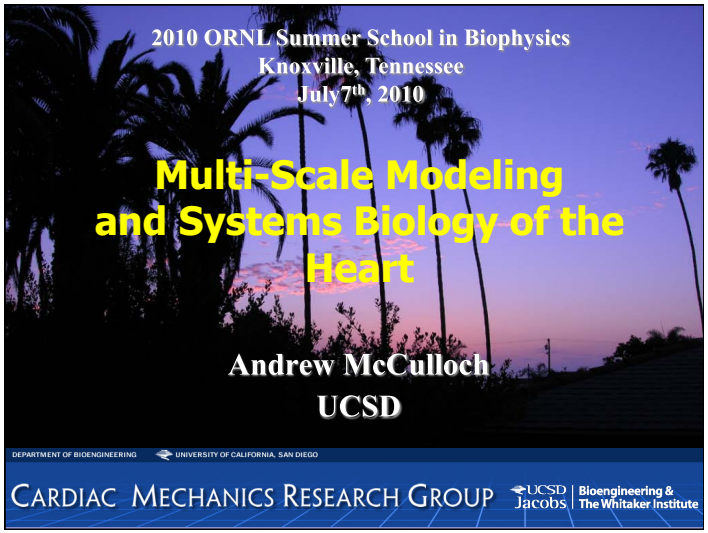
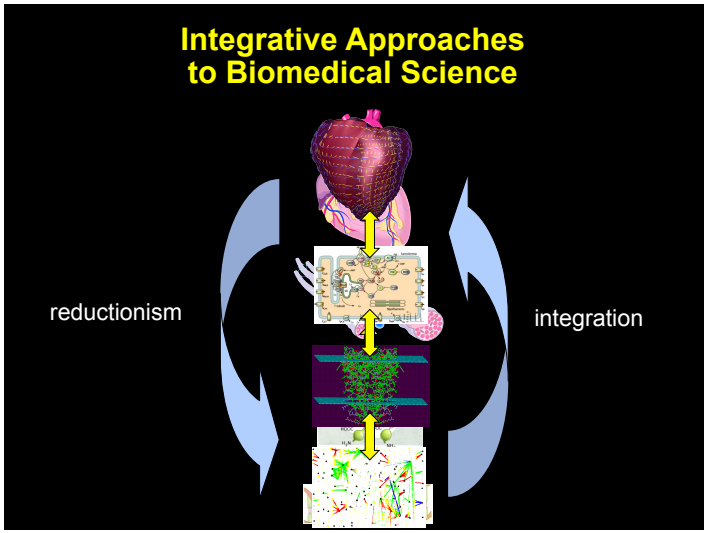
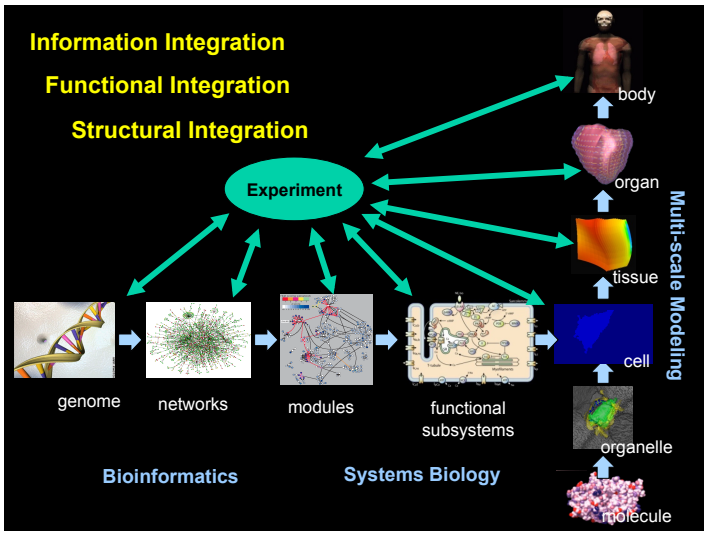
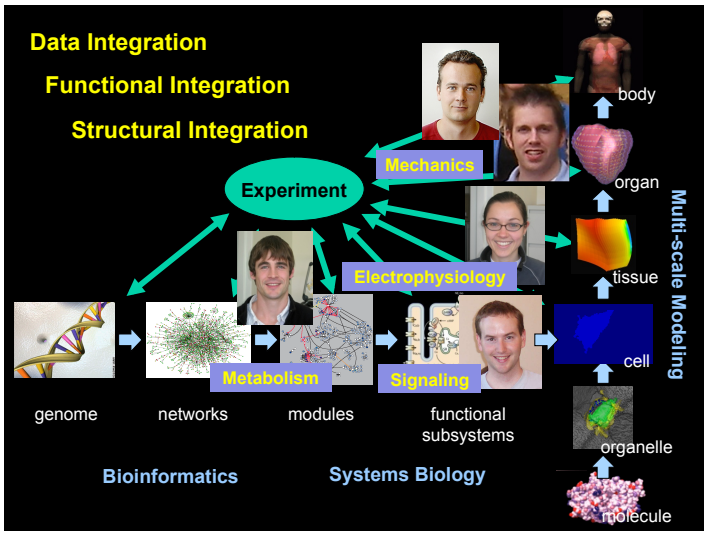

2010 ORNL Summer School in Biophysics
Knoxville, Tennessee
July 7th, 2010
Multi-Scale Modeling and Systems Biology of the Heart
Andrew McCulloch
UCSD
DEPARTMENT OF BIOENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
CARDIAC MECHANICS RESEARCH GROUP
UCSD Jacobs | Bioengineering & The Whitaker Institute

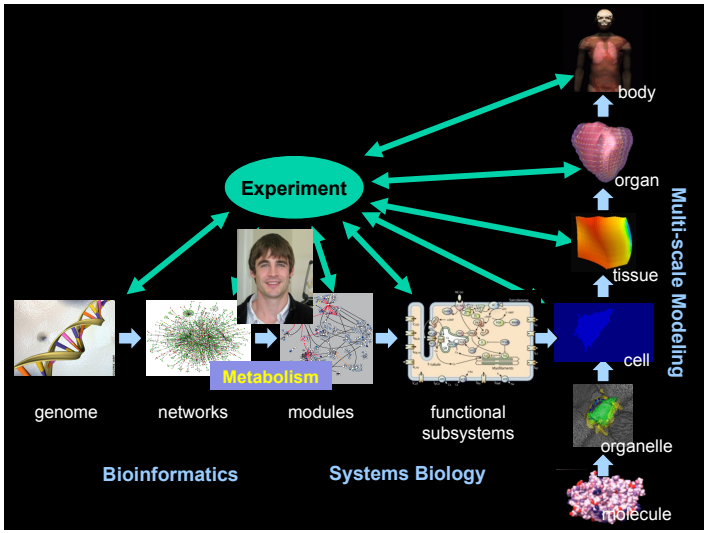

Integrative Approaches to Biomedical Science
reductionism
integration

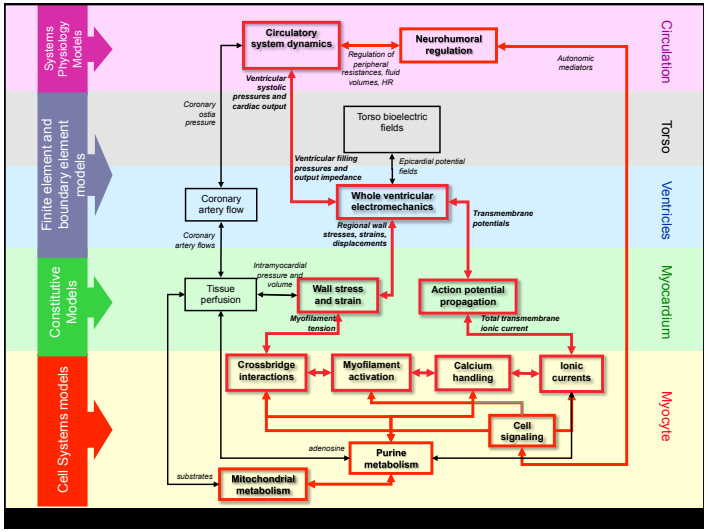

Information Integration
Functional Integration
Structural Integration
Experiment
body
organ
tissue
cell
organelle
molecule
genome
networks
modules
functional subsystems
Multi-scale Modeling
Bioinformatics
Systems Biology


