



Message from the FEPS President

Dear readers,

I hope to see many of you at the Europhysiology 2022 meeting. Please say hello!



As you will have noted there is an excellent scientific and social programme. The FEPS lecturer is Prof. Dr. Silvia G Priori. She is a clinician scientist who combines clinical practice, clinical and basic science research. See more about the Plenary lectures below.

We will hold our General Council meeting during Europhysiology. If you have any comments for the FEPS ExCo or national society delegates, please just drop me a note: s.wray@liv.ac.uk

There will also be a FEPS-IUPS Africa-Europe workshop at the meeting, which will be an opportunity to network and make new collaborations, or simply renew old friendships. If you cannot attend the meeting, then join by Zoom—the link will be revealed on the day 17th September.

Our featured society is France, and we also have an article from Pontus Persson, describing the history and vision of Acta Physiologica—the official journal of FEPS.

Enjoy Europhysiology and the newsletter.

Susan Wray

Executive Board of FEPS

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EUROPHYSIOLOGY 2022

COPENHAGEN, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2022

Europhysiology 2022 meeting will be organised on 16-18 September 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark. A strong scientific program has been prepared. Details of the plenary and keynote speakers and symposia are listed on the web page.

<https://europhysiology2022.org/>

FEPS Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Silvia G Priori

Prof. Dr. Silvia G Priori (University of Pavia) will be giving the opening lecture on 16th September Friday morning. Her lecture title: "DNA and RNA molecules to mend the heart".



News & Events

We welcome all news & events from the FEPS member societies to publish in the Newsletter also at the web page (www.feeps.org). Please send all information to the FEPS secretariat at info@feeps.org

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Europhysiology 2022: Preview of Keynote and Plenary Speakers

16 –18 September 2022 Tivoli Congress Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark

