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The Nervous Heart: Insights into Autonomic-Mediated Arrhythmias

Cardiac function is fine-tuned by the autonomic nervous system. Emerging clinical evidence suggests that either too much or too little sympathetic nerve input to the heart can lead to lethal cardiac arrhythmias. This talk will discuss sympathetic remodeling following myocardial infarction and the role of sympathetic activity in leading to ventricular arrhythmias. Using animal models of myocardial infarction, in vivo neuro-modulatory approaches, and novel imaging techniques, we have probed the interplay between myocardial and nerve remodeling in contributing to cardiac arrhythmias.