Data Integration
Functional Integration
Structural Integration
Experiment
Mechanics
Electrophysiology
Metabolism
Signaling
body
organ
tissue
cell
organelle
molecule
genome
networks
modules
functional subsystems
Multi-scale Modeling
Bioinformatics
Systems Biology

Systems Biology

1. Choose a biological *model organism* suitable for quantitative study and genome level perturbations: *S. Cerevisiae, C. Elegans*, *D. Melanogaster*, mouse
2. Use *high-throughput technologies* to acquire data on biological components, their interactions and integrative functions under the *context of interest*
3. *Reconstruct interaction networks* from their annotated molecular components and interactions: transcriptional, metabolic, signaling, …
4. *Develop predictive, quantitative models* of systems properties and integrative functions
5. Systematically *perturb components* to validate and refine models. Generate new hypotheses

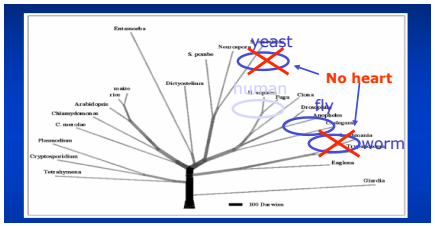


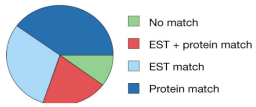


1. Model Organism
Drosophila Melanogaster

Drosophila **is the most genetically tractable model organism with a circulatory system. A model for:**

- **Development**
- **Aging**
- **Nutrition**
- **Hypoxia tolerance**



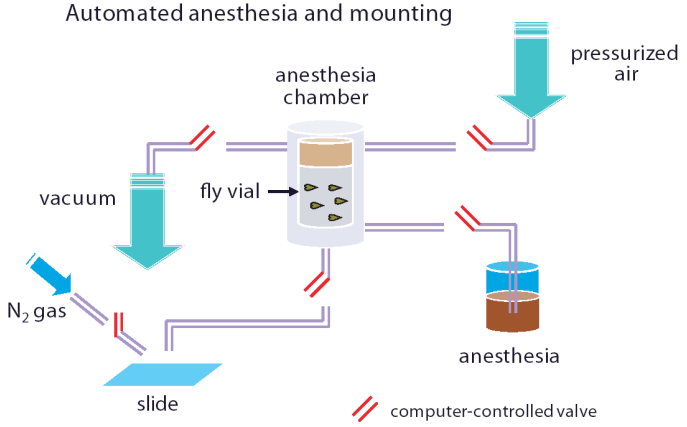


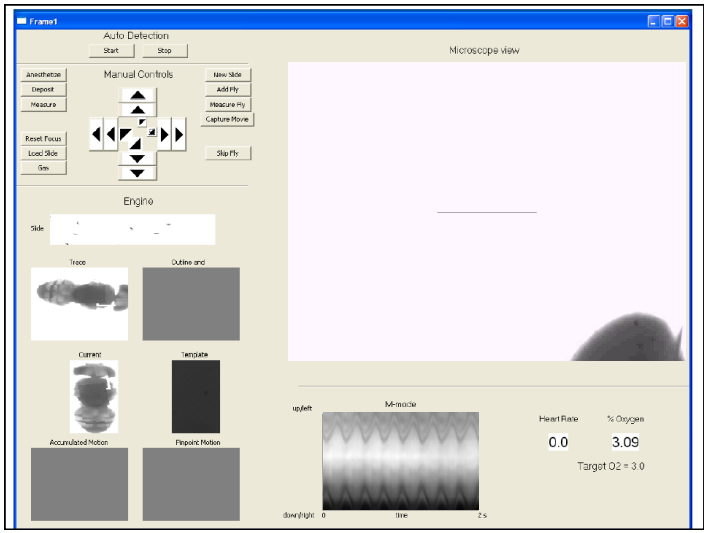
77% of human disease genes had a Drosophila homolog (Reiter, 2001)

Sequence similarity: Flies vs. humans

2. High Throughput Technologies
Automated Cardiac Phenotyping

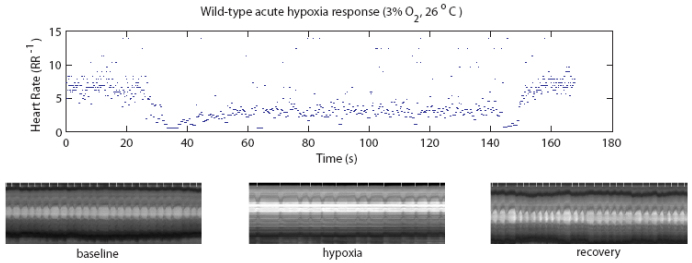
Automated anesthesia and mounting





Drosophila cardiac hypoxia

The fly heart organ responds quickly to oxygen levels, suggesting regulatory ***control***

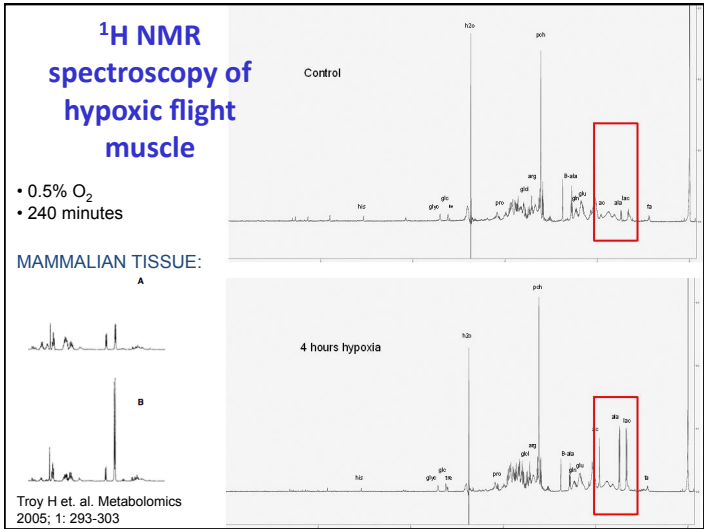


Feala JD, Omens JH, Paternostro G, McCulloch AD (2008) Discovering regulators of the drosophila cardiac hypoxia response using automated phenotyping technology.*Ann NY Acad Sci* 2008;1123:169-177

^{1}H NMR spectroscopy of hypoxic flight muscle

- 0.5% O_2
- 240 minutes

MAMMALIAN TISSUE:

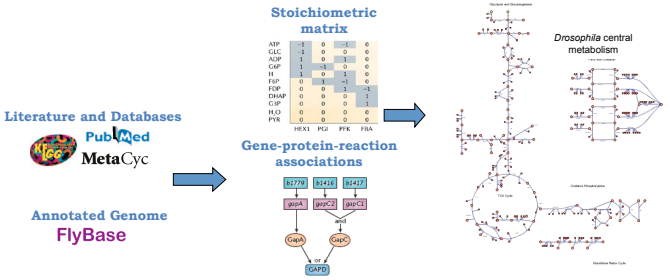


Troy H et. al. Metabolomics 2005; 1: 293-303

3. Reconstruct Interaction Networks

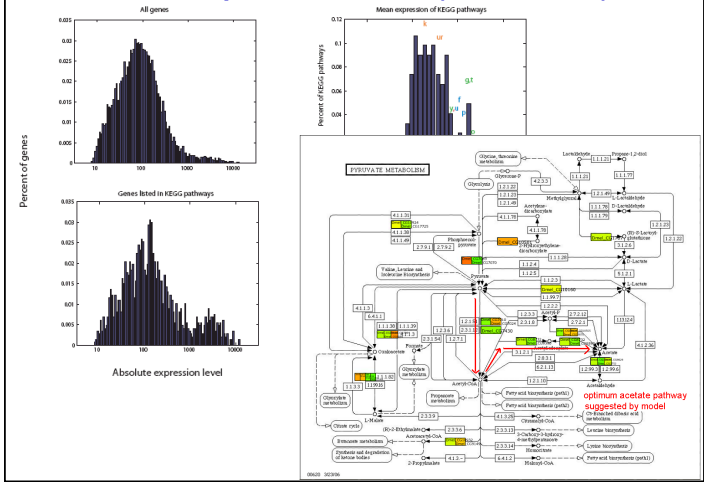
Genome-Scale Model of Drosophila Central Metabolism

