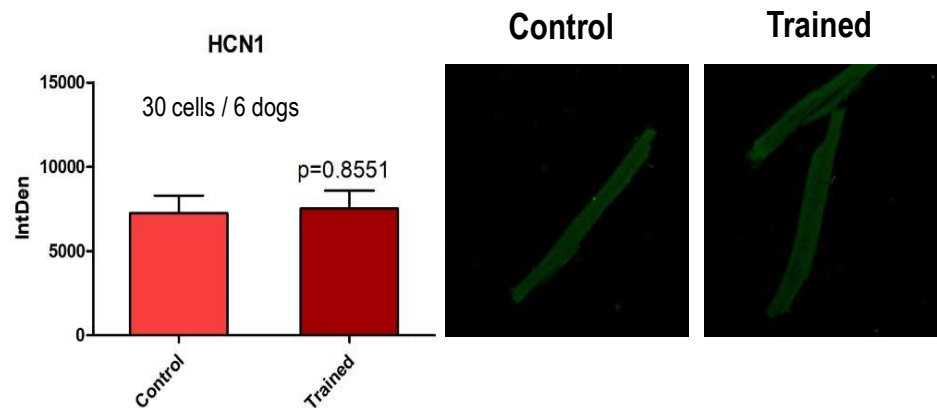
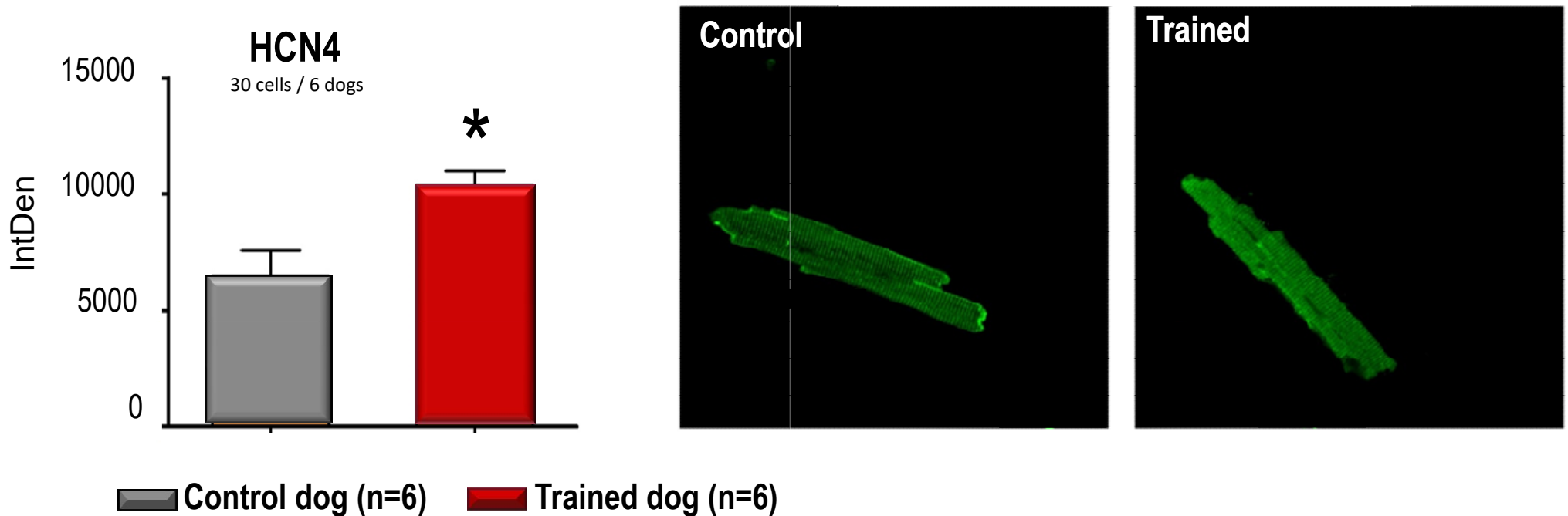
0.05 Trained 16th week vs. Control 16th week

The extent of fibrosis in histological sections of the left ventricle



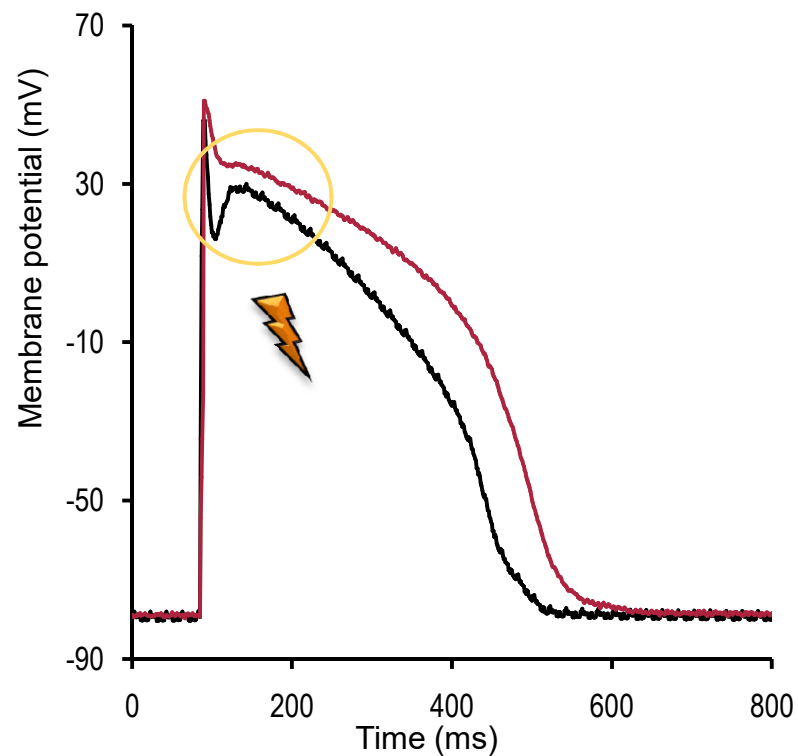
Pacemaker channel (I_f) protein density determination by immunocytochemistry in dog ventricular myocytes

Overexpression of HCN4 protein in dog left ventricular myocytes



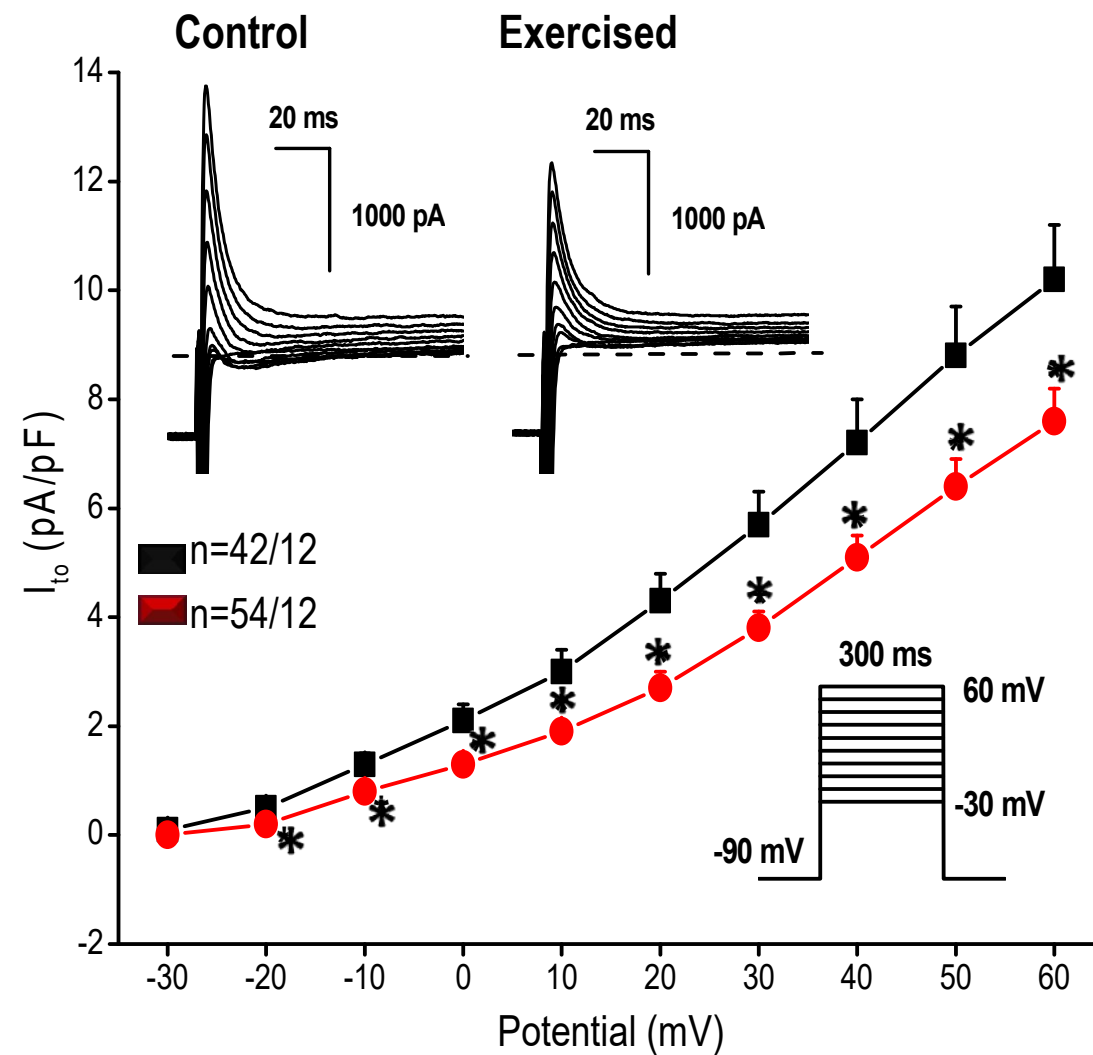
* $p < 0.05$ Trained 16th week vs. Control 1