Keynote Speakers



Sofia Iris Bibli
University of Frankfurt

Stefan Trapp
University College London

Bernd Fakler
University of Freiburg

Merry Lindsey
University of Nebraska

Guillaume De Lartigue
University of Pennsylvania



Frank Kirchhoff
University of Saarland

Maria Fitzgerald
University College London

Bente K Pedersen
University of Copenhagen

Walter Boron
Case Western Reserve
University

Gero Miesenboeck
University of Oxford



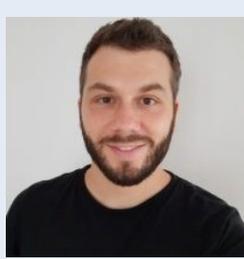
Volker Vallon
University of California

Dee Silverthorn
University of Texas at Austin

Claudine Blin
University Côte d'Azur

Alain Lacampagne
Montpellier University

Peppi Karppinen
University of Oulu



Inge Depoortere

Sebastian Bitzenhofer

Xianshu Bai

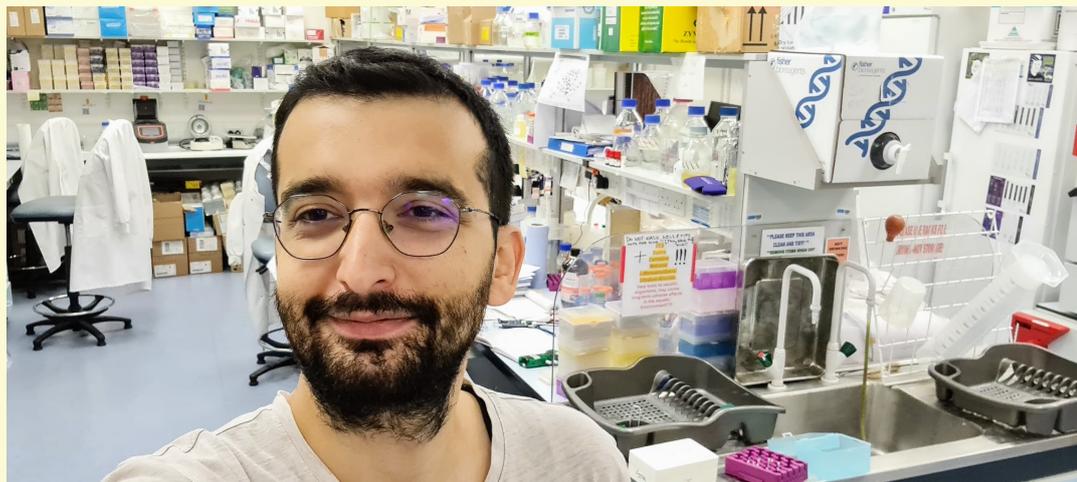
FEPS Travelling Fellowship 2022

FEPS Travelling Fellowship

- This year, FEPS has introduced the FEPS Travelling Fellowship (FTF). This program will be announced and given every year starting from 2022. Up to 2 awards (1,500 euros each) can be used flexibly in travelling to and staying in another European country, to further an applicant's career in physiology. The country should be an in good-standing member of FEPS.
- This fellowship could be to support and develop research or exceptionally teaching. These awards are targeted at those who are postdoctoral workers, or in their first tenured position.
- Given the need to focus our limited funds and being aware of regional differences in the capacity of FEPS national society members, we will prioritize applications from those in regions where local funds are particularly restricted.
- These awards are not open to undergraduate or postgraduate students or senior scientists. These awards are not intended to cover meeting attendance – FEPS has a separate funding scheme for attendance at its meetings, including Europhysiology.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will benefit from the FTF. They must have a host, clearly developed plans, aims and a timetable for their visit. The availability of any other supporting funds or benefits in kind (e.g. free accommodation), should be mentioned in the application.
- Successful candidates should also provide a short report on their FTF, suitable for the FEPS webpage and newsletter after their visit.

FEPS Travelling Fellowship 2022 recipient: Dr. Burak Oymak

- It is a pleasure to announce that Dr. Burak Oymak has been awarded with the FEPS Travelling Fellowship 2022!
- Dr. Oymak is working as a post-doctoral researcher in Professor Salvador Macip's laboratory at the University of Leicester, UK investigating the accumulation of senescent cells in aging and explore different approaches to target and eliminate these cells from tissues. Before going to Leicester, Dr. Burak Oymak studied medicine at Inonu University (Malatya, Turkey) and then completed his PhD in 2019 at Pamukkale University, Faculty of Medicine (Denizli, Turkey). After his post-doctoral work under the FEPS travelling fellowship, Burak will return to his new position as clinical physiologist research fellow at the Prof. Dr. Cemil Tascioglu City Hospital in Istanbul.
- Title of the project: "Investigation of the effects of intermittent fasting on organ ageing in post-menopausal women".
- Dr. Burak Oymak worked in the organisation of European Young Physiologists' Symposium (EYPS) in 2018 in London (UK), in 2019 in Bologna (Italy) and also in October 2021 at the "European Physiology Day" (virtual meeting).