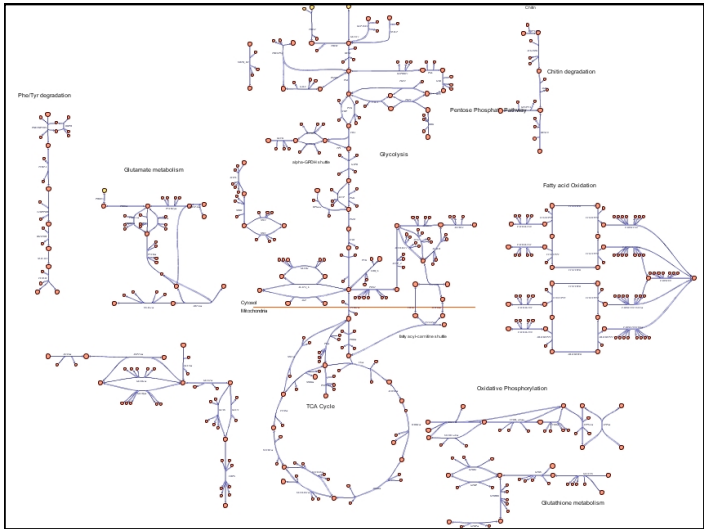
- **142 genes, 115 reactions (74 associated with genes), 7 pathways**
- **Glycolysis, TCA cycle, oxidative phosphorylation, β –oxidation, amino acid degradation, glutathione redox cycle, superoxide production and scavenging**
- **Elementally- and charge-balanced**



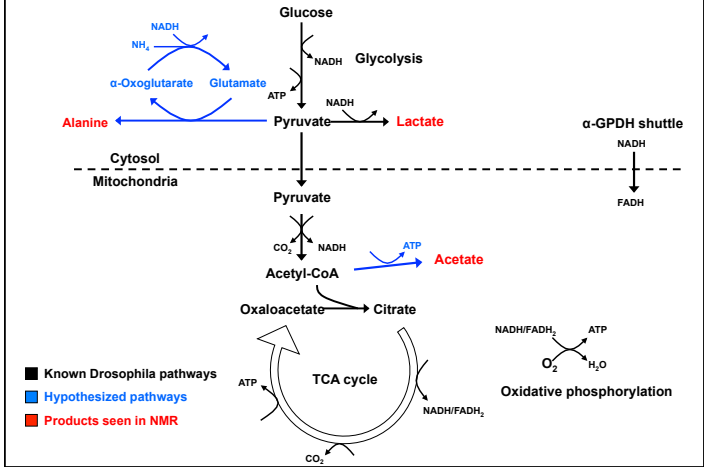
Feala JD *et al* (2008) *Prog Biophys Molec Biol* 96(1-3):209-225

Gene Expression Profile (adult thorax)



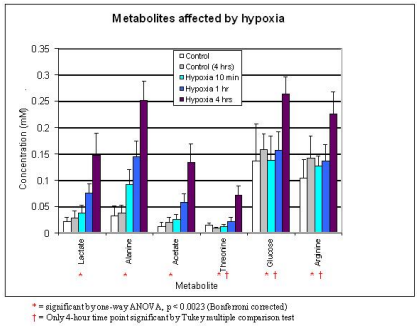


Main Energetic Pathways in Model

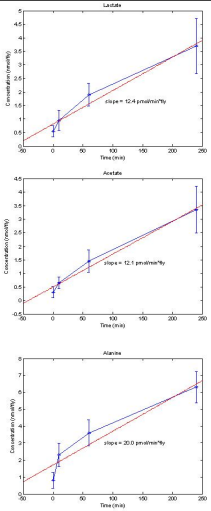


NMR Metabolomics

^{1}H NMR spectroscopy of flight muscle at t=0,1,10,60,240 minutes

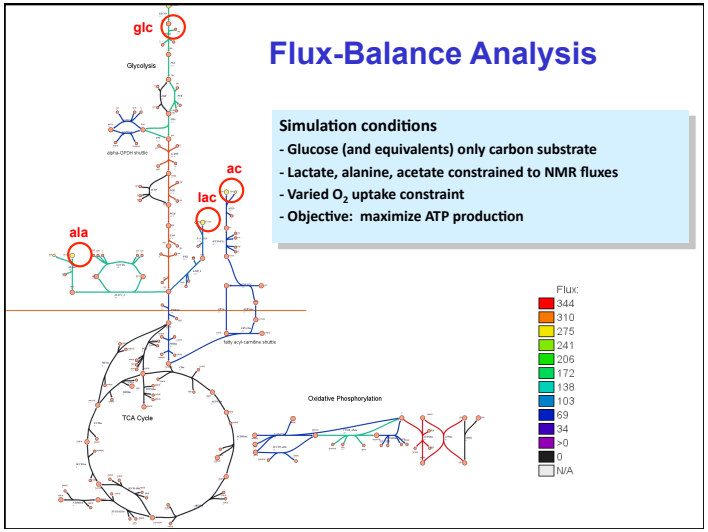


Feala J, Coquin L, McCulloch AD, Paternostro G (2007) Flexibility in energy metabolism supports hypoxia tolerance in *Drosophila* flight muscle: metabolomic and computational systems analysis. *Molecular Systems Biology* 17 Apr 2007;3:99



Constraining the model to metabolomics data

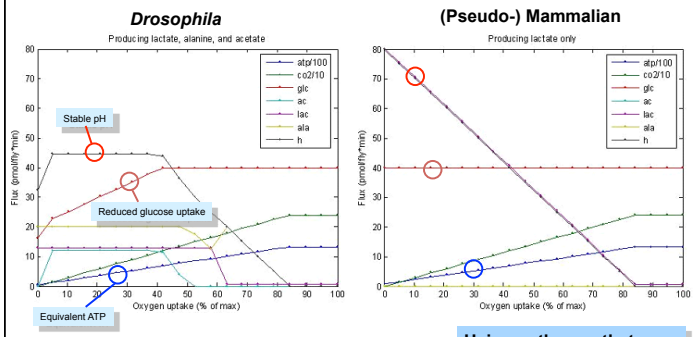
- Fluxes fit to linear concentration changes over experimental duration
- Model exchange reactions constrained to flux calculations
  - Lactate
  - Alanine
  - Acetate
  - Glutamate
  - Glutamine
  - Glucose
  - Proline
  - 4-aminobutyrate
  - Pyruvate
  - Oxalacetate



Flux-Balance Analysis

Simulation conditions
- **Glucose (and equivalents) only carbon substrate**
- **Lactate, alanine, acetate constrained to NMR fluxes**
- **Varied O_2 uptake constraint**
- **Objective: maximize ATP production**

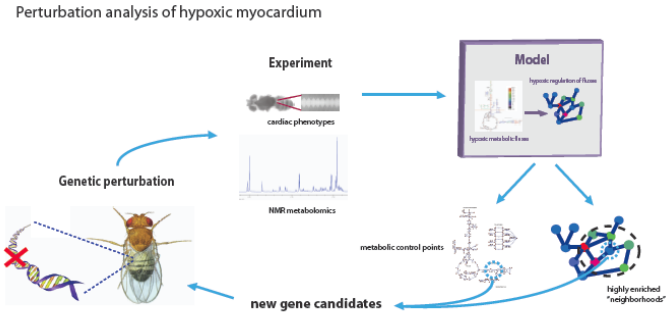
Hypoxia simulation: 3 pyruvate pathways *vs* 1



Abbreviations:
- atp: ATP production
- co2: CO2 production
- glc: glucose uptake
- h: proton production
- ac: acetate accumulation
- lac: lactate accumulation
- ala: alanine accumulation

