

## Adrenergic signalling in the heart

- Steven Marston
- 17/10/2011
- CVBsc Module 1

## Coordinated response of the heart to exercise

	Rest	Hard exercise
Oxygen consumption (litres/min)	0.25	3.0
Cardiac output (litres/min)	4.8	21.6
Heart rate (beats/min)	60.0	180.0
Stroke volume (ml)	80.0	120.0
End-diastolic volume (ml)	120.0	140.0
Residual volume (end-systolic)	40.0	20.0
Ejection fraction	0.67	0.86
Cycle time (s)	1.0	0.33
Duration of systole (s)	0.35	0.2
Duration of diastole (s)	0.65	0.13

(After Rerych, S. K., Scholz, P. M., Newman, G. E. *et al.* (1978) *Annals of Surgery*, **187**, 449–458)

## Coordinated response of the heart to exercise

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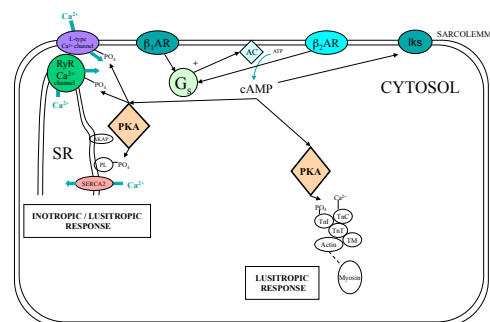
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## HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Noradrenaline is released from sympathetic nerve terminals and circulating noradrenaline is increased 20-fold
- Noradrenaline binds to and activates  $\beta_1$ -receptors
- This activates  $G_s$  protein leading to increased cytosolic cAMP and activation of protein kinase A

## Phosphorylation of intracellular targets in ventricular muscle via cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA)



### Adrenaline receptor acts through G<sub>s</sub> to activate adenylyl cyclase

**β1-AR binds G<sub>s</sub>**  
 When β1-AR receptor is activated GDP is exchanged for GTP in G<sub>s</sub>  
 G<sub>sα</sub> subunit dissociates and can bind to adenylyl cyclase to activate it.

### Adenylyl cyclase catalyzes the conversion of ATP to 3',5'-cyclic AMP (cAMP) and pyrophosphate.

Adenylyl cyclase is a transmembrane protein. It passes through the plasma membrane twelve times.

The important parts for its function are located in the cytoplasm and can be subdivided into the N-terminus, C1a, C1b, C2a and C2b.

The C1 region exists between transmembrane helices six and seven and the C2 region follows transmembrane helix 12.

The C1a and C2a domains form a catalytic dimer where ATP binds and is converted to cAMP.

### cAMP activates PKA

- Each PKA is a holoenzyme that consists of two regulatory and two catalytic subunits. Under low levels of cAMP, the holoenzyme remains intact and is catalytically inactive.
- When the concentration of cAMP rises, cAMP binds to the two binding sites on the regulatory subunits, which leads to the release of the catalytic subunits.
- The free catalytic subunits can then catalyse the transfer of ATP terminal phosphates to protein substrates at serine, or threonine residues. This phosphorylation usually results in a change in activity of the substrate.

Protein Kinase A (PKA)

### Effects of noradrenaline

- The heart rate increases  
**chronotropy**
- Ventricular pressure rises quicker and higher arterial pressure is produced  
**inotropy**
- The duration of systole grows briefer and relaxation is faster.  
**lusitropy**

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### Chronotropy

Adrenaline acts on pacemaker potential

**Figure 4.7** Effect of sympathetic stimulation on the pacemaker potential of the frog heart during the boxed interval. The dashed gradients highlight the increased slope of the pacemaker potential. The upper double-dashed line draws attention to the increased size of the action potentials, which is due to the enhancement of the inward calcium current by catecholamines. Note also the relatively slow onset of tachycardia. (From Hutter, O. F. and Trautwein, W. (1956) *Journal of General Physiology*, 39, 715–733, by permission)