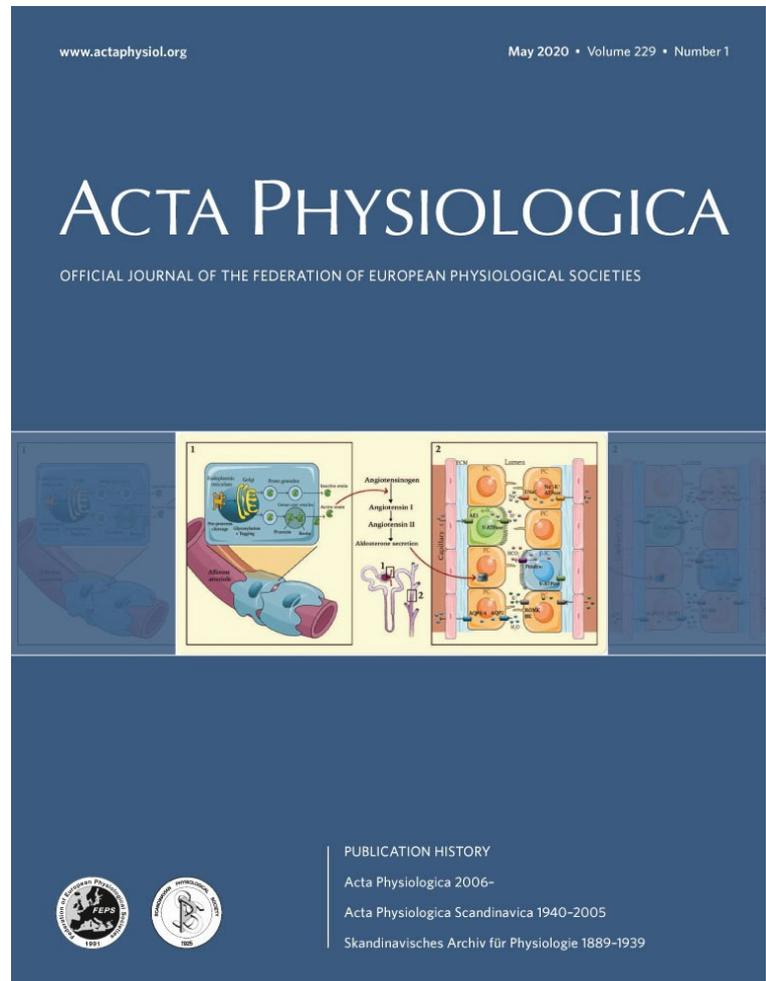


Acta Physiologica and Its History

On October 22nd 1888, the Swedish physiologist Fritjof Holmgren (Uppsala) announced the decision to publish a physiology journal that was common in the Scandinavian countries (i.e Denmark, Norway and Sweden plus Finland). Considering the dominant role of German Physiology at this time, not least in Scandinavia, it was natural that the title, as well as the main language of the new journal, became German. Thus, the *Skandinavisches Archiv für Physiologie* was born, starting with the January issue of 1889, making it one of the oldest Physiology journals. Only Pflügers Archiv (launched 1868) and the Journal of Physiology (established 1878) have longer histories. The American Journal of Physiology was begun in 1898 and The Journal de Physiologie (Paris) in 1906.

Today, Acta Physiologica with its impact factor of 7.5 heads the physiology journals publishing original articles from the entire physiology spectrum. When including review journals and specialized journals of physiology, Acta Physiologica ranks seventh of 86.

Regarding *Skandinavisches Archiv für Physiologie*, it was agreed with the German Publisher Veit & Co. (Leipzig) that Veit & Co. should own and publish the journal, but that the Editorial Board should be Scandinavian. Veit & Co continued with this for about 50 years, although due to a merger with four other publishing houses in 1923, its official name changed from Veit & Co to Walter de Gruyter. The Scandinavian Physiological Society (SPS), which was inaugurated in 1925, purchased the journal in 1934. Nevertheless, the *Skandinavisches Archiv für Physiologie* continued to be published by Walter de Gruyter until 1939, when the collaboration ended and SPS chose to move the journal publication to Scandinavia. Accompanying the transition, also the name and official language was changed, the name was changed to the Latin "Acta Physiologica Scandinavica" and English replaced German as the official language. The publisher Almqvist & Wiksell, Uppsala was chosen as the new publisher and the publication of the renamed journal started with the January issue of 1940. Part of the contributions to the journal was published in German also after this time, but in the period 1934-1943 English can generally be said to have replaced German as the



publication language in *Skandinavisches Archiv für Physiologie/Acta Physiologica Scandinavica*.

For a century (1889-1989), the *Skandinavisches Archiv für Physiologie/Acta Physiologica Scandinavica* was "purely" a Scandinavian journal, which according to its statutes, was only open for Scandinavian authors (or for non-Scandinavians for research performed in Scandinavian Physiological laboratories). The Scandinavian Physiological environment was strong and large parts of the Scandinavian physiological community remained unbreakably faithful to the journal. This era of glory set the seed for Acta Physiologica's reputation. In addition, its economy was strong.

In the fall of 1984 a contract was signed with the English publisher Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd to again move the journal publication abroad (now for technical and economical reasons).

Acta Physiologica and Its History

ACTA PHYSIOLOGICA
The Official FEPS Journal

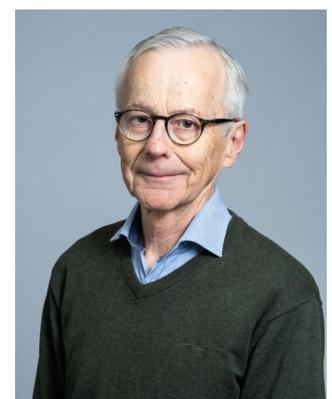
An important change occurred in 1973, when the rule of alphabetical author order was abandoned, i.e. a similar change (in this case reversal to a previous system) that occurred in the Journal of Physiology some decades later. Although at this time most signals for Acta Physiologica Scandinavica showed green light, some dark clouds were becoming visible in the sky in the years preceding its 100th-year anniversary in 1989. One peculiarity was that as much as 82% of the published manuscripts originated from Sweden (data from 1986) with only 8%, 5% and 5% from Denmark, Finland and Norway, respectively. An ensuing discussion led to the conclusion that the journal should open up to the world. This was implemented at the 100-year jubilee in 1989. The **internationalization** was accompanied by a change in the Journal editorial organization, which for hundred years had been based on one Chief Editor and four National Editors, handling the submissions from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, respectively. Instead, this was changed to one Chief Editor and 35 field Editors covering the different fields of Physiology and Biological Pharmacology. A Jubilee Foundation of US\$ 300,000 secured the journal economy for the years of transition. The Chief Editor during those years, Börje Uvnäs, also wanted to remove the word "Scandinavica" from the journal name, to finally get rid of the reputation of Acta Physiologica as a regional journal. Uvnäs, being **ahead of** his time, did not get a majority for this suggestion then and the name Acta Physiologica Scandinavica was not changed to Acta Physiologica until 17 years later in 2006. This was part of a deal-making Acta Physiologica the official journal of the Federation of European Physiological Societies, FEPS (replacing Pflügers Archiv). In this deal, Acta Physiologica provides financial support to a variety of FEPS activities as well as facilitates the publication of invited reviews and special issues from frontline symposia within Europe.