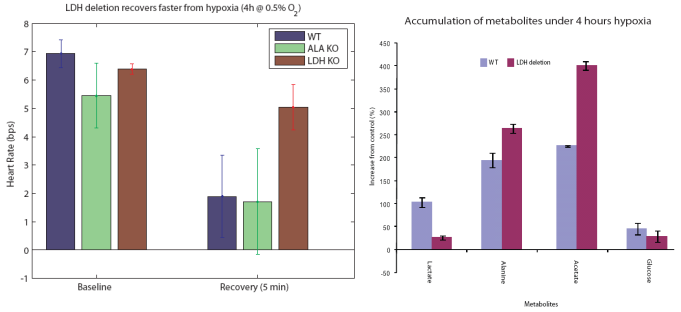
Using pathways that generate alanine and acetate increases ATP/H^+ and ATP/glucose ratios

5. Analyze Perturbations



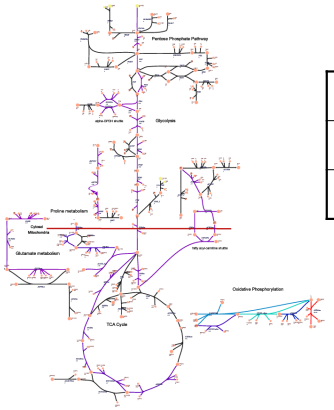
LDH Knockout

Heart Rate Recovery and Metabolite Accumulation



Feala J, Coquin L, McCulloch AD, Paternostro G (2007) Flexibility in energy metabolism supports hypoxia tolerance in *Drosophila* flight muscle: metabolomic and computational systems analysis. *Molecular Systems Biology* 17 Apr 2007;3:99

Flux Balance Analysis of LDH deletion



	WT	LDH KO
ATP/H^+	16.8	22.9
ATP/glucose	27.0	34.1

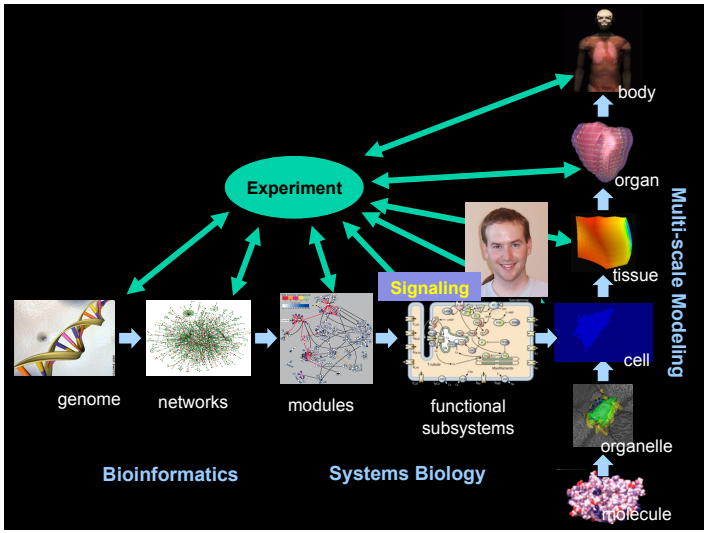
6. Generate New Hypotheses

Pathway mechanisms of altered hypoxia tolerance

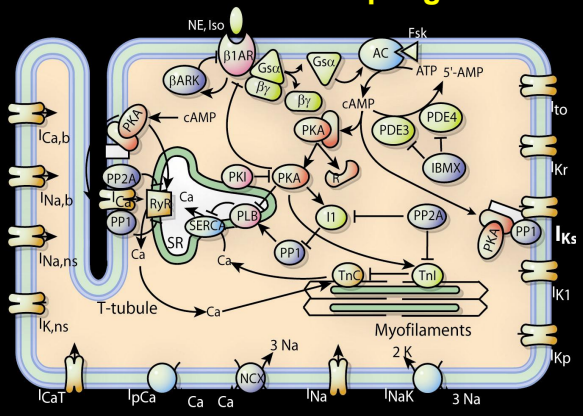
degraded ← Hypoxia tolerance → improved

Aging	Wild type	Adapted
↓ ATP/H^+		↑ ATP/H^+
↓ ATP/substrate		↑ ATP/substrate
↑ pyruvate → acetate		↓ pyruvate carboxylase flux
↓ recovery of respiration		↓ glycolysis
		↑ complex I vs complex II
		↑ respiratory efficiency

Coquin L, Feala JD, McCulloch AD, Paternostro G (2008) Metabolomic and flux-balance analysis of age-related decline of hypoxia tolerance in Drosophila muscle tissue. *Mol Syst Biol* 2008;4:233

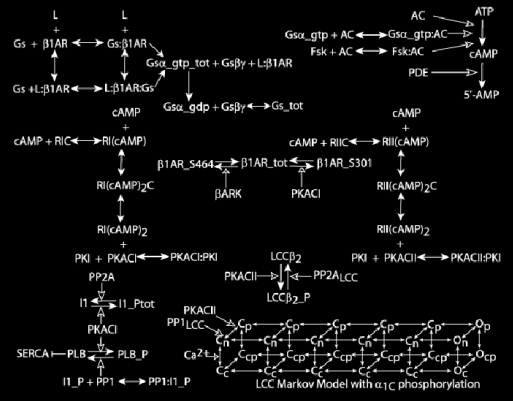


β–Adrenergic Regulation of Excitation-Contraction Coupling



Saucerman, JJ *et al., J Biol Chem* 278: 47997 (2003)

Mechanistic Signaling Diagram

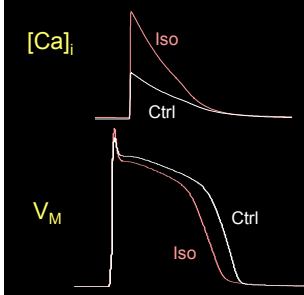


40 differential equations, 20 algebraic equations, 78 parameters from 57 papers

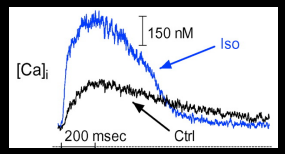
Saucerman, JJ *et al., J Biol Chem* 278: 47997 (2003)

β-Adrenergic Regulation of E-C Coupling in Rabbit

Model



Experiments

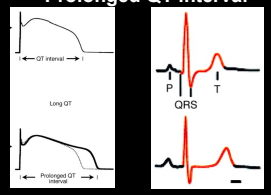


Ginsburg KS, Bers DM *J Physiol.* 556:463 (2004)

APD_{90} ↓10%: Sanguinetti MC, *et al.* Circ Res. 68:77 (1991)

Long QT Syndrome

Prolonged QT interval

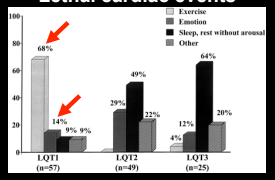


LQT genotypes

Disease	Gene (alternate name)	Protein
LQT-1	*KVLQT1 (KCNQ1)*	I_{Ks} K⁺ channel α subunit
LQT-2	*HERG (KCNH2)*	I_{Kr} K⁺ channel α subunit
LQT-3	*SCN5A*	I_{Na} K⁺ channel α subunit
LQT-4	*ANKB*	ANKRIN-β
LQT-5	*minK (KCNE1)*	I_{Ks} K⁺ channel β subunit
LQT-6	*MiRP1 (KCNE2)*	I_{Kr} K⁺ channel β subunit
LQT-7	*KCNJ2*	I_{K1} K⁺ channel α subunit

Kass RS and Moss AJ (2003) *J Clin. Invest.* 112:810

Lethal cardiac events



Schwartz, PJ *et al.* (2001) *Circulation* 103:89

Ancestral carriers of KCNQ1-G589D

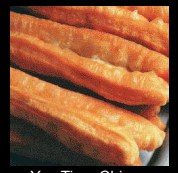
Piippo K, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 37:562 (2001)

