

Foreword

This book is a habilitation treatise. I aimed to both fulfil the formal requirements of the habilitation treatise as defined in the habilitation regulation of the Medical Faculty at Saarland University and provide a resource for colleagues, students and all that are interested in calcium signalling and/or optical imaging methods to record it. As such, I hope this booklet is more than a file in academic qualification, and that it might also serve as a useful tool whenever the universal messenger calcium crosses the track.

The biological examples are recruited from two major fields, cellular cardiology and red cell research. I am grateful to the people who not only introduced me to these subjects, but accompanied my research for many years, who are Prof. Peter Lipp and Prof. Ingolf Bernhardt, respectively. Although both fields seem to be independent, future research, systems biology approaches and translational methods will reveal interconnections going far beyond the obvious ones described in the Introduction. Therefore, the current compilation can only be seen as a snapshot, and I am looking forward to the future gain of knowledge.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my colleagues who accompanied my work and have contributed to the scientific outcome so far. I am grateful to my family, who suffer from restrictions caused by the intensity of the scientific passion. Last, but not least, I thank Springer for publishing this script.

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Calcium signalling

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