Transmembrane ionic current measurements in dog left ventricular myocytes



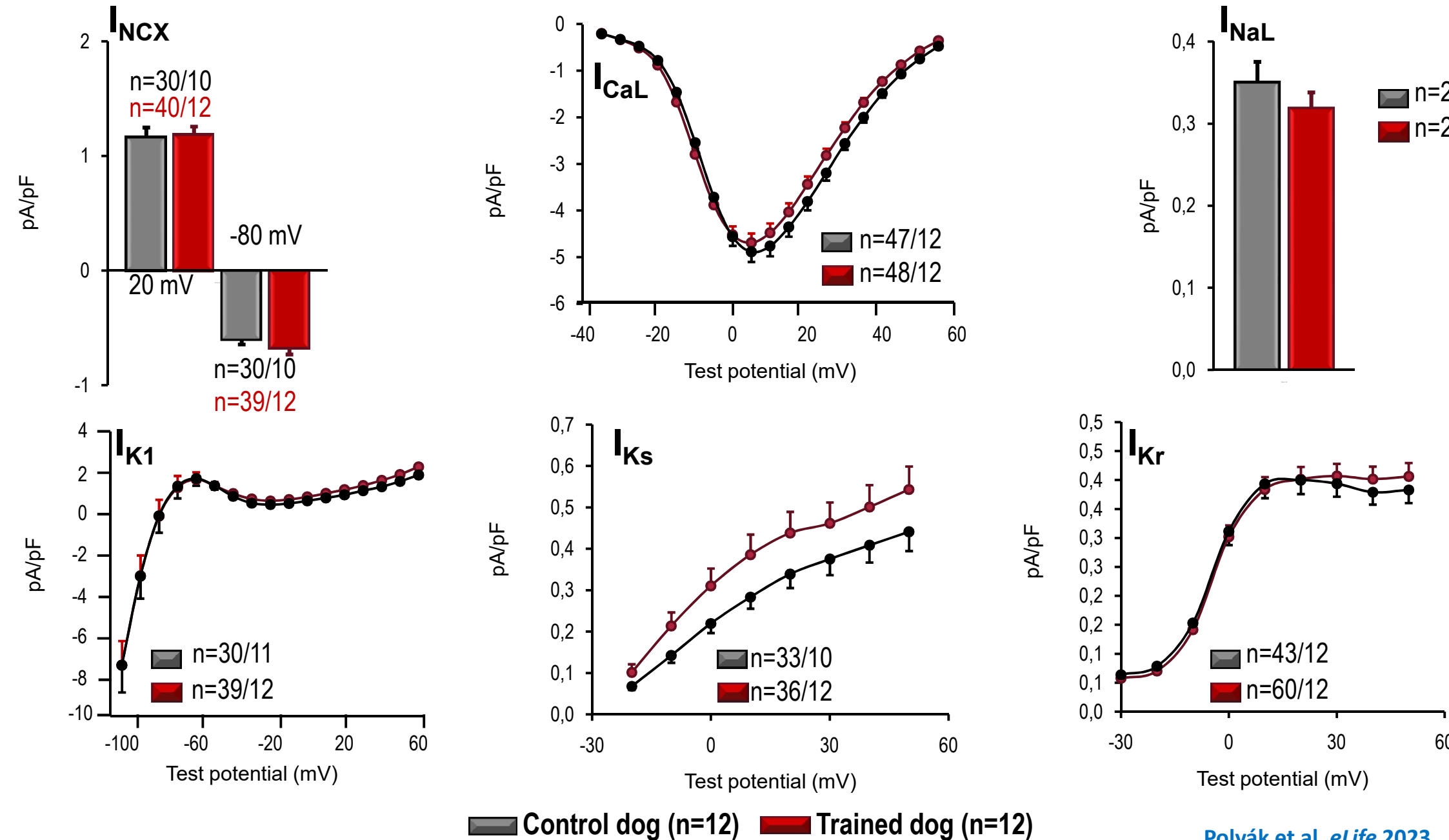
Control dog (n=12) Trained dog (n=12)

Magnitude of transient outward potassium current (I_{to})

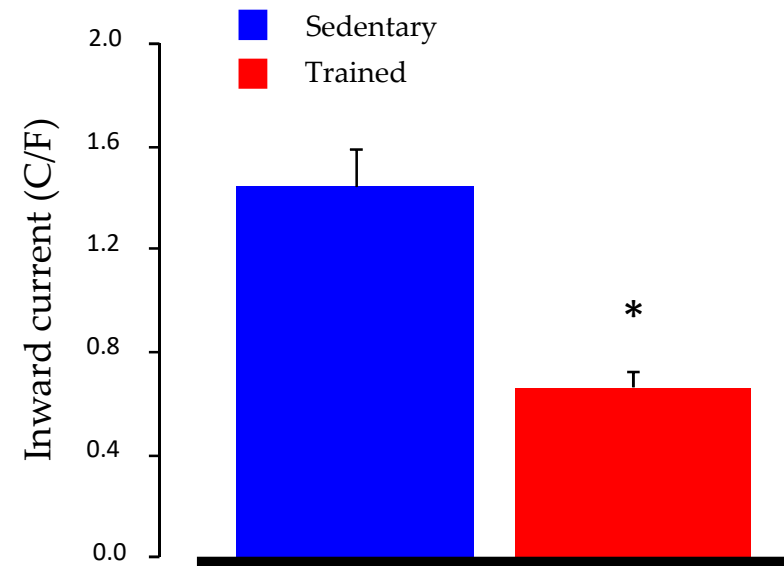
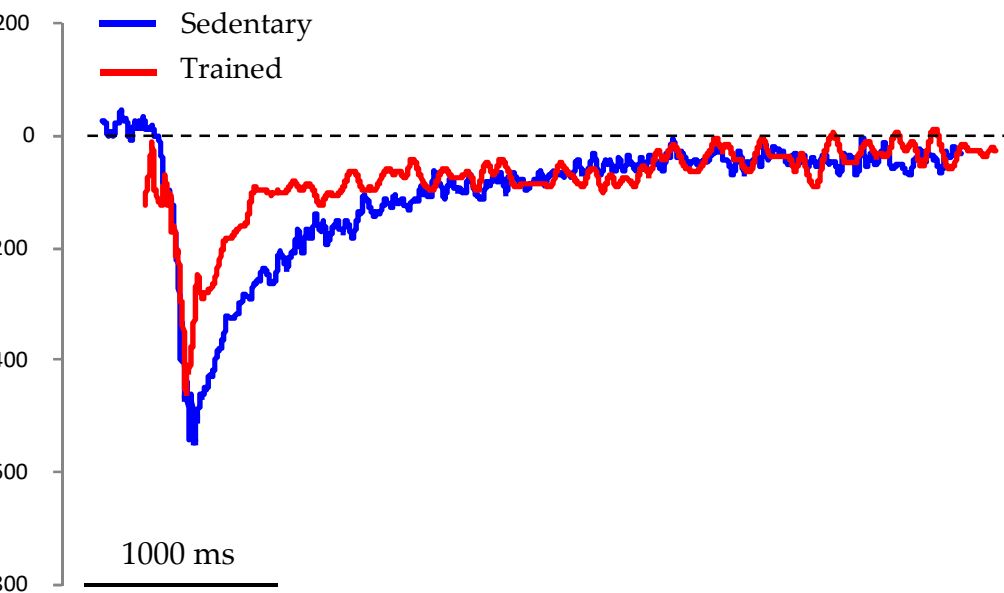
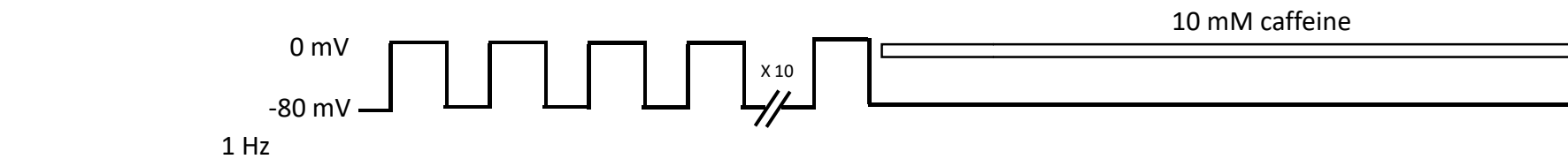
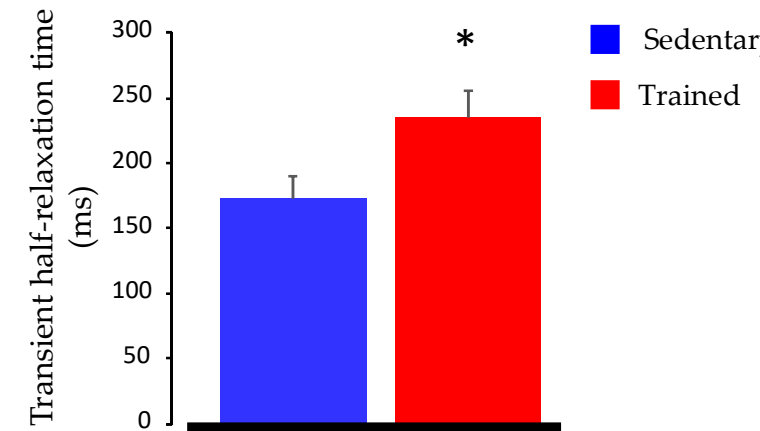
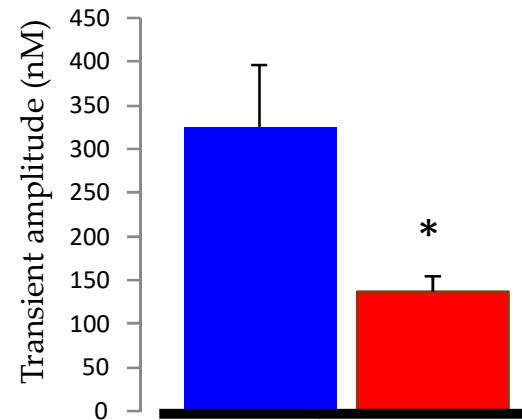
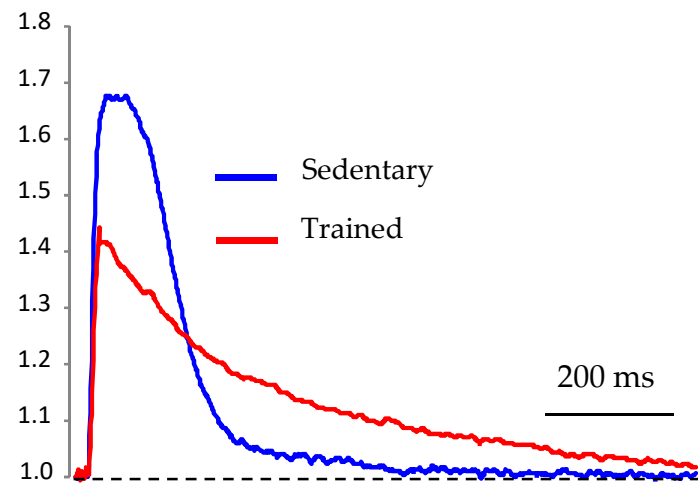