G589D mutation of KCNQ1 in human LQT1 disrupts AKAP9 (Yotiao) binding

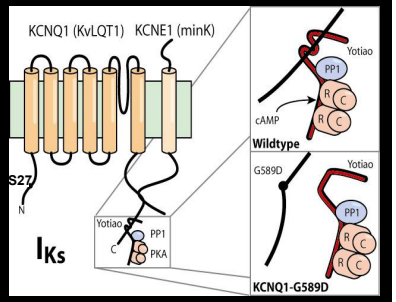
Requirement of a Macromolecular Signaling Complex for β Adrenergic Receptor Modulation of the KCNQ1-KCNE1 Potassium Channel

Steven O. Marx,* Junko Kurokawa,* Steven Reiken, Howard Motoike, Jeanine D'Armiento, Andrew R. Marks, Robert S. Kass†

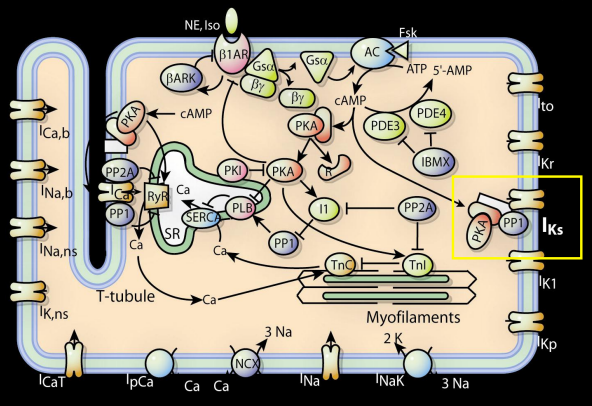
18 JANUARY 2002 VOL 295 SCIENCE



You Tiao: Chinese breakfast noodle

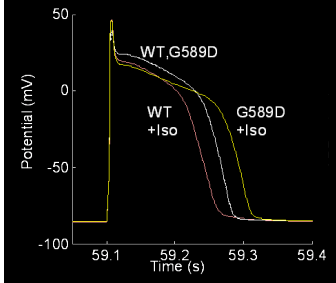


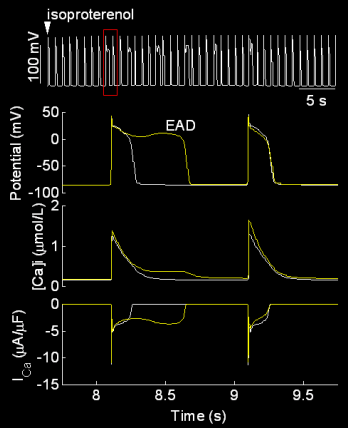
Modeling local and whole-cell consequences of KCNQ1-G589D



Saucerman JJ, Healy SN, Belik ME, Puglisi JL, McCulloch AD. *Circ Res.* 2004;95:1216-24.

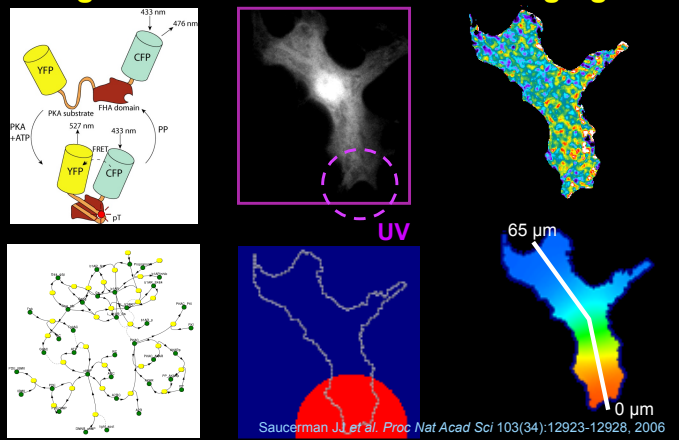
In-Silico Reconstitution of KCNQ1-G589D Mutation in Ventricular Mvocyte





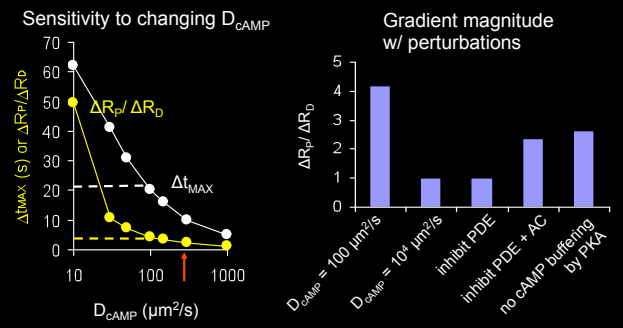
Saucerman JJ, Healy SN, Belik ME, Puglisi JL, McCulloch AD. *Circ Res.* 2004;95:1216-24.

Imaging PKA-mediated phosphorylation gradients with local cAMP uncaging



Saucerman JJ *et al. Proc Nat Acad Sci* 103(34):12923-12928, 2006

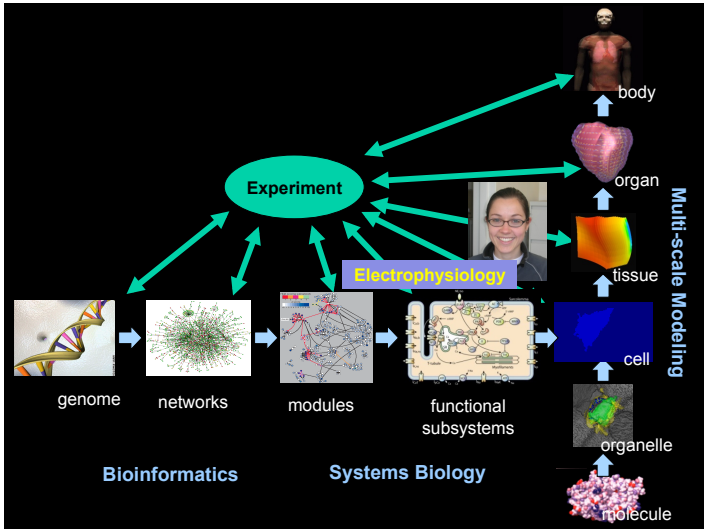
Local cAMP uncaging in model



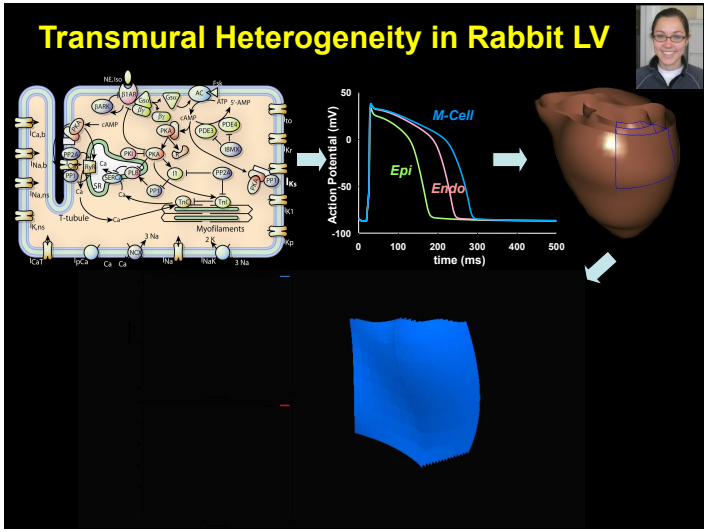
Dotted lines: experimental mean

Red arrow: 270 µm²/s (simple cell)

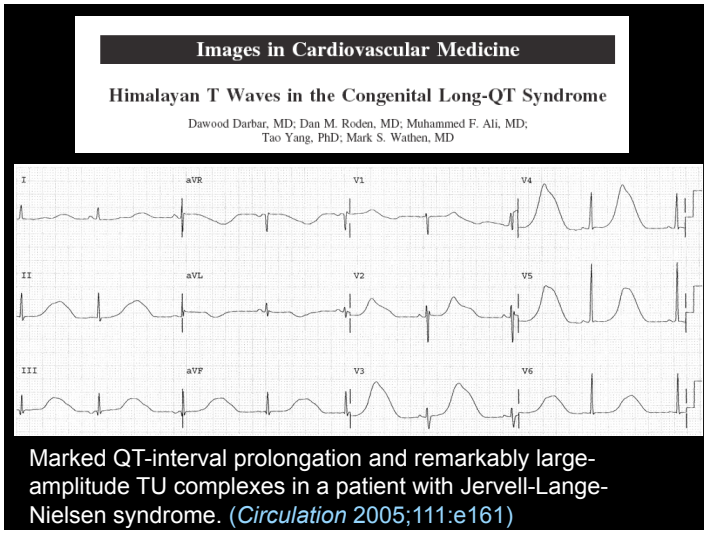
Saucerman JJ *et al. Proc Nat Acad Sci* 103(34):12923-12928, 2006