### Effects of noradrenaline

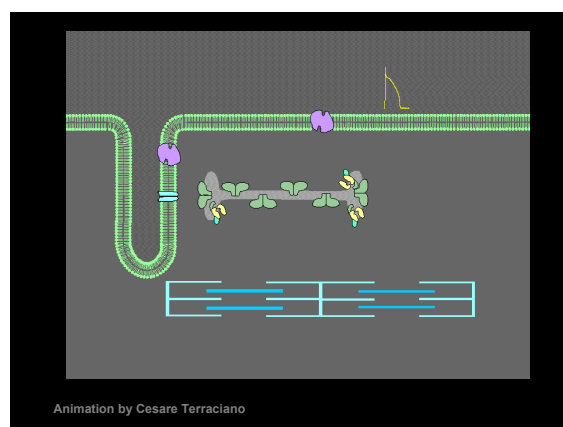
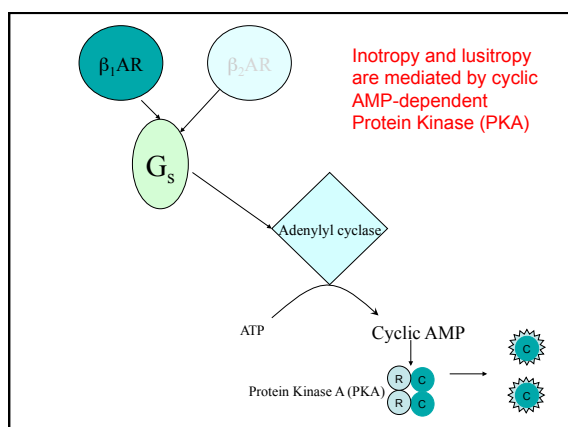
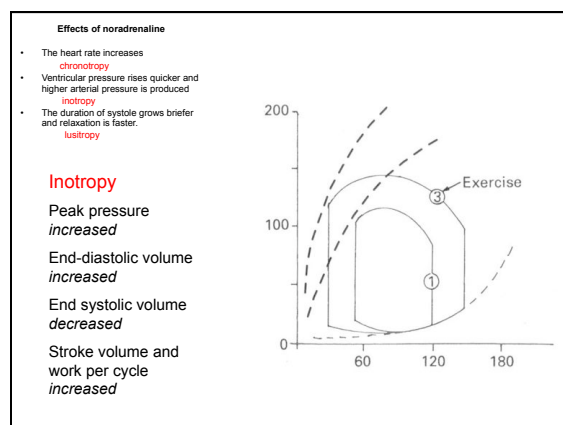
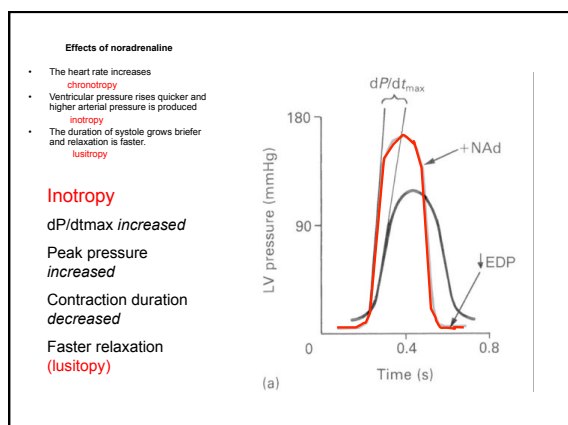
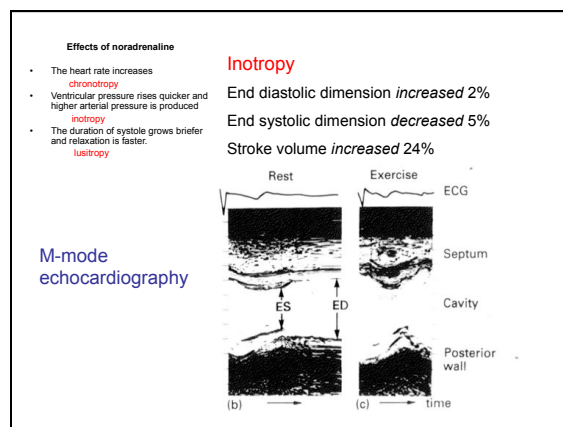
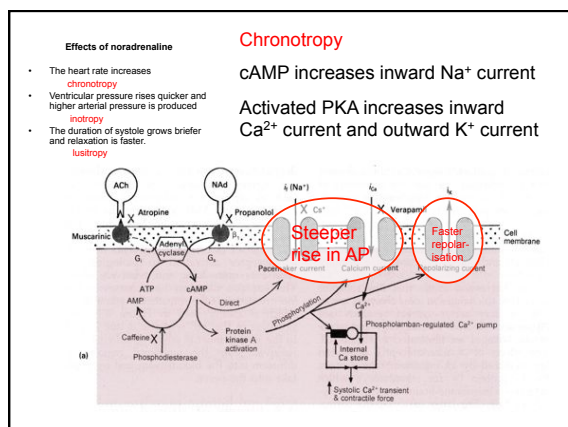
