The project “In silico human-based methodologies for evaluation of drug safety and efficacy” officially started on September 2016. The main goal of this initiative is to accelerate the use of in silico methodologies for the evaluation of drug safety and efficacy in academic, industrial, regulatory and clinical settings. The coordinated action of these four sectors aims to improve the efficiency of drug testing through the use of human-based computer models, refined and evaluated using experimental and clinical recordings. Through this project, we will work towards the replacement of animal experiments in the drug development process, and the development of a more reliable and accurate process for drug safety testing. The team is formed by a partnership across industry, academia, hospitals and regulatory agencies from 14 different countries. The webpage of the project is an open space to share knowledge, papers and models, and also a reference for experts on in silico methodologies for drug safety and efficacy. We encourage all partners to get involved and send news, papers and models related to the project to insilicocardiotox@cs.ox.ac.uk, to keep the website alive.

LATEST NEWS

➢ Insilicocardiotox Mailing List Privacy Notice now available on our website!
To comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a privacy notice explaining how we use and store your data is now available on our website.

➢ Human Cardiac Model Repository now available on our website!
We recently added this page on our website, to group together all the human cardiac models published in literature, also including modified version representing specific diseased conditions. If there is a model you would like to add, please be in touch and we will update the page.

➢ Promote adoption of In Silico Trials through EMA’s strategy on Regulatory Science to 2025 – Sign the Petition
The VPH Institute together with the Avicenna Alliance, the Insigneo Institute for in silico Medicine and the University of Bologna has opened a petition to recommend EMA to include in the their strategy plan a more articulated role for in silico technologies. You can sign the petition here.

➢ Survey into opinions on the studies outlined within ICH S7 guidance – Deadline 30th of August
The ICH S7 guidance describes nonclinical safety pharmacology studies as core battery, follow-up or additional studies. In order to ascertain how the guidance is used and the relevance of individual studies to current drug development portfolios, the Safety Pharmacology Society and NC3Rs have generated a short survey to gather high-level information on the opinions of individual scientists into the scope for revisiting the guidance. Participate here.

➢ Frontiers in Pharmacology’s Special Issue – Deadline 15th of September
Special Issue on “Perspectives on Antiarrhythmic Drug Therapy: Disappointing Past, Current Efforts and Faint Hopes”.

➢ HESI Cardiac Program Awarded 3 Year Grant from FDA
The HESI Cardiac Safety Committee has been awarded a multi-year U01 grant from the US FDA on the “Evaluation of Integrated Human-Relevant Approaches to Identify Drug Induced Cardiovascular Liabilities”, starting in September 2019. This grant will support HESI in funding and managing novel, in vitro experimental studies to develop targeted mechanistic data to inform drug safety assessment for key cardiac “failure modes”

➢ INSPIRE - INnovation in Safety Pharmacology for Integrated cardiovascular safety assessment to REduce adverse events and late stage drug attrition – awarded a European Commission Horizon 2020: Research & Innovation Program grant
INSPIRE aims to build on recent technological advances to improve risk prediction in safety pharmacology. With the involvement of leading pharmaceutical companies, universities, software and hardware suppliers, the research will translate into products and services for improved assessment of drug-induced cardiovascular toxicity and, ultimately, safer medicines for patients.
UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Cardiac Mechano-Electric Coupling and Arrhythmias Workshop**
  Freiburg (DE), 4-7 September, 2019.
- **BioMedEng19 Conference**
  London (UK), 5-6 September, 2019.
- **Computing in Cardiology 2019**
  Singapore (SG), 8-11 September, 2019.
- **Safety Pharmacology Society 2019 Annual Meeting**
  Barcelona (ES), 23-26 September, 2019.
- **CompBioMed Conference 2019**
- **IX Annual Meeting of the Italian Chapter of the European Society of Biomechanics (ESB-ITA)**
  Bologna (IT), 30 September – 1 October, 2019.
- **Heart Rhythm Congress 2019**
  Birmingham (UK), 6-9 October, 2019.
- **Biennial UC Davis Cardiovascular Symposium**

AWARDS

- PhD students Francesca Margara and Cristian Trovato have been awarded the 2019 Safety Pharmacology Society Student Travel Award.
  They will present a poster about their research at the Safety Pharmacology Annual Meeting this September in Barcelona.
- **Professor Yoram Rudy has been elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors of the United States of America**
  The title was awarded for having demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society.
- **Professor Blanca Rodriguez has been elected Fellow of the ESC and EAMBES**
  Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (FESC) is a title of honour that is awarded to healthcare professionals who have made a significant contribution to cardiology, recognised throughout the cardiology community as a symbol of excellence. The European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering (EAMBES) represents the academic aspects and interests of Biomedical Engineering in Europe. The Division of Fellows is formed by individuals who have distinguished themselves by identifiable contributions or accomplishments in Medical and Biological Engineering and Science.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