* $p < 0.05$ Trained 16th week vs. Control 1

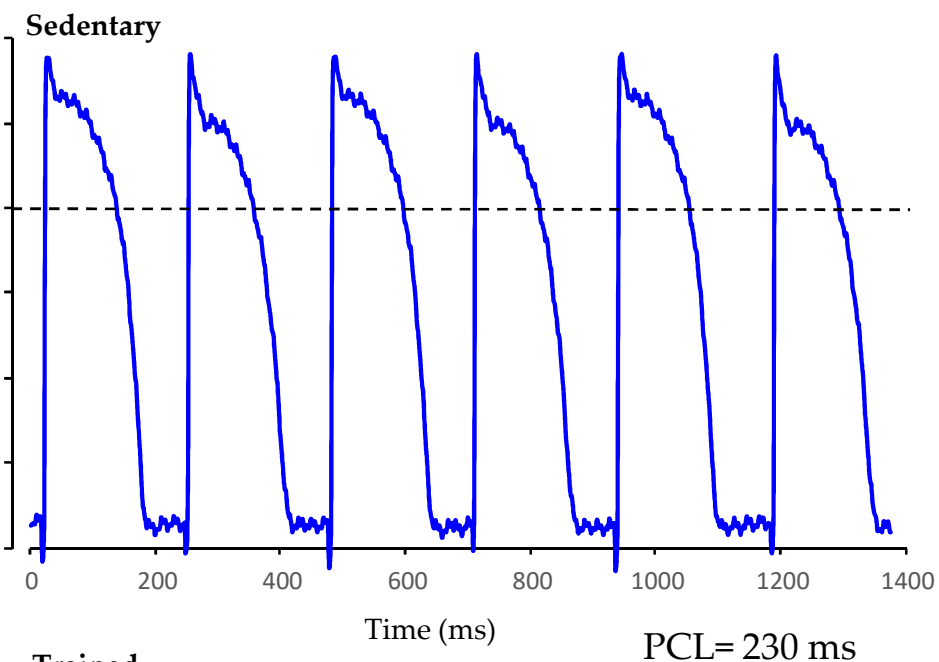
Transmembrane ionic current measurements in dog left ventricular myocytes



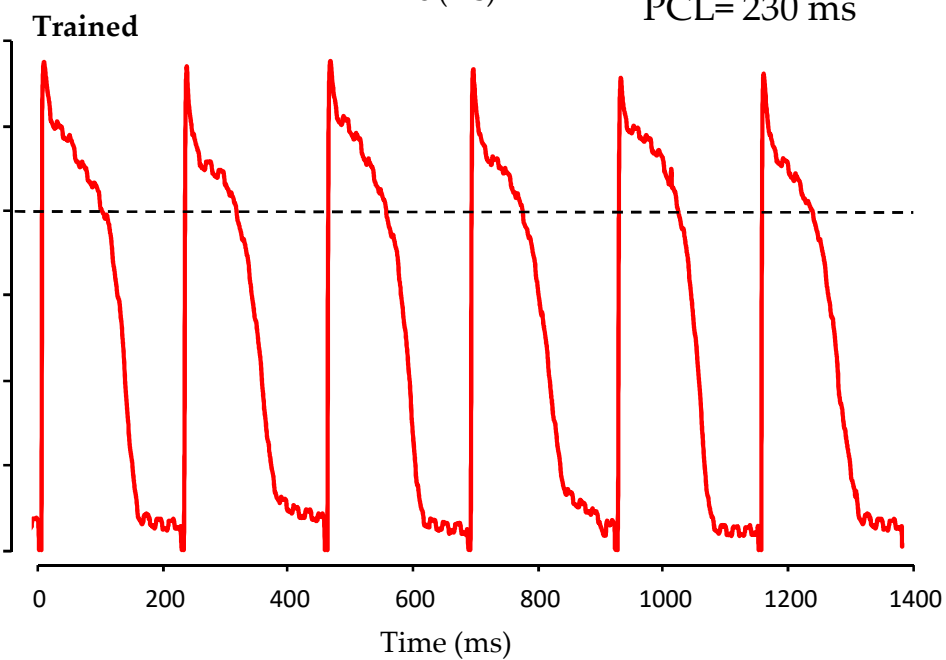
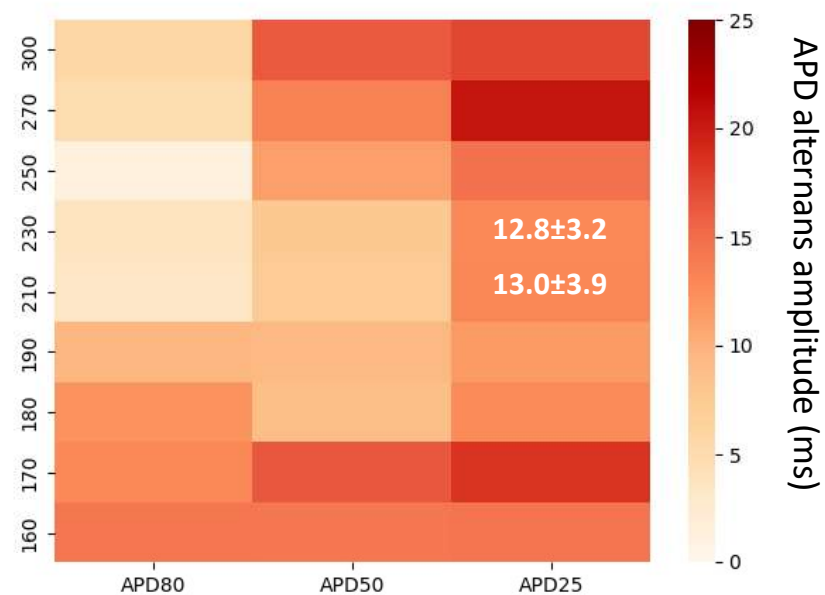
Intracellular Ca^{2+} handling in sedentary and trained dogs



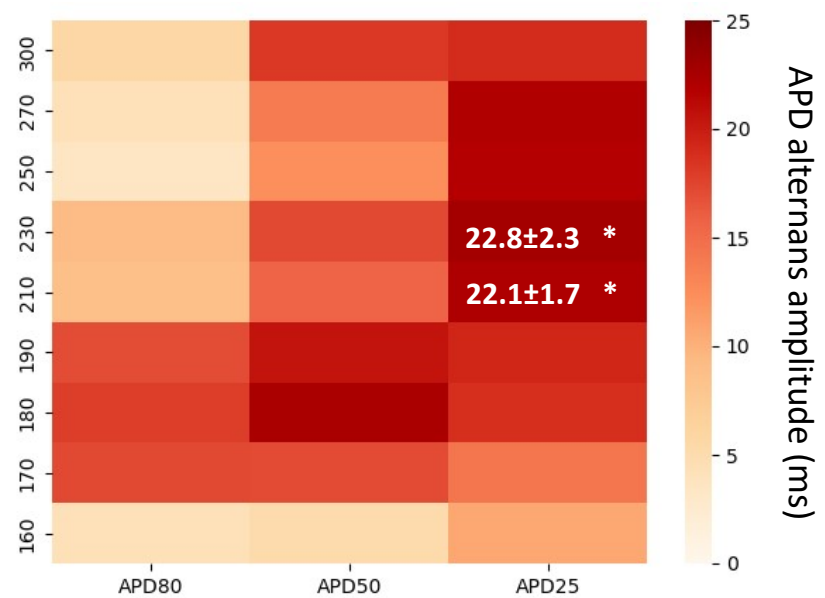
APD alternans in sedentary and trained dogs



