Myocardial Response to Acute Injury

Professor Winifred Nayler

Myocardial Response to Acute Injury

Edited by

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Winifred Nayler: A Tribute

We sat, I remember, in that small island of garden around the Marble Arch. Taxis and buses skimmed round us. It was 1970, and the end of the World Congress of Cardiology, at the South Bank, after which there had been a small satellite entitled 'Calcium and the Heart', whose list of contributors now reads like a role of honour. Among them had been Winifred, and we had walked back together.

I was asking her whether she would come over from Australia to give our academic programme at the Institute of Cardiology the scientific boost it urgently needed.

Yes, she said. She would come. But she had some PhD students back in Australia whom she had to see through to the end of their courses. So she would not be free until two years' hence. Was I prepared to wait?

It was, I came to appreciate, characteristic—this care for her students—and one of the many reasons I am glad I waited. I do not know how many young scientists and doctors passed through her hands during the time she was at the Institute. They came from all over the world and, when I meet them, they all have stories to tell of the fierce and dedicated lady who taught, bullied and cared devotedly for them and who gave them the chance to take part in an exciting world of new thought.

So it is not just unusual scientific achievement, but all those unforgettable stories which have gone to create with affection the inimitable image of the scientist/personality whom this book now honours.

Peter Harris

Preface

This book has its origins in a special birthday celebration for Professor Winifred Nayler during the annual meeting of the International Society for Heart Research (European Section) in Glasgow in June, 1990. This celebration took the form of a symposium on acute myocardial injury, an aspect of basic heart research that has attracted the attention of Winifred, and of a number of her friends, for several years. Some of these were present in Glasgow; others who were not, very willingly agreed to contribute to what is, in effect, a *Festschrift*. The book does not attempt to be comprehensive; it does, however, represent reasonably updated accounts of various facets of the myocardial response to acute injury.

I would like to thank the Bayer Company in Leverkusen, and especially Drs Bohle and Bertschik, for the financial support which made the preparation of this book possible. It is by way of acknowledging and commemorating the work that Winifred Nayler has done in the field of myocardial calcium exchange. Together with her friend Albrecht Fleckenstein, she has contributed more than anyone to our understanding of the mechanism of action and value of calcium antagonists in myocardial ischaemia. On this special occasion of her 60th birthday we salute a fine scientist, a great encourager of younger workers, a tireless advocate for basic cardiovascular research and a good friend and colleague.

Glasgow, May, 1991

James R. Parratt