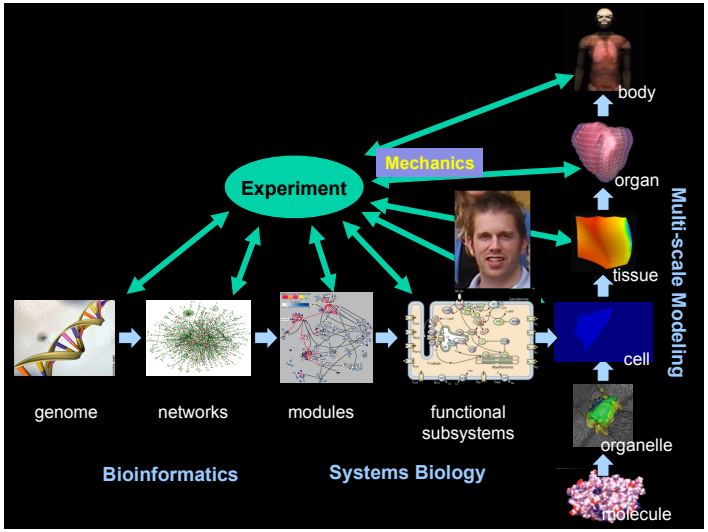
Transmural Heterogeneity in Rabbit LV



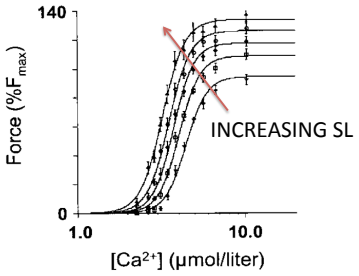
Saucerman JJ, Healy SN, Belik ME, Puglisi JL, McCulloch AD. *Circ Res.* 2004;95:1216-24.



Marked QT-interval prolongation and remarkably large-amplitude TU complexes in a patient with Jervell-Lange-Nielsen syndrome. (*Circulation* 2005;111:e161)



Steady-State Myofilament Activation

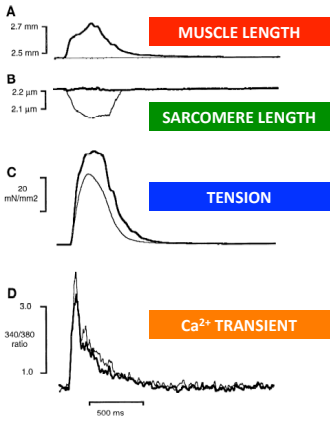


Skinned rat cardiac trabeculae

- Steep cooperative activation by Ca^{2+}
- Asymmetry of Force-pCa relation: $n_H([Ca] < EC_{50}) \sim 9$; $n_H([Ca] > EC_{50}) \sim 5$
- Length-dependent Ca^{2+} sensitivity

(Dobesh *et al.*, *AJP Heart Circ Physiol*, 2001)

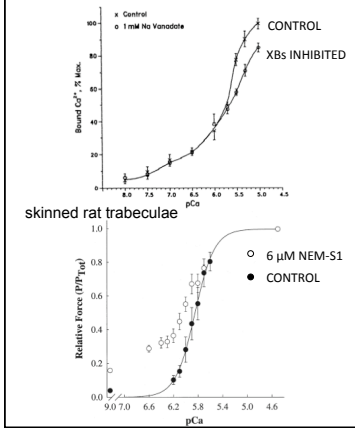
Twitch Dynamics



- Isometric twitch tension rises slower than [Ca] but decays faster
- Shortening reduces twitch tension and duration
- Sarcomere shortening causes release of Ca^{2+} from the myofilaments

(Janssen & de Tombe, *AJP,* 1997)

Crossbridges Apparently Contribute to Cooperative Myofilament Activation



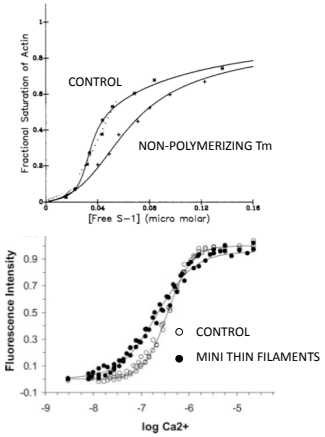
- Inhibition of crossbridges reduces myofilament Ca^{2+} buffering
  - Is 'feedback' of XBs on Ca^{2+} binding the cooperative mechanism?

(Hofmann & Fuchs, *AJP – Cell Physiol,* 1987)

- Strong-binding NEM-S1 fragments activate force even at pCa 9.0
  - Do XBs facilitate binding in neighboring regulatory units (RUs)?

(Fitzsimons *et al.*, *J Physiol,* 2001)

Tropomyosin Overlap and Cooperativity



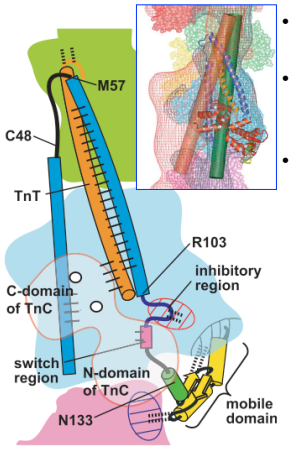
- Non-polymerizing Tm reduced cooperative binding of myosin S1 to actin filaments

(Pan *et al.*, *JBC,* 1989)

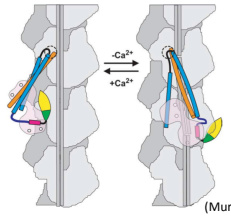
- Ca^{2+} binding to 'mini' thin filaments ~1 RU in length is non-cooperative
  - Do end-to-end Tm interactions cause neighboring RUs to activate cooperatively?

(Gong *et al.*, *PNAS,* 2005)

Allosteric Interactions in the Thin Filament Ca^{2+} Switch

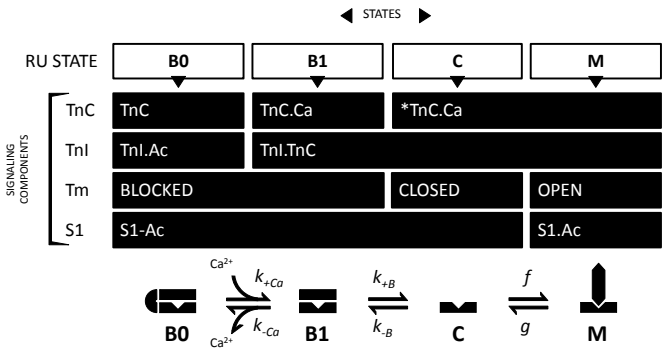


- Ca^{2+} binds to low affinity site on TnC, causing 'opening' of N-terminus
- Switch region of TnI binds to N-TnC, promoting dissociation of TnI inhibitory region from actin
- Absence of inhibitory region allows displacement of tropomyosin to expose myosin binding sites on the actin filament



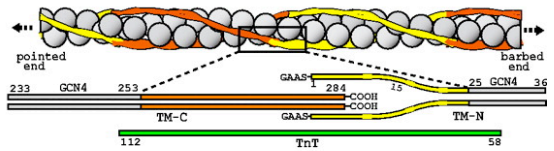
(Murakami *et al.*, *J Mol Biol*, 2005)

Individual Regulatory Unit (RU) Model



(Campbell et al., *Biophys J,* 2010)