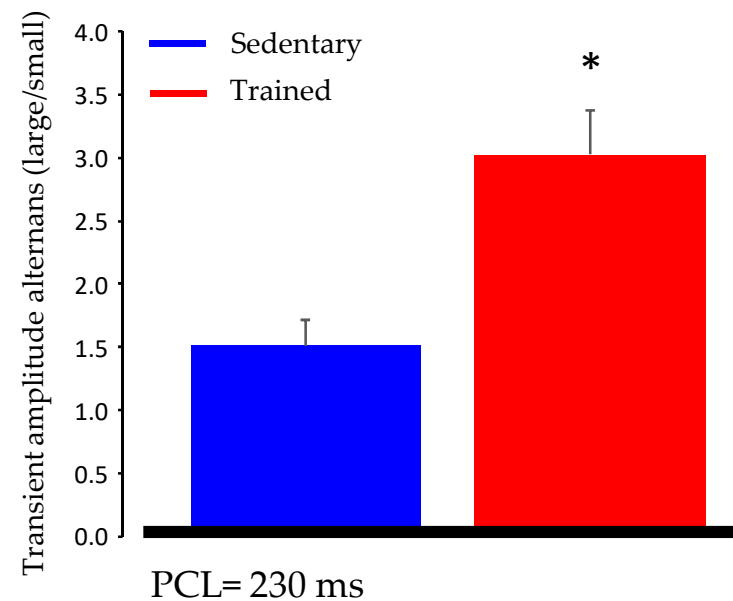
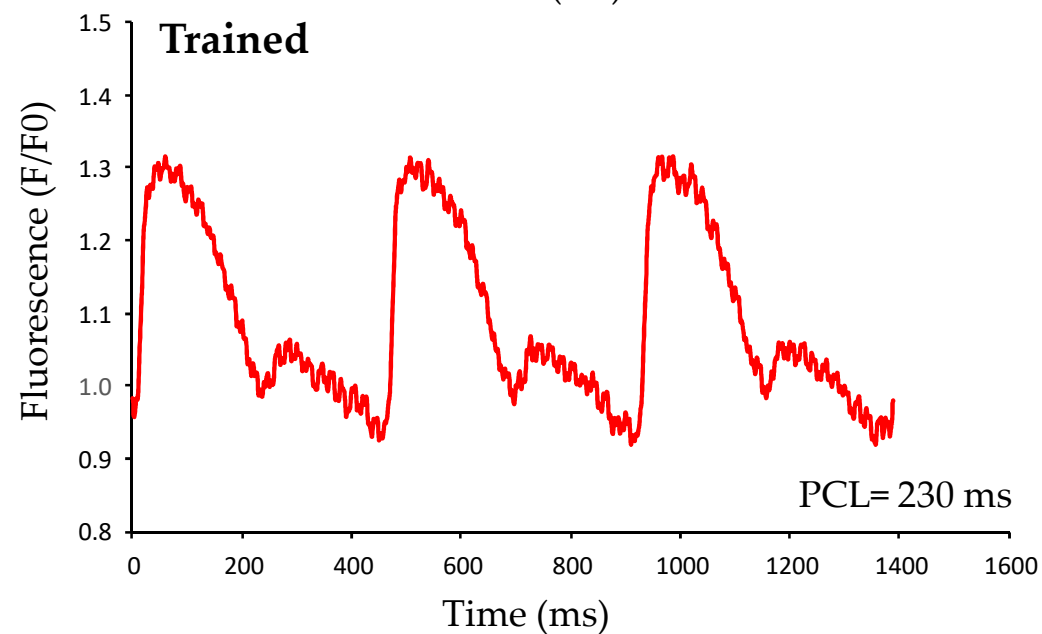
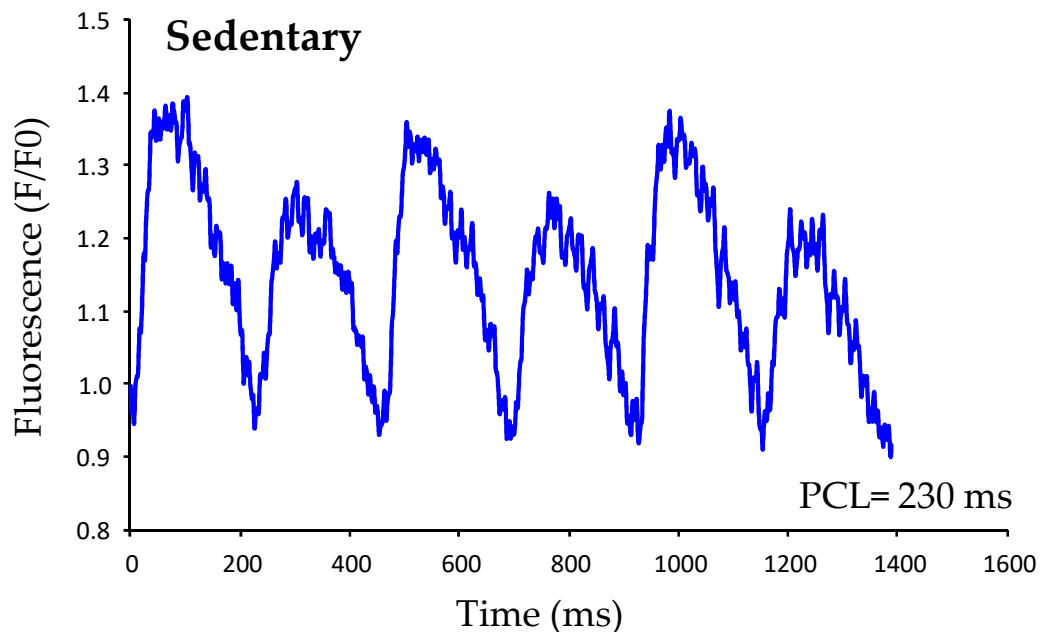
Sedentary



Trained



Ca²⁺ transient alternans in sedentary and trained dogs



Conclusions 16 weeks of continuous intensive endurance training

- ✓ Left ventricular **hypertrophy** → physiological morphological adaptation
- ✓ Training induced **bradycardia** with **increased heart rate variability** → vagal enhancement
- ✓ Moderate response to atropine *in vivo* and **decreased sinus node cycle length** → intrinsic changes in the sinus node?

-
- ✓ Increased **ventricular ectopic activity**
 - ✓ Burst stimulation: increased incidence of **ventricular fibrillation**
 - ✓ **Overexpression of HCN4 protein** in left ventricular myocytes

Arrhythmia
Trigger

-
- ✓ Moderate left ventricular **fibrosis**
 - ✓ **Prolonged repolarisation and increased repolarisation inhomogeneity** on the ECG ($\uparrow$ QTc, $\uparrow$ STV QT, $\uparrow$ TpTe)
 - ✓ **Prolonged action potential duration and increased APD variability** in left ventricular myocytes
 - ✓ **Decreased I_{to} -current magnitude** in left ventricular myocytes

Arrhythmia
Substrate

Morphological/
functional remodeling

+ / -



And / or extreme bad
luck?



