

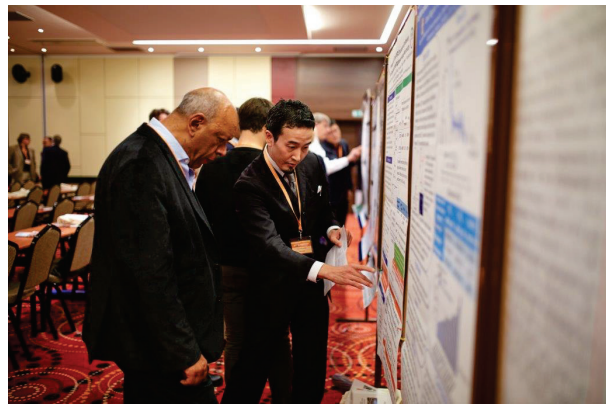
The Fifteenth International Conference on Endothelin (ET-15), Prague, Czech Republic, 2017

It is our sincere honor to present these proceedings of the Fifteenth Conference on Endothelin which was held on the 30th anniversary of the discovery of endothelin (ET) in 1987. The discovery was then followed by the seminal paper “A Novel Potent Vasoconstrictor Peptide Produced by Vascular Endothelial Cells” published in *Nature* **332**: 411, 1988. This groundbreaking article was soon followed by the First International Conference on Endothelin entitled “First William Harvey Workshop on Endothelin” held in London, December 1988 and chaired by Sir John Vane [*J Cardiovasc Pharmacol* **13** (Suppl 5): S10]. This initial meeting gathered enthusiastic researchers to discuss their recent unpublished data regarding this newly discovered peptide. Since then the International Conferences on Endothelin have alternated among locations in Europe, North America and Japan. These 15 conferences and 30 years of research in the field of ET biology have revealed exciting developments from the identification of the ET peptides and their receptors to the implementation of ET receptor antagonists in clinical use. The scope of research has expanded from the initial focus on cardiovascular physiology and cardiovascular diseases to a diversity of disease areas such as cancer, pulmonary disease, kidney disease, diabetes, pain, neurology, rheumatology to name a few. The broad area of research clearly demonstrates the importance of ET biology and the interest it has attracted in the scientific world.

The International Conferences on Endothelin provide an outstanding opportunity for scientists from basic science, clinical research and industry to meet and share their latest information and detailed knowledge. It is an important opportunity for young researchers to meet senior colleagues to interact and exchange ideas. The Fifteenth International Conference on Endothelin (ET-15) was held in Prague, October 4-7, 2017. More than one hundred participants from 17 countries attended. The scientific program covered many important areas of ET

biology. These areas included ET receptor activation and signaling, novel pharmacological aspects of ET, the role of ET in cardiovascular function, pulmonary hypertension, diabetes and obesity, renal function, neurobiology and CNS disorders, gender aspects, immune system and inflammation, cancer and ET receptor antagonists in clinical trials. The scientific program was presented in state-of-the-art overview lectures combined with oral presentations and poster sessions. In addition, a young investigator event was held with selected presentations and discussions. The scientific program is reflected by five reviews and 14 original contributions in this supplement of *Physiological Research*. In addition, the recipient of the Fourth Tomoh Masaki Award was Prof. David J. Webb who is honored in the article of Dr. Dhaun. Moreover, the important work of Prof. Sidney Shaw is described by Matthias Barton.

Poster sessions during lunch, as well as the opening reception in the ancient Carolinum hall of the Charles University, allowed participants to have not only scientific discussions but also to meet old friends and make new ones. The Gala Evening at Troja Chateau to celebrate 30th anniversary of the discovery of ET-1 started with a concert by Prague’s Barocco Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Jakub Kydlíček with Henry Purcell’s *Overture*, followed by Jan Stamic’s *Grand Trio*. The culmination of the program was an outstanding solo flute performance of Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. V* (BWV 1050) performed by Masashi Yanagisawa. Thanks to the generous Gilead support, 20 young scientists (listed below) were presented the Young Investigator Award during the gala evening. Most importantly, during the evening, The Fourth Tomoh Masaki Award was presented to Dr. David Webb “In recognition of his outstanding contributions to science and endothelin research in particular”.



Young Investigator Awards

Michail Chatzikonstantinou	Greece
Lydia Chellini	Italy
Louisane Desbiens	Canada
Fang Dong	China
Juliano Freitas	Brazil
Junya Honda	Japan
Afrim Iljazi	Denmark
Malgorzata Kasztan	Poland
Jasmin Kristianto	USA
Ding Liu	China
Thomas Neder	Germany
Judith Pape	Germany
Wataru Shihoya	Japan
Rafael Sobrano Fais	Brazil
Joevin Sourdon	France
Frank T. Spradley	USA
Anna E. Stanhewicz	USA
Piera Tocci	Italy
Kateřina Vondřaková	Czech Republic
Rebecca Ward	USA
Philipp Wolf	Germany



We believe that the articles published in this special issue of *Physiological Research* represent key areas presented at the ET-15 meeting. They demonstrate an important continuous development in the field of ET research from basic science to clinical investigations. There are several promising therapeutic areas for ET receptor antagonists still to be investigated further.

We wish to thank all of the authors for their important contributions to this special issue of *Physiological Research*. We also thank all the members of the Guest Editorial Board and all reviewers for their peer review of all contributions to this issue. We thank again all invited speakers, chairs and members of the International Advisory Board as well as the Scientific International Board for their participation in the Conference program.

The organizers of the Fifteenth Conference on Endothelin especially thank the members of the International Advisory Board for their help in the preparation of the Conference and the staff of We Make Media (Adéla Kratochvílová and Tereza Veselá) for the logistical support of the Conference.

We thank very much our corporate sponsors for their generous support:

Gilead Sciences, Inc.

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Retrophin, Inc.

Finally, we would like to end with rhymes presented by Jochen Fries during his lecture:

*Good science, we learned;
Respect deservedly earned;
New friendships made;
Many and good debate.
Smiles, laughter, and fun;
Good food, though little sun;
I hope all of you to be seen
at Endothelin-16.*

See you in Kobe☺

Ivana Vaněčková and John Pernow
Chairs of the Conference