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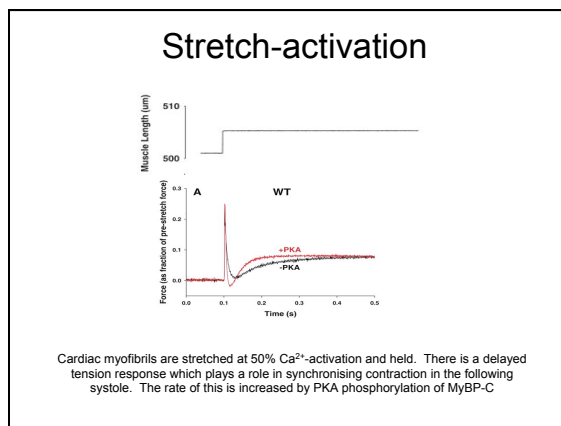
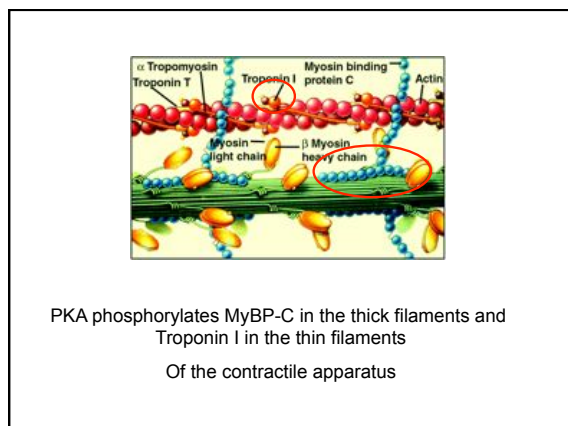
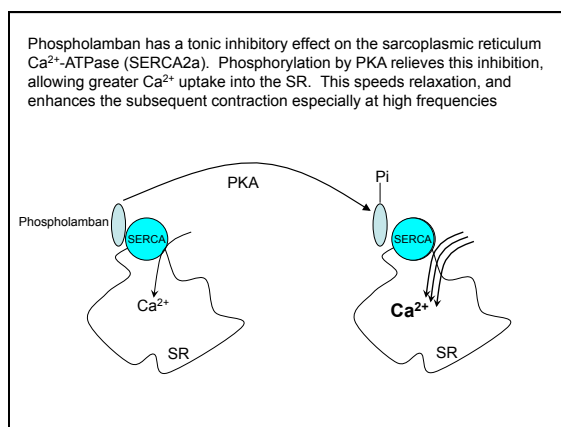
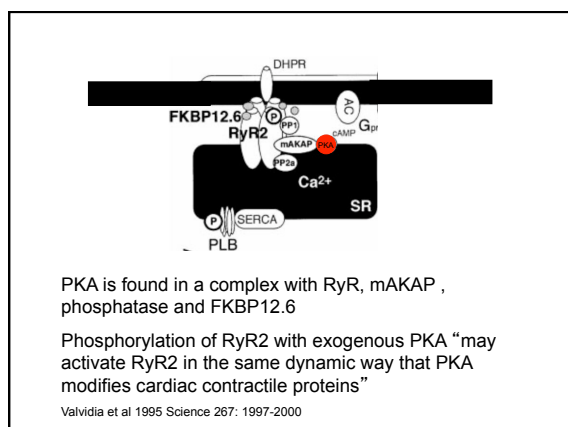
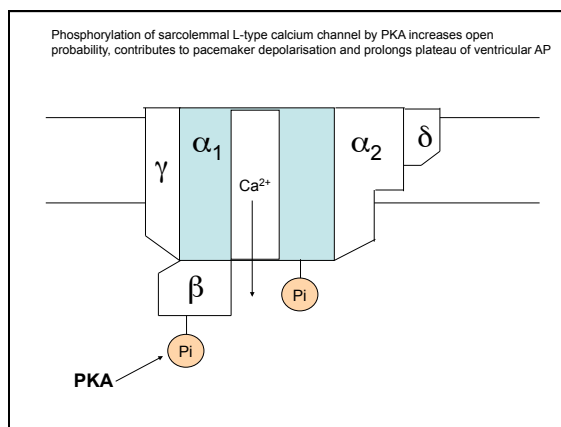
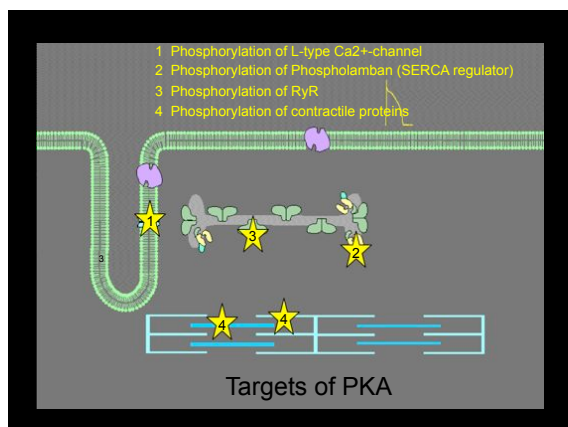
### Chronotropy