Sudden Cardiac Death

Alexandra POLYÁK

Álván BACZKÓ

Ágla FARKAS

Ádám ZOMBORI-TÓTH

Ágla TOPAL

Ádám TÓTH

Ákos PROROK

Ádám GAZDAG

Ágnes SZLOVÁK

Ádám ZOMBORI

Ágoston ÁGOSTON

Ágnes DÉRI

Ádám HUSTI

Ágoston VIRÁG

Ádám NAGY

Ágnes KOSZTKA

Ágnes MOLNÁR

Ádám GIRST

Ádám DOBAI



NEMZETI KUTATÁSI, FEJLESZTÉSI ÉS INNOVÁCIÓS HIVATAL

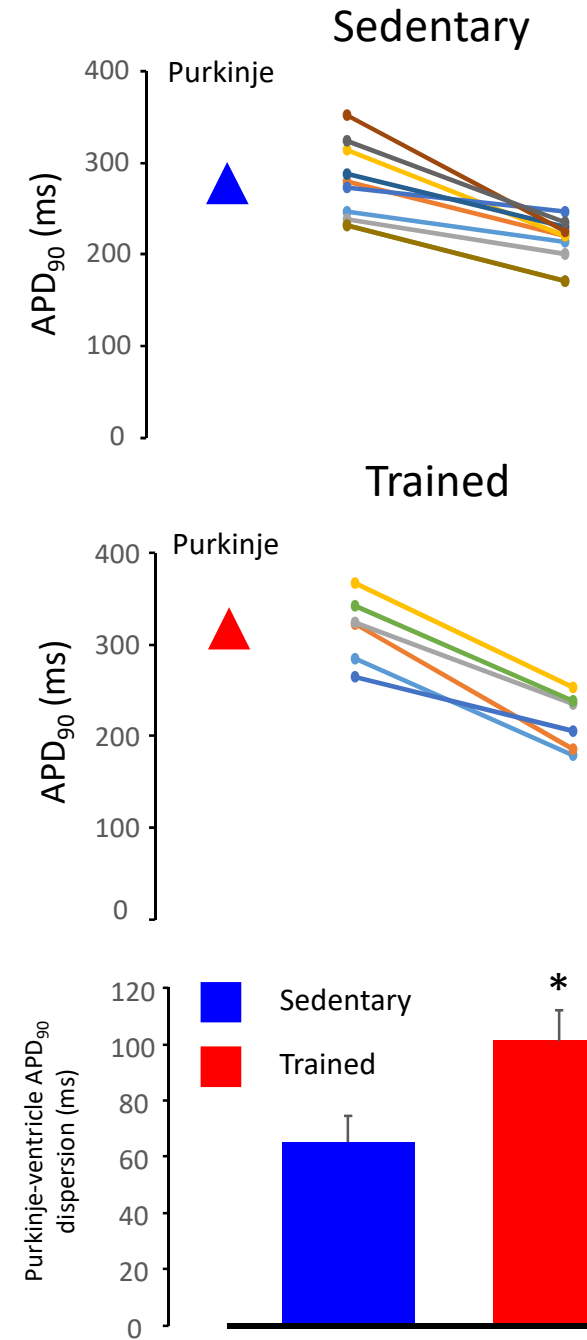
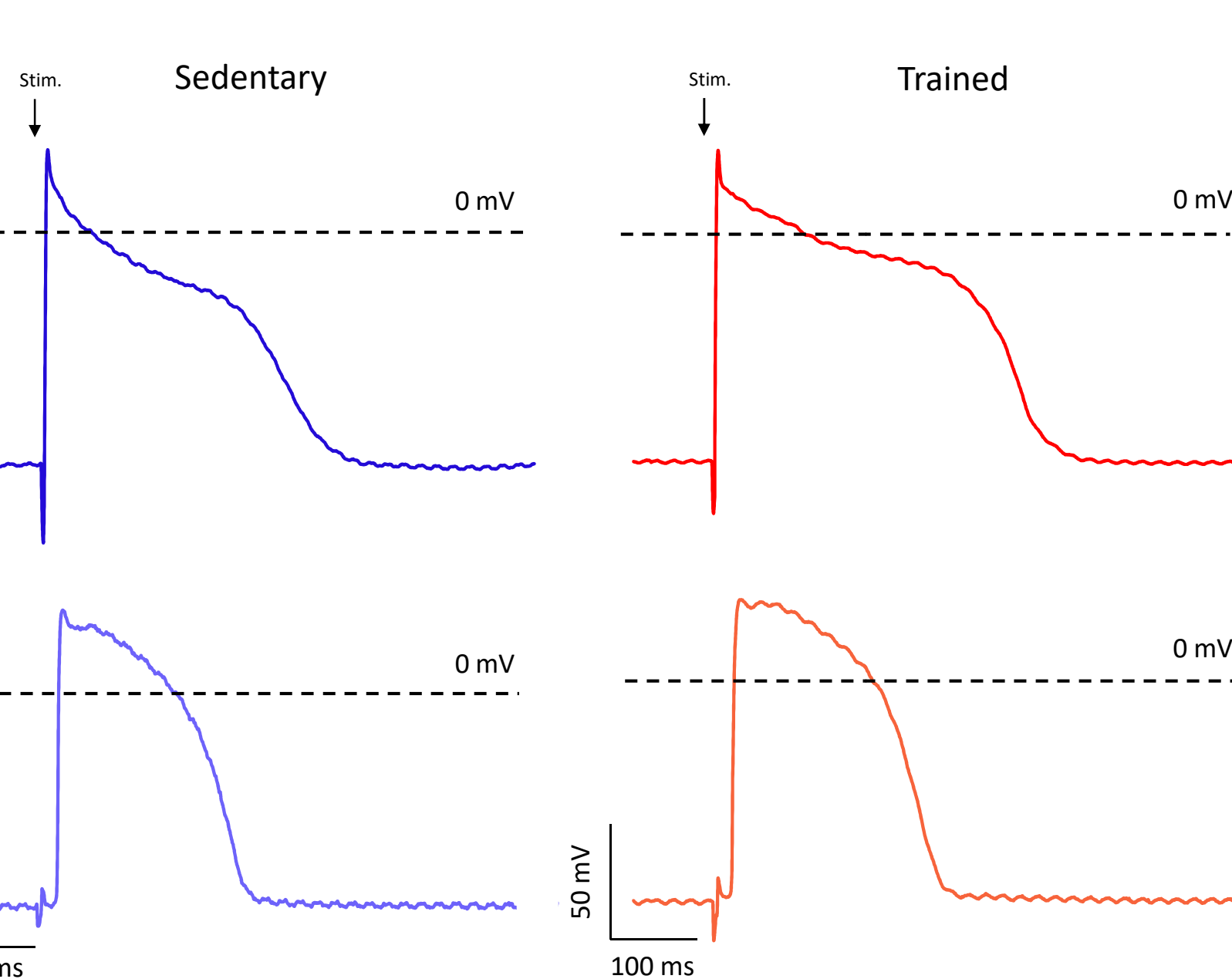
NKFIH K-128851



MINISTRY
OF HUMAN CAPACITIES

EFOP-3.6.2-16-2017-00

Purkinje-ventricle dispersion of sedentary and trained dogs



Increased temporal instability in professional soccer players: increased arrhythmia susceptibility?

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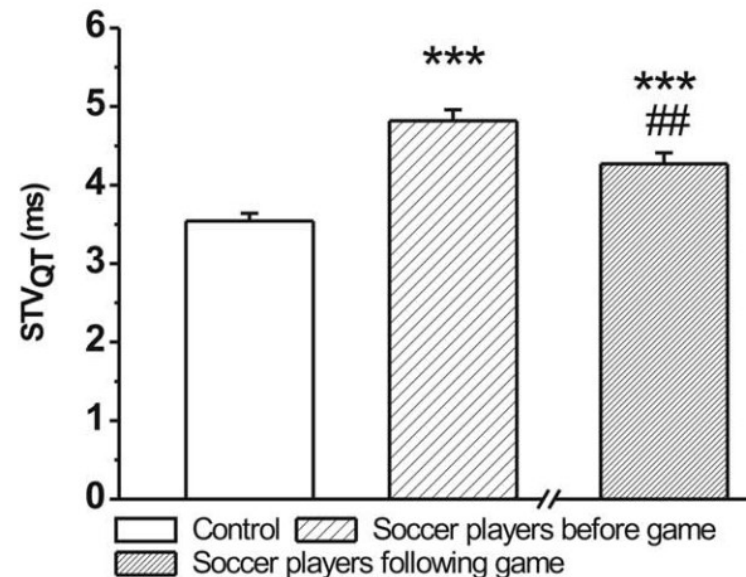
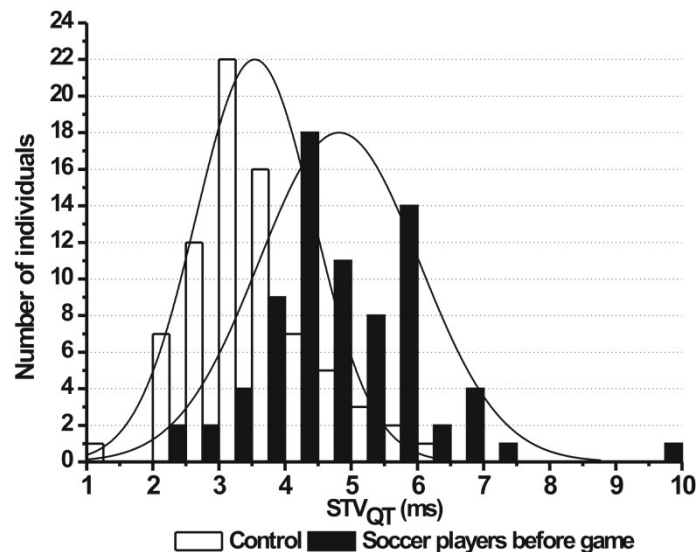


Increased Short-Term Variability of the QT Interval in Professional Soccer Players: Possible Implications for Arrhythmia Prediction

Csaba Lengyel¹, Andrea Orosz², Péter Hegyi¹, Zsolt Komka³, Anna Udvardy³, Edit Bosnyák³, Emese Trájer³, Gábor Pavlik³, Miklós Tóth³, Tibor Wittmann¹, Julius Gy. Papp^{2,4}, András Varró^{2,4}, István Baczkó^{2*}