Online publishing started in 1997 with online submission implemented in April 2002 and the publishing of accepted articles immediately after acceptance (Online Early) from 2005. A limit of 28 days from submission to the first decision was implemented. The Scandinavian profile of the journal decreased, a limit of 50% of Scandinavian Editors followed the agreement with FEPS in 2005 and the fraction of manuscripts originated in Scandinavia leveled off at around 20%. New layouts and article types were introduced, older volumes were made digital, potential

authors were actively contacted and there was an increased number of Acta Physiologica International Symposia which resulted in high-quality review articles for the journal. In addition, the online article downloading frequency was monitored and increased. During a strategy meeting held in Copenhagen in November 2007 with participation from the Editor and Section Editors, SPS, FEPS and the Publisher Wiley-Blackwell a strategy for the coming years was decided. The journal contents were expanded. In addition to the regular articles, long over-view essays appeared, along with an increasing number of review articles and new sections such as the ExActa. The visibility of Acta Physiologica increased by a large investment in writing interest-provoking Editorials as well as a prestigious Acta Physiologica prize of US\$ 100,000. This is probably the highest prize donation for scientific writing. Few participants in this meeting may have foreseen the success of this strategy. **The Acta Physiologica impact factor is since 2020 at a level of above six**, which is reserved for the upper 5% of scientific journals. All in science agree on the many weaknesses of the impact factor and that it says nothing about the actual importance of a physiological journal. Still, the achieved level of impact factor gives Acta Physiologica a much better platform and, not the least important, physiologists now submit their best work to Acta Physiologica.



Pontus Persson
Editor-in-Chief
Acta Physiologica



Jan Henriksson
(Previous Editor)
Acta Physiologica



Featured National Society:

The French Physiological Society

The French Physiological Society...a short tale of a long story...

The French Physiological Society (FPS) was originally founded in 1848 as the "Société de Biologie" (biology Society). There had been a succession of illustrious personalities of French Biology and Medicine as its presidents such as Claude Bernard, Paul Bert, Brown-Séquard, or Marey...The French physiologists decided to take their autonomy in 1926 becoming the "Association of Physiologists" which was renamed, later on, as "Physiological Society" in 1992, and then the "Physiology and Integrative Biology Society" (SPBI) since 2015.

In 1948, A. Fleisch who organized the annual congress in Lauzanne, introduced a new tradition by offering an authentic large cow bell from the swiss and on which were engraved the names of all FPS presidents, then the organizers of the succeeding congresses. The bell was a bit of a rallying symbol for the community of physiologists. Since then, the number of these bells has increased (4 by now) with the increasing list of the many presidents/organizers who have succeeded one after another. As a tradition, the bells are passed, at the traditional gala dinner of the annual meeting, to the next organizer who keeps them for the year. Of course, the tradition was shared with FEPS meeting in Paris (2016) with the presentation of a symbolic bell to M. Hecker, the then FEPS president. In 1988, the FPS gave birth to the "Société de Neurosciences" (aka "French neurophysiological society"). From 2005 to 2015, the annual congresses were jointly organized by FPS and the Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

The word "physiology" was introduced into the French language in 1550. Hence, it seems that the oldest journal in the field of physiology would be French ! It is noteworthy that Magendie published from 1821 to 1831, the "Journal de Physiologie expérimentale et pathologique". Here-after, successively in France and Belgium, many periodicals devoted to physiology in French language appeared: Les "Comptes Rendus de la Société de Biologie" from 1846 or the "Journal de physiologie de l'homme et des animaux" (1858-1863), founded by Brown-Séquard at his own expenses and was maintained for 5 years. Of these numerous publications, only the "Journal de Physiologie" (1947 to 1992), which became the "Journal of Physiology - Paris" (Elsevier Publications), still survives. The FPS has chosen since 2015 to publish the abstracts of its congresses in the "Acta Physiologica", the FEPS official journal.

