

## The ISHR Distinguished Leader Award

The ISHR Distinguished Leader Award is an award of high distinction that is conferred annually to an individual who has made sustained outstanding contributions to accomplishing the mission and advancing the objectives of the ISHR. The selection of the recipient is made solely on the basis of a distinguished and consistent track record of major contributions to the Society, such as leadership roles, activities, and initiatives that have benefited and promoted the ISHR by overcoming problems, developing new programs, and expanding the reach and impact of the Society, at the Section and/or the International levels.

In non-Congress years, the Distinguished Leader Award is presented at the meeting of the Section to which the recipient belongs. The winner receives a \$1,000 honorarium and a plaque. An announcement of this Award is published in *Heart News and Views*, and posted in the ISHR website. The winner receives free registration and reimbursement for travel expenses (up to a maximum of \$1500 when the recipient delivers the lecture at his/her local Section meeting, and \$3,000 when inter-continental travel is required).

Candidates are nominated by current Section Presidents and the President of the International ISHR. The winner is selected by vote of the ISHR-International Council.



International Society for Heart Research



International Society for Heart Research

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## The Distinguished Leader Award 2019



Award Winner  
Dr David Eisner

## David Eisner, D.Phil.

## 2019 Award Winner Beijing, China

David Eisner has been at The University of Manchester since 1999 and has held the British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiac Physiology since 2000. His undergraduate degree was obtained at the University of Cambridge, and he obtained his doctorate at Oxford with Denis Noble, graduating in 1979. He was on the Faculty at University College London (1980-90) and the University of Liverpool (1990-1999) before moving to Manchester.

Dr Eisner is a Fellow of the ISHR and a Consulting Editor of *The Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology* (JMCC). His first leadership role in the ISHR was as a member of Council of the European Section (2001-2007). He organized (together with Ludwig Neyses) the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Section in Manchester in 2006. He returned to Council as President-Elect in 2012 and then served as President from 2014-2016. Together with the other officers and members of Council, he emphasized the need for the ISHR to maintain its own scientific meetings in addition to collaborating with other societies.

He has been a member of the International Council of ISHR from 2004-2018. A particular interest of his has been the role of early

career investigators (ECI) in ISHR and he was one of the Council links with the ECI group when it was established. He encouraged the establishment of the ECI group of the European Section. He chaired the Richard J Bing Award for Young Investigators at the World Congresses held in both San Diego (2013) and Buenos Aires (2016).

His major contribution to ISHR has been his service to JMCC. He was an Associate Editor from 2002-2007 and then became Editor-in-Chief for the next nine years. He continues his involvement with the publishing activities of ISHR as a member of the recently-constituted Publications Committee.

Most recently, Dr Eisner chaired a Working Group to consider the future of the Fellowship of the ISHR scheme (FISHR). This group concluded that a significant issue was the low numbers of Fellows in several Sections and suggested how this could be addressed. He then went on to chair the ISHR's Credentials Committee which handles the selection of Fellows.

Dr Eisner's research has focused on the regulation of intracellular sodium and calcium concentrations in cardiac muscle. A major theme is the control of the calcium content of the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR), and the consequences for cardiac contraction and electrophysiology. This

work identified a mechanism, termed "autoregulation" which results from the fact that changes in the amplitude of the systolic Ca transient modulate fluxes of calcium across the sarcolemma. It emphasises that the cell is in calcium flux balance where calcium influx and efflux must be equal, and this has to be considered when analysing calcium fluxes. This analysis is not only of relevance to the regulation of systolic calcium and thence contraction but has implications for the generation of arrhythmogenic Ca waves in the heart and the regulation of diastolic calcium.

### Past Award Winners

**Robert Jennings** 2009  
**Edward Lakatta** 2010  
**Masao Endoh** 2011  
**Jutta Schaper** 2012  
**Alicia Mattiazzi** 2013  
**Gerd Heusch** 2014  
**David Hearse** 2015  
**Salvatore Pepe** 2016  
**Masatsugu Hori** 2017  
**Richard L Moss** 2018