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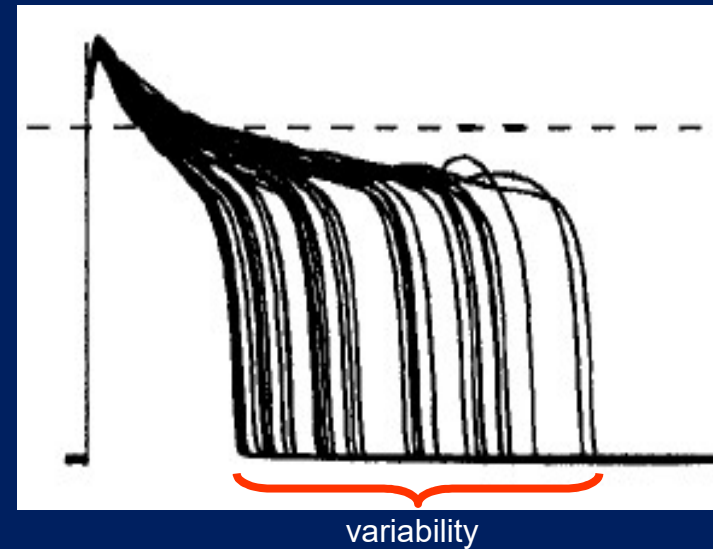
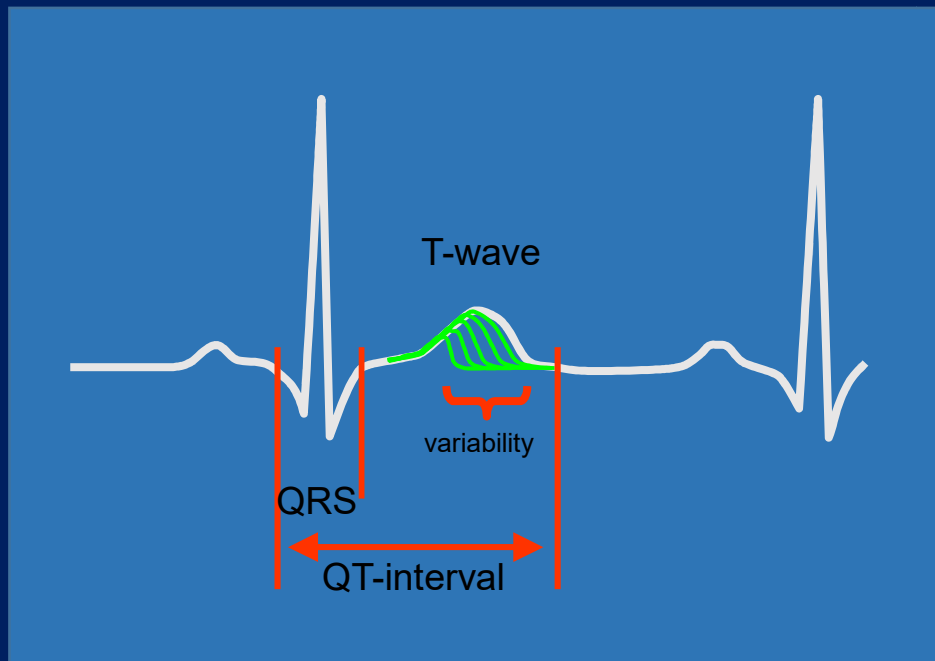
Short-term variability of the QT interval (STV_{QT})



Short-term variability (STV) of repolarization as a parameter for repolarization reserve

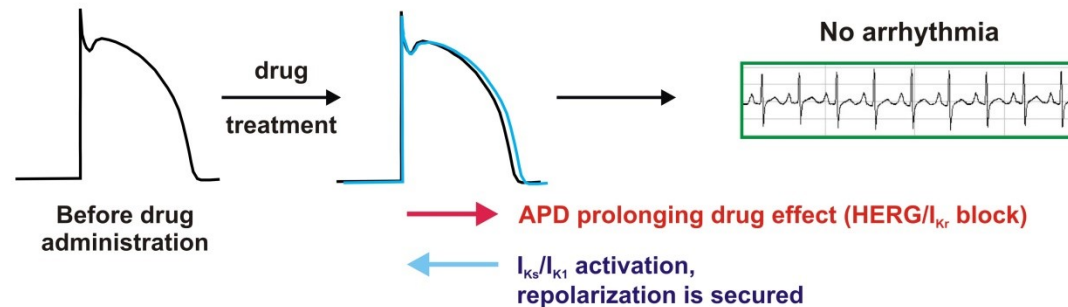
In vivo,
clinical (ECG)

Cellular
(action potential)