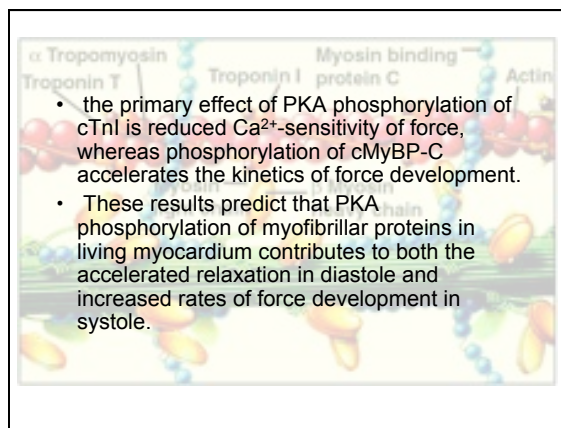
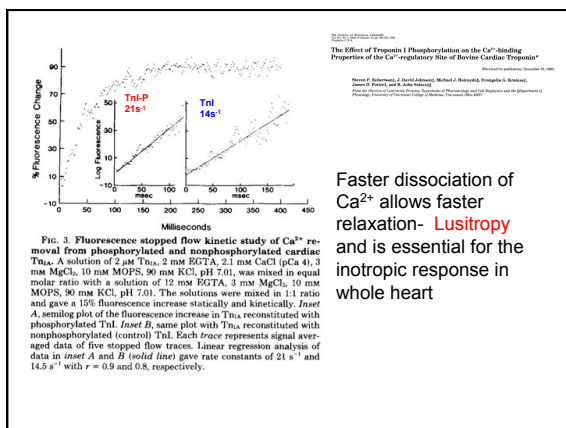
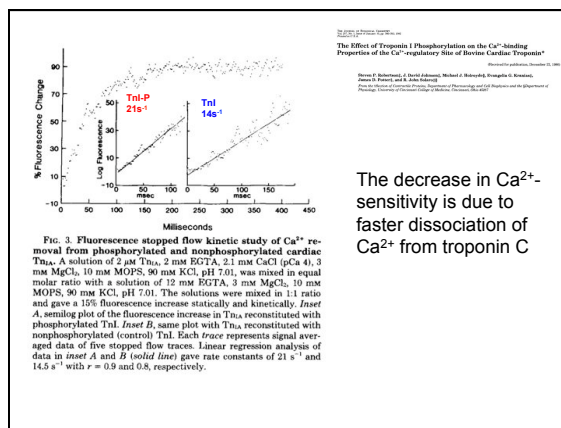
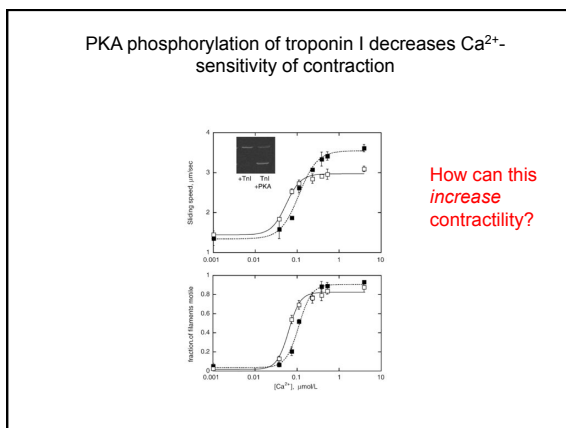
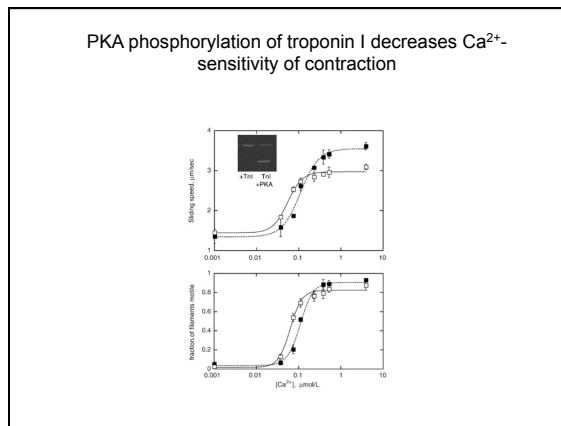
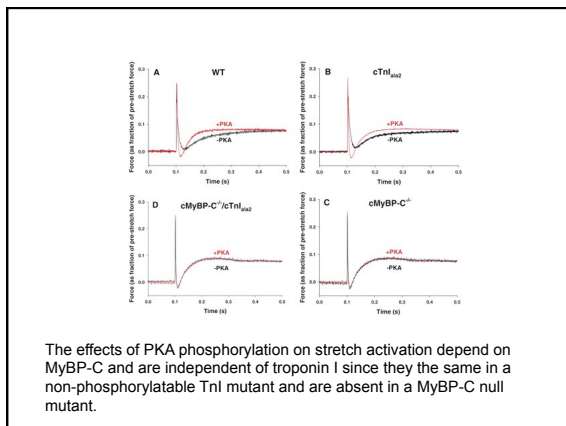
cAMP induced by adrenaline increases inward Na<sup>+</sup> current

