Dysfunctional Cellular Calcium Handling in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

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Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common cardiac arrhythmia in developed countries. AF is associated with increased mortality and morbidity, primarily due to thromboembolism, stroke and worsening of preexisting heart failure. Currently available pharmacological therapies for AF suffer from unsatisfying efficacy and/or are associated with major side effects such as bleeding complications or proarrhythmia. These limitations largely result from the fact that most of the currently available drugs were developed on an empirical basis, without precise knowledge of the molecular mechanisms underlying the arrhythmia.

Prof. Voigt will talk about recent insights into molecular mechanisms of atrial fibrillation. He will especially focus on calcium handling abnormalities in atrial cardiomyocytes that may promote the initiation, maintenance and progression of AF. These abnormalities may represent novel, mechanism-based therapeutic targets for patients with atrial fibrillation.

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12:00 – 13:00h
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