Tropomyosin Dimers Polymerize End-to-End Along Actin



- Coiled-coils of Tm overlap by 8-11 amino acid residues
- Structure is stabilized by TnT N-terminal end (a region containing many TnT mutations associated with HCM)
- Tm observed in three structural states:
  - BLOCKED (B)
  - CLOSED (C, Ca-induced)
  - OPEN (M, myosin-induced)

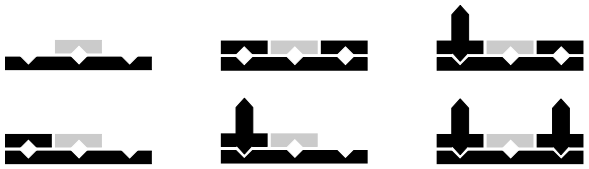
(Murakami et al, *PNAS*, 2008)
(Craig & Lehman, *J Mol Biol*, 2001)

Nearest-Neighbor (RU-RU and XB-RU) Interactions on the Thin Filament

Three possible states of each RU:

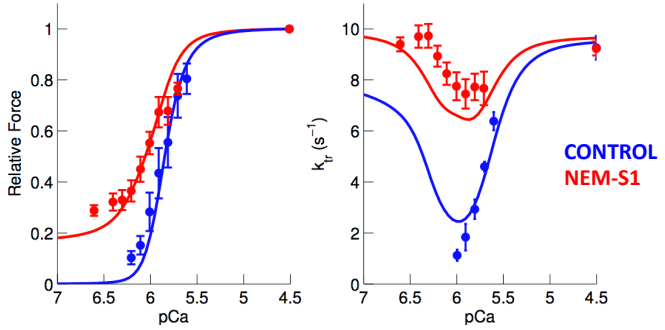
BLOCKED CLOSED OPEN

Six distinct nearest-neighbor configurations influence the transition of the middle RU:



According to the notions of RU-RU and XB-RU cooperativity, this gives rise to 6 pairs of on/off kinetic rate constants for RU activation, a total of **12 parameters**

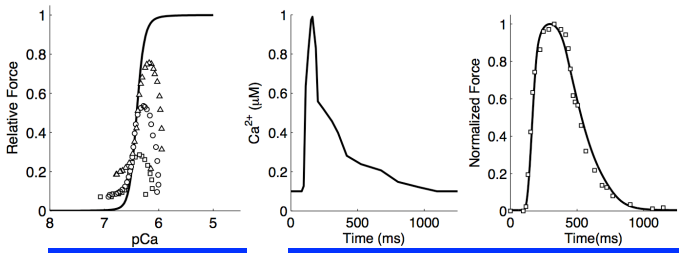
Effects of Strong-binding Myosin S1 Fragments



(Data – Fitzsimons, et al., 2001)

(Campbell et al., *Biophys J,* 2010)

Sarcomere Isometric Twitch Dynamics



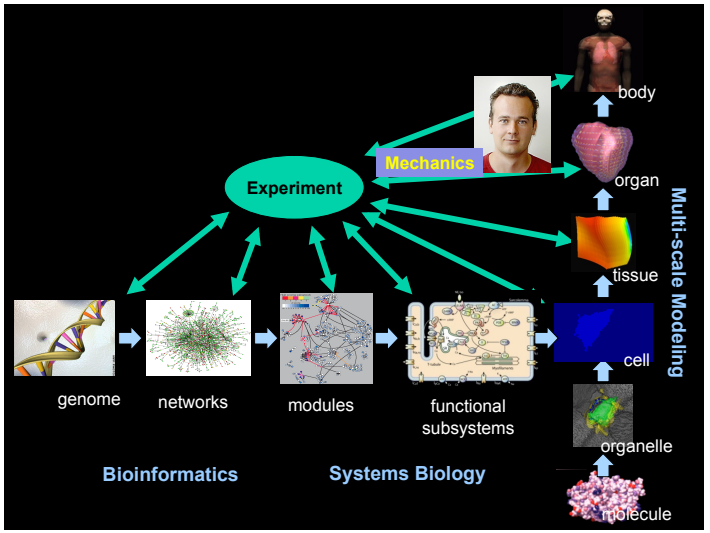
PHARMACOLOGICALLY-SLOWED CONTRACTIONS

CONSTANT SARCOMERE LENGTH TWITCH

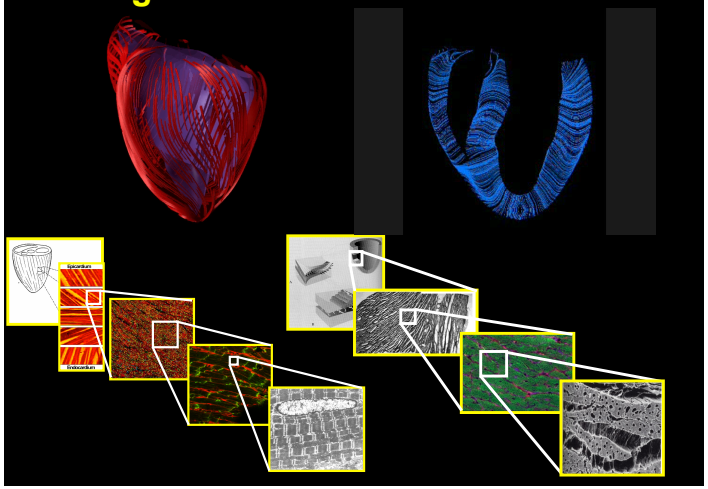
MODEL SIMULTANEOUSLY REPRODUCES STEADY-STATE AND DYNAMIC FORCE-Ca^{2+} RELATIONS

(Data - Dobrunz et al., 1995)

(Data – Janssen & de Tombe, 1997)
(Campbell et al., *Biophys J*, 2010)

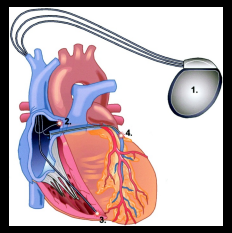


Organ Scale: Ventricular Models



Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy for Congestive Heart Failure

- Heart failure: 250,000 deaths/year in US alone
- Pump dysfunction frequently associated with electrical dysynchrony
- Cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT)
  - improves timing between LV and RV contraction
  - improves quality of life*
  - reduces mortality*
- ~30% of patients do not respond to CRT, especially those with myocardial infarcts

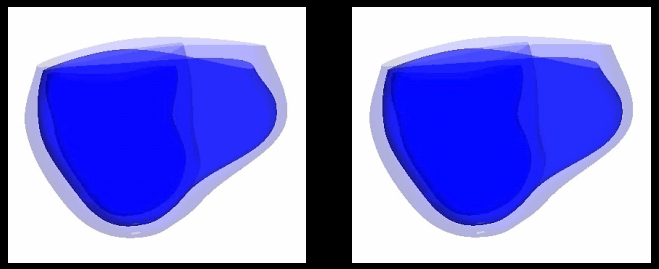


*Cleland, 2005

Ventricular Electromechanical Model of Dyssynchronous Congestive Heart Failure and Bi-Ventricular Pacing

Left Bundle Branch Block and Heart Failure

Bi-Ventricular Pacing for Resynchronization Therapy



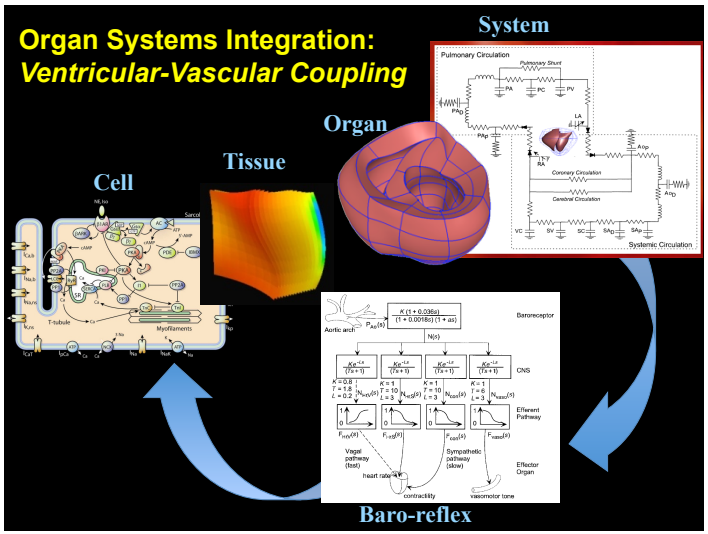
Usyk TP and McCulloch AD (2003) *J Electrocardiol* 36:57-61