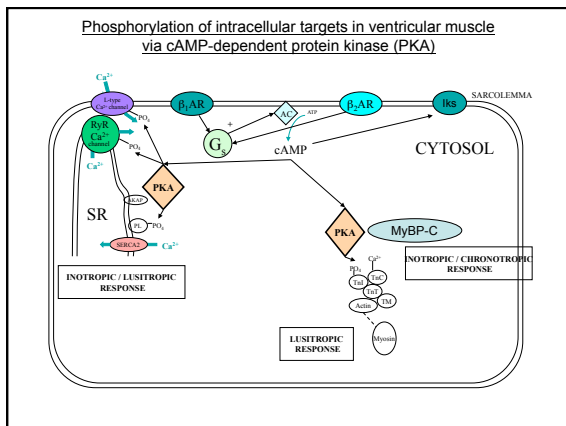
Activated PKA increases inward Ca<sup>2+</sup> current and outward K<sup>+</sup> current

(a)









**Regulation of cAMP- PKA system**

BARK1 inactivates receptor and is activated by PKA phosphorylation (feedback mechanism)

Phosphodiesterases degrade cAMP and create microdomains

AKAPs anchor PKA to its target

Phosphatases reverse PKA phosphorylation. Activity is controlled by PI-1, a substrate of PKA and PKC

Muscarinic agonists antagonise adrenaline effects via phosphatase activation