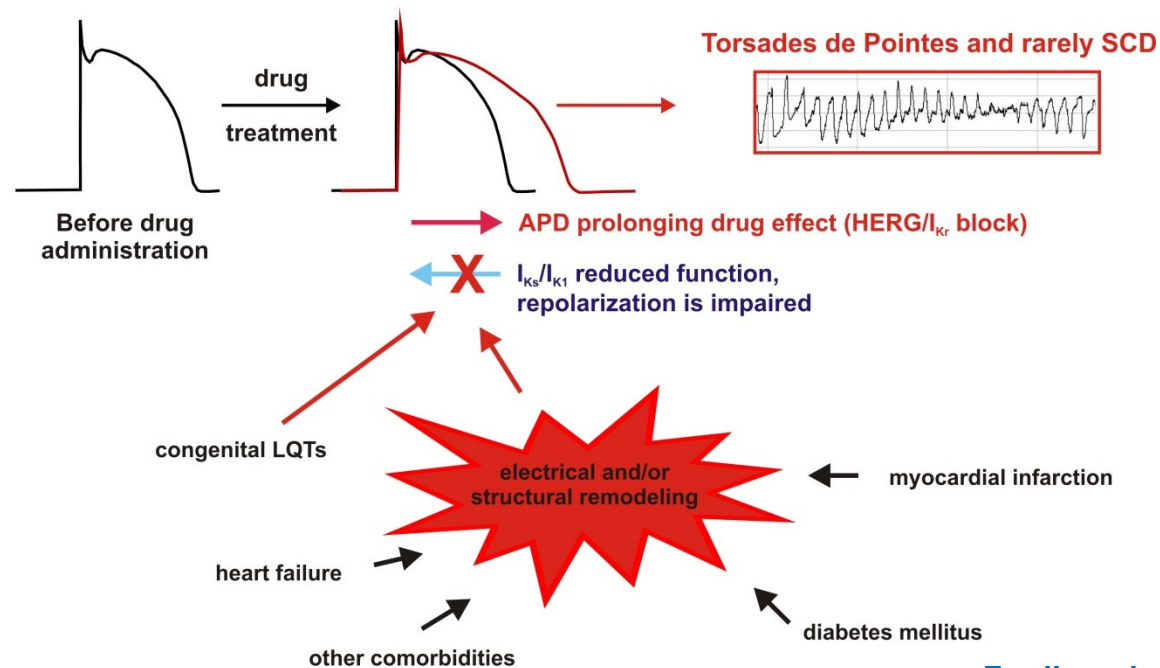


Cardiac repolarization reserve and the role of I_{Ks}

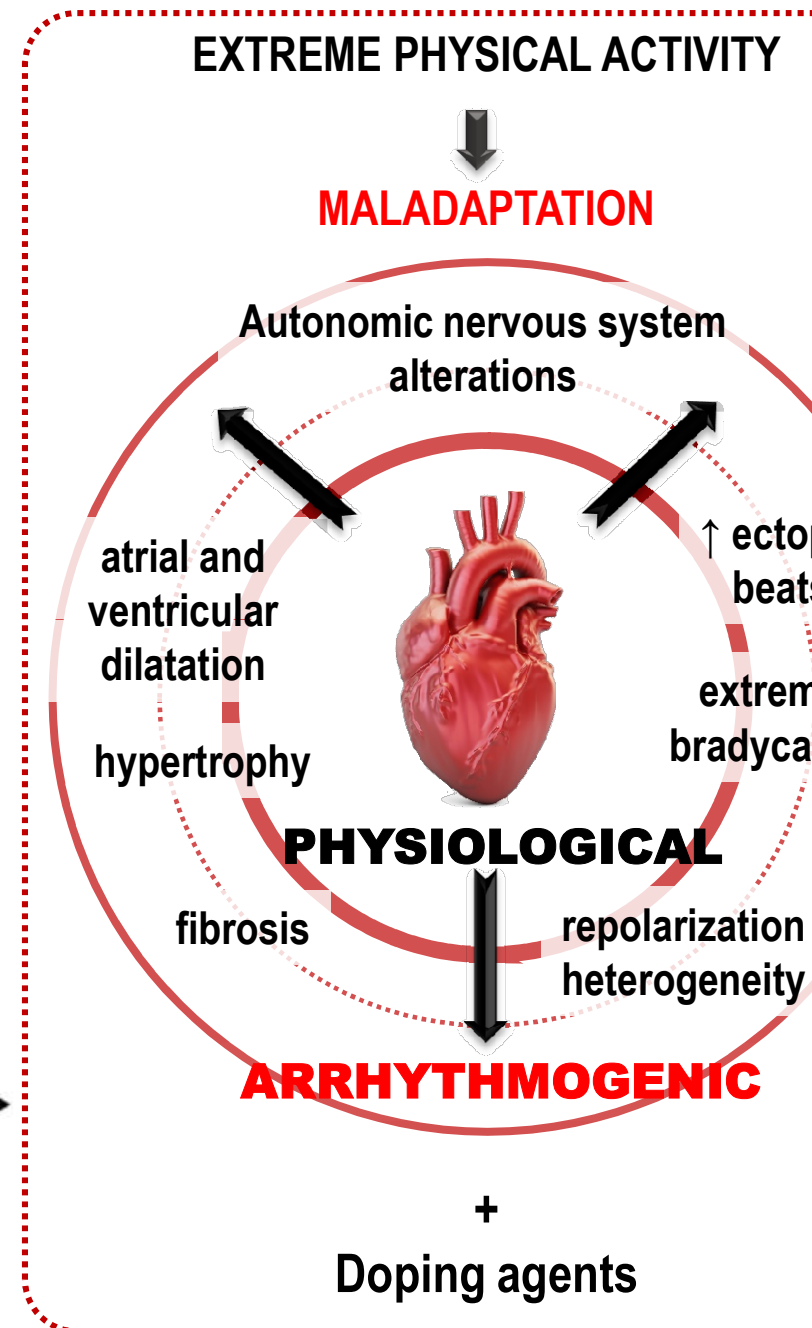
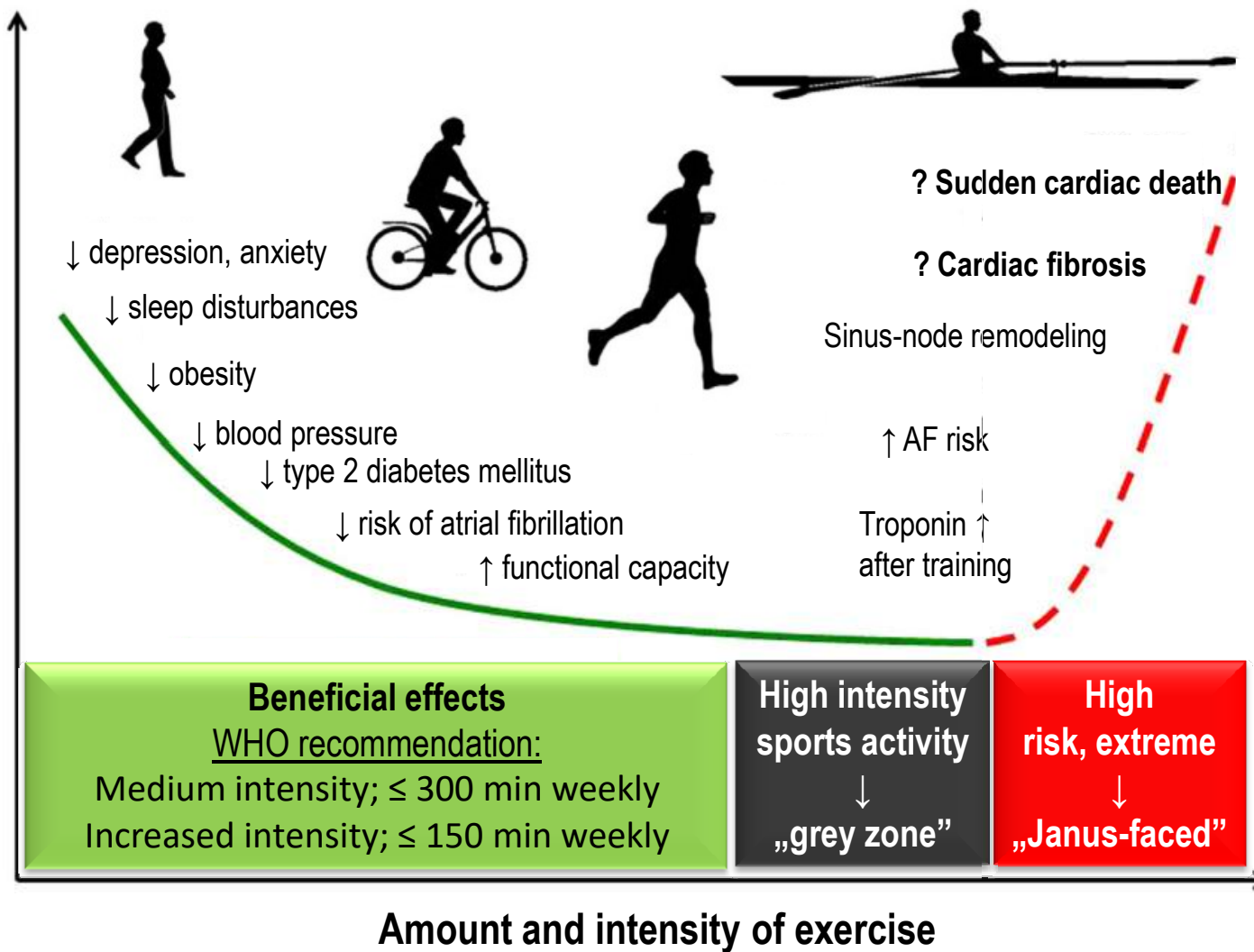
A Healthy myocardium with intact repolarization reserve



B Impaired I_{Ks}/I_{K1} function and reduced repolarization reserve



Beneficial & harmful effects of sports activities



(2018) The athlete's heart is a proarrhythmic heart, and what that means for clinical decision making. EP Europace

(2018) The Extreme Exercise Hypothesis: Recent Findings and Cardiovascular Health Implications. Curr Treat Opt Card Med

(2016) The U-shaped relationship between exercise and cardiac morbidity. Trends Cardiovasc Med

The athlete's heart is a proarrhythmic heart, and what that means for clinical decision making

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TRENDS IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE 26 (2016) 232–240



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

www.elsevier.com/locate/tcm



The U-shaped relationship between exercise and cardiac morbidity

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Rajesh Sharma, MRCP, FESC*

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Meuwissen (2018) The athlete's heart is a proarrhythmic heart, and what that means for clinical decision making. EP Europace

Meuwissen et al (2018) The Extreme Exercise Hypothesis: Recent Findings and Cardiovascular Health Implications. Curr Treat Opt Card Med

Meuwissen et al (2016) The U-shaped relationship between exercise and cardiac morbidity. Trends Cardiovasc Med

Curr Treat Options Cardio Med (2018) 20: 84
DOI 10.1007/s11936-018-0674-3

Sports Cardiology (M Papadakis, Section Editor)

The “Extreme Exercise Hypothesis”: Recent Findings and Cardiovascular Health Implications

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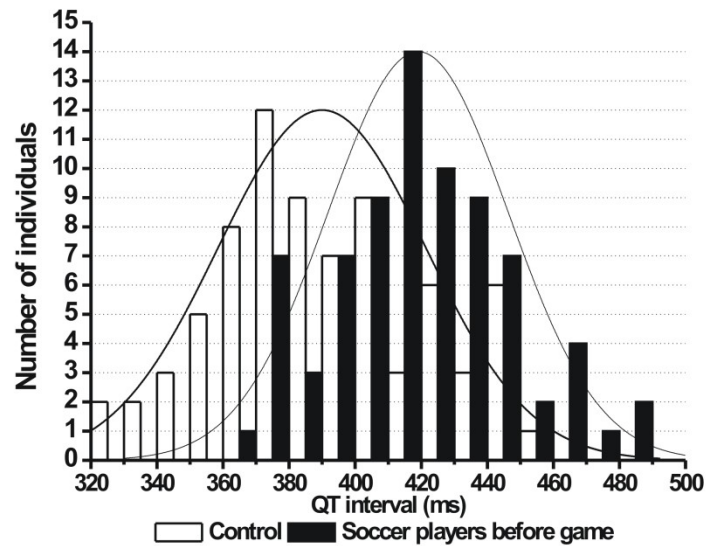
Email: Thijs.Eijssvogels@radboudumc.nl

²Division of Cardiology, Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT, USA

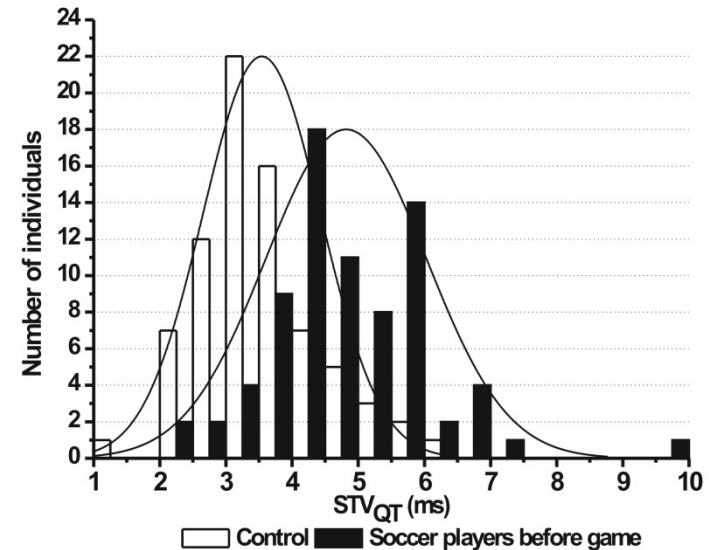
³Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak,
MI, USA

