

Martin Biel



Current Position: Professor & Chair of Pharmacology, Center for Drug Research at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München in Germany

Education: Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (1990) from Universität des Saarlandes in Homburg/Saar in Germany

Non-scientific Interests: Playing piano, classical music, soccer

After finishing my Ph.D. work on cloning and functional expression of the L-type calcium channel from smooth muscle, I became interested in studying the ion channels producing the so-called pacemaker current (I_h). This current plays a key role in the control of the heart beat and is also involved in multiple fundamental processes in the CNS. An amazing property of I_h is that the current is dually gated by voltage and cyclic nucleotides. In 1998, my group finally succeeded in cloning the proteins producing I_h , which are now called HCN channels. In addition, we identified several members of a structurally related ion channel class, the CNG channels. CNG channels are crucial for visual transduction and olfaction. My laboratory uses a multi-disciplinary approach to characterize ion channels. A major focus is on developing genetic mouse models to study the (patho)physiological roles of these proteins and to evaluate their significance as novel drug targets.

Read Dr. Biel's article entitled: Cyclic Nucleotide-regulated Cation Channels

<http://www.jbc.org/cgi/content/full/284/14/9017>