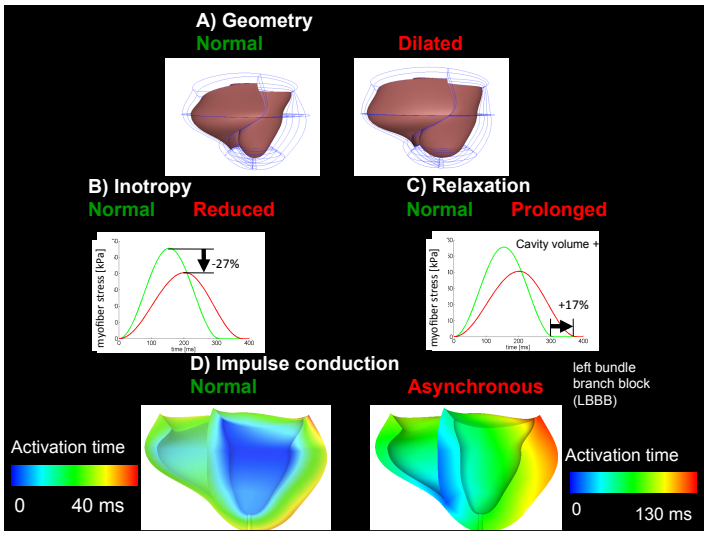
3-D Model of CRT Predicts Observed Hemodynamic Improvements

	LBBB		Bi-V pacing		Improvement, %	
	Model	Expt	Model	Expt	Model	Expt
dP/dt_{max} mm Hg/s	1230	1048±242	1680	1392 ± 413	36.6	32.8
dP/dt_{min} mm Hg/s	-1080	-960±162	-1220	-1152 ± 250	12.0	20.0
EF %	21.2	23.0±12.7	25.6	27.5 ±16.2	4.4	4.5

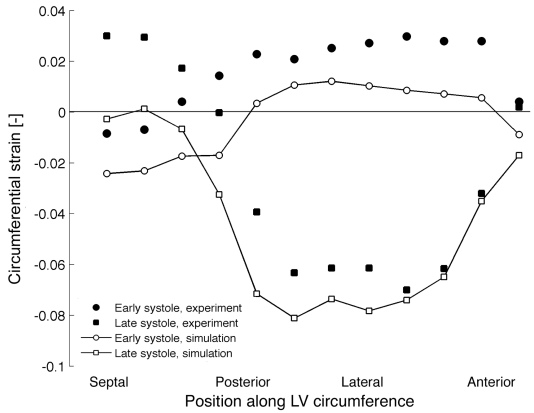
Usyk TP and McCulloch AD (2003) *J Electrocardiol* 36:57-61

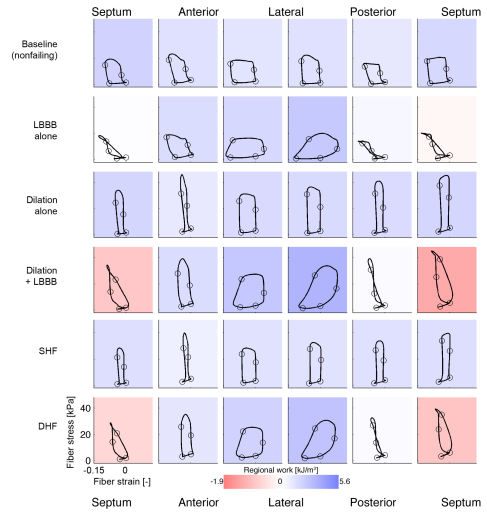
Organ Systems Integration: *Ventricular-Vascular Coupling*

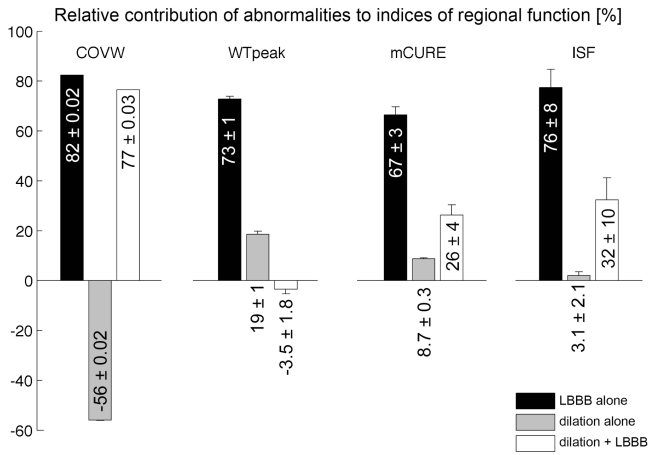




Regional Strains

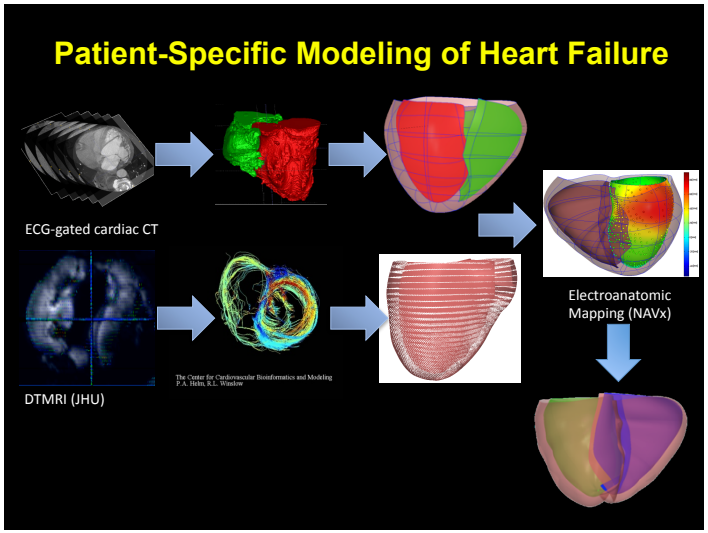


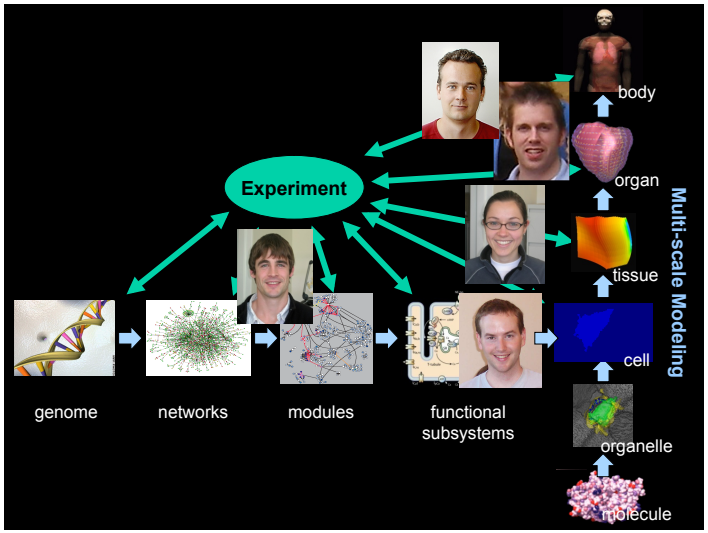




Conclusions

- **Dilation and LBBB combined synergistically decreased regional cardiac function.**
- **CURE and ISF were sensitive to this combination, but not WTpeak.**
- **CURE and ISF also reflected better than WTpeak the relative non-uniform distribution of regional work.**
- **These findings might explain why ISF and CURE are better predictors of reverse remodeling in cardiac resynchronization therapy.**


Patient-Specific Modeling of Heart Failure
ECG-gated cardiac CT
DTMRI (JHU)
Electroanatomic Mapping (NAVx)


Experiment
body
organ
tissue
cell
organelle
molecule
genome
networks
modules
functional subsystems
Multi-scale Modeling

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