Short-term QT variability in soccer players

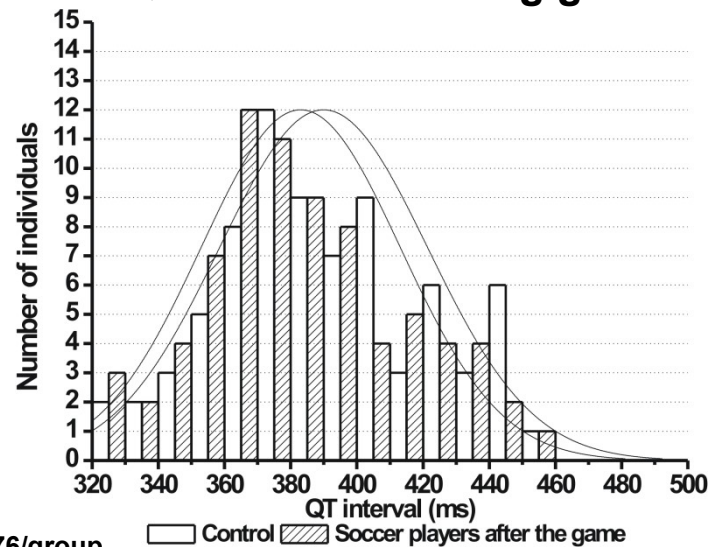
QT interval before game



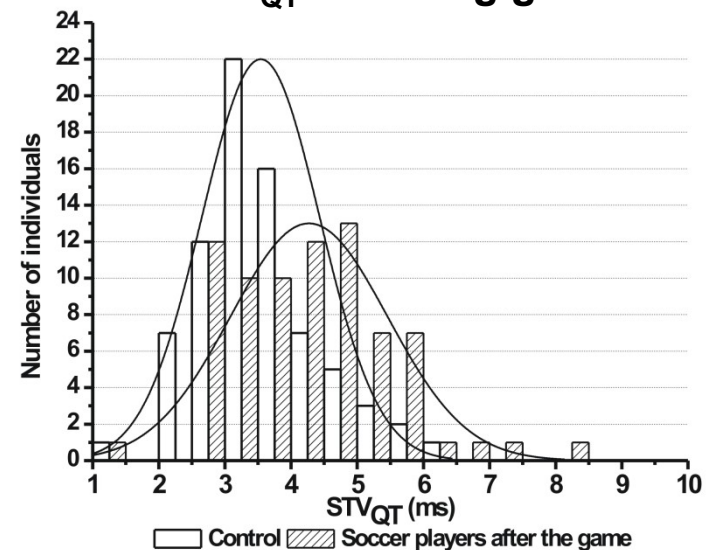
STV_{QT} before game



QT interval following game



STV_{QT} following game



n = 76/group

Increased short-term variability (STV) of repolarization in animal experimental models

Cardiol 100: 279–287 (2005)
7/s00395-005-0519-6

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION

B. Thomsen
Truin
M. van Opstal
I. Beekman
A. Volders
tengl
Vos

Sudden cardiac death in dogs with remodeled hearts is associated with larger beat-to-beat variability of repolarization

the American College of Cardiology
the American College of Cardiology Foundation
y Elsevier Inc.

Vol. 48, No. 6, 2006
ISSN 0735-1097/06/\$32.00
doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2006.05.048

CLINICAL STUDY

Beat-to-Beat Variability of Repolarization Determines Proarrhythmic Outcome in Dogs Susceptible to Drug-Induced Torsades de Pointes

B. Thomsen, PhD,*† Paul G. A. Volders, MD, PhD,† Jet D. M. Beekman,* Jørgen Matz, PhD,‡
L. Vos, PhD*

and Maastricht, the Netherlands; and Copenhagen, Denmark

British Journal of Pharmacology (2007) 151, 941–951
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www.bjpharmacol.org



RESEARCH PAPER

Combined pharmacological block of I_{Kr} and I_{Ks} increases short-term QT interval variability and provokes torsades de pointes

C Lengyel^{1,2}, A Varró^{1,3}, K Tábori¹, JG Papp^{1,3} and I Baczkó¹

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British Journal of
Pharmacology

British Journal of Pharmacology (2016) 173 2046–2061 2046

RESEARCH PAPER

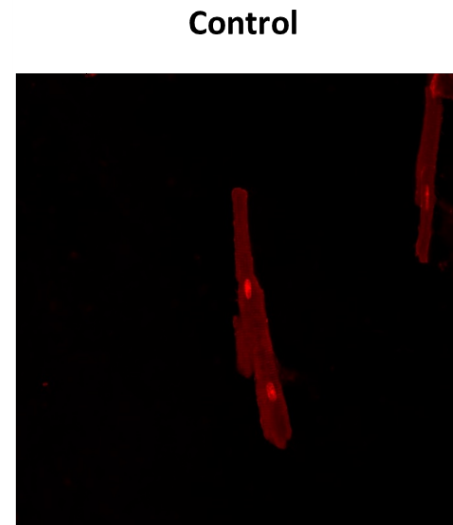
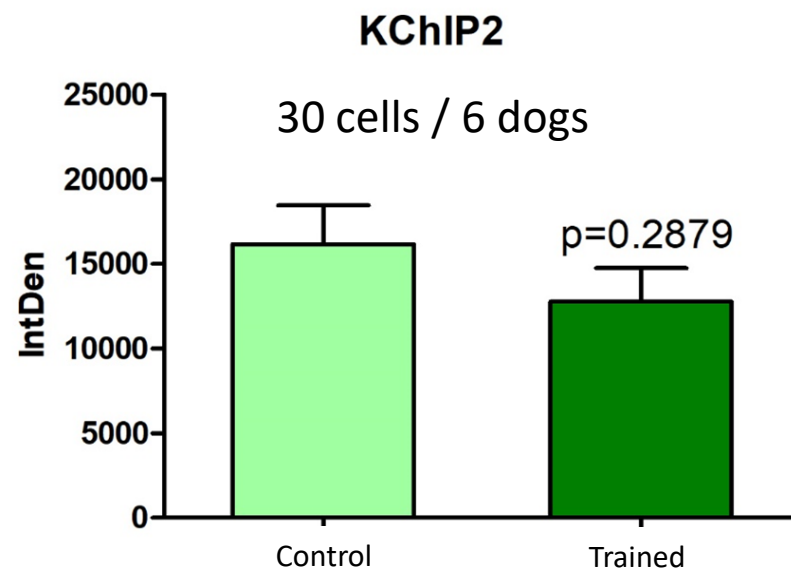
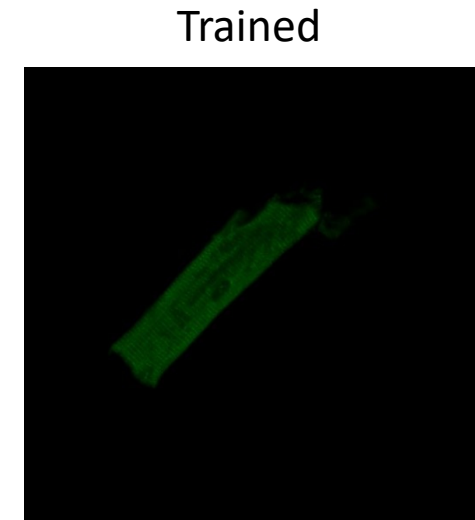
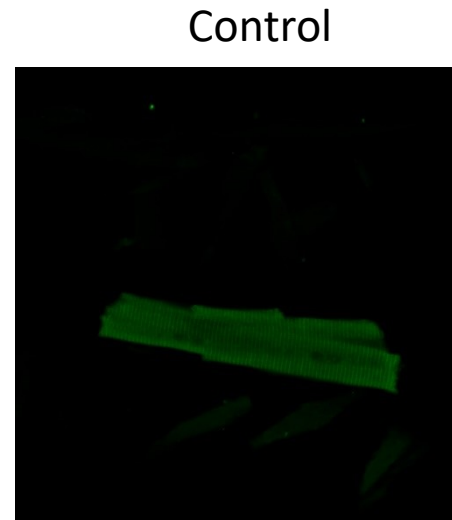
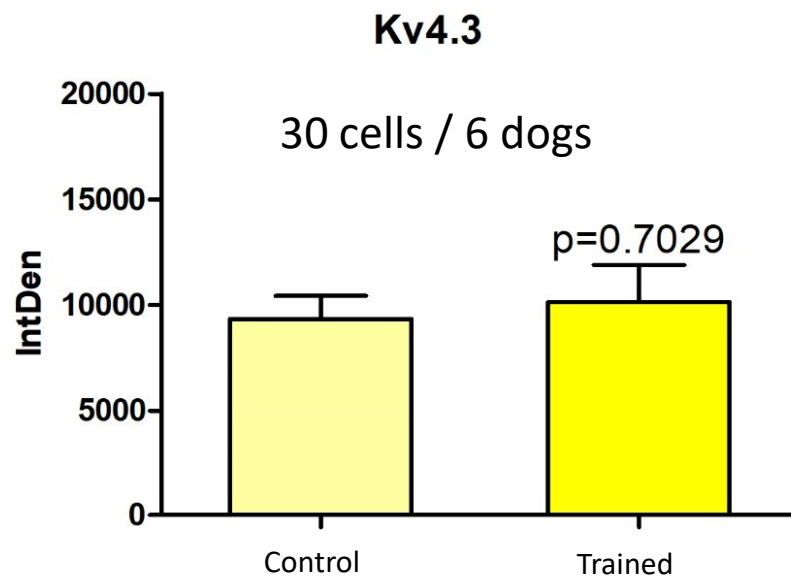
A novel transgenic rabbit model with reduced repolarization reserve: long QT syndrome caused by a dominant-negative mutation of the *KCNE1* gene

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Transient outward „channel” (I_{to}) protein densities determination by
immonochemistry in dog ventricular myocytes



Increased short-term variability (STV) of repolarization in human pathological settings

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CLINICAL RESEARCH
Arrhythmia/electrophysiology

Beat-to-beat variability of QT intervals is increased in patients with drug-induced long-QT syndrome: a case control pilot study

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Increased Short-Term Beat-To-Beat Variability of QT Interval in Patients with Acromegaly

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Usefulness of Short-Term Variability of QT Intervals as a Predictor for Electrical Remodeling and Proarrhythmia in Patients With Nonischemic Heart Failure

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Short-term beat-to-beat variability of the QT interval is increased and correlates with parameters of left ventricular hypertrophy in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

Andrea Orosz, István Baczkó, Viktória Nagy, Henriette Gavallér, Miklós Csanády, Tamás Forster, Tibor Wittmann, Julius Gy. Papp, András Varró, Csaba Lengyel, and Róbert Sepp

Transient outward „channel” (I_{to}) protein densities determination by Western blot in dog ventricular tissue