The international activities have been the corner stone of the FPS. From 1927 onwards, the international meetings were organized in Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and Czechoslovakia, until the disappearance of these initial "international secretariats". The FPS was also a great supportive of its African sister society SA2P (African Society of Physiology and Physiopathology) inaugurated in Senegal in 2013. Hence, the FPS has been sending its delegates regularly and awarding the prizes for the best poster or oral presentations in the International Congresses, organized by SA2P. The FPS has also been in the limelight of several international meetings wherein it has been sending its representative (Professor Naim Khan) to deliver guest lectures, for instance, at 9th Congress of the Federation of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS) in Kobe, Japan (2019), Anniversary of the Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences, Beijing, China (2016) and 23rd Congress of *Physiology and Pharmacology, Chabahar, Iran (2018)*...*The FPS also organized the Indo-European Workshop on "Next Generation Physiology for Healthy Lifestyle" in New Delhi, India (2019).*

Featured National Society:

The French Physiological Society

Since 1966, the FPS has been both “adhering” as well as “supporting” society of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). A member of SFP has regularly represented at the IUPS meetings through the “Comité National Français des Sciences Internationales” (Cofusi) chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Académie des Sciences (France). One of the earliest IUPS congresses was organized in Paris (1977), gathering 6,000 participants under the presidency of Maurice Fontaine, president of the French Academy of Sciences at that time. Many French physiologists have been the members of various IUPS commissions. Prof. G Lefthériotis, former president of the FPS, is currently a member of the FEPS nominating committee and a member of the IUPS council as regional European representative since 2022, as well as Prof. Naim Khan, member of the SFP Board of Directors, sits as the French representative for COFUSI. The FPS is also adhering member of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), in the section of “Physiology and Comparative Biochemistry”.

The SFP has been an active member of FEPS with notably Prof. Pierre Laurent, one of the founders of FEPS from 1989 to 1991, then Prof. Bernard Swynghedauw, who was the FEPS president from 1999 to 2001. Among the other active participating members of FEPS who succeeded each other, we can note Prof. Marc Zelter (former president of the SFP). The FPS has been continuously participating in FEPS activities like organization of sessions in Budapest (2014), Bologna (2019) and co-organization of 2 FEPS congresses, one in Nice (2003) and the other in Paris (2016).

Figure 1: A french physiology society tradition: Ringing the “physiologist bell” at the FEPS Paris 2016 congress! from left to right: Professor Jean-Claude Dussaule (past FPS president), Professor Markus Hecker (past president FEPS) and Professor Georges Lefthériotis (past FPS president).

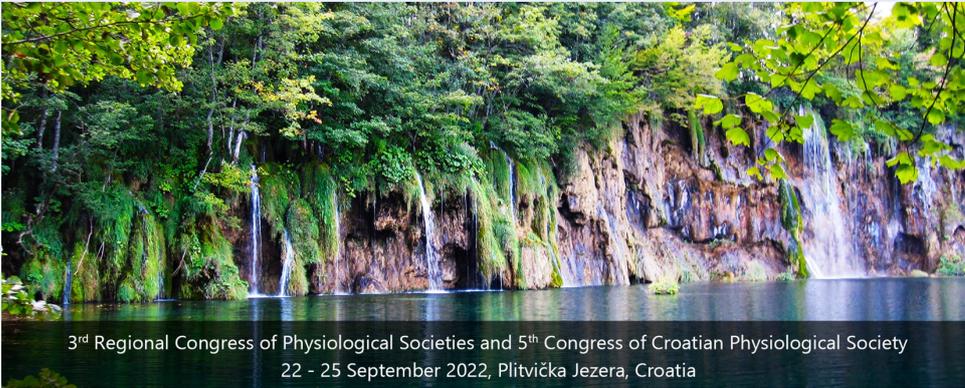


If the FPS has strongly contributed in the past to the development of physiology in Europe, the last decades have seen a certain decline in its attractiveness to the benefit of a highly specialized and more “reductionistic” physiology, as well as the multiplication of international congresses making national meetings less attractive. For the last 10 years, with the advent of the integrative approach, the data sciences or the new approaches of the biology of the systems, the FPS intends to reposition Physiology in the modern Biology, at the national and also international levels. Through its representatives and the organization of sessions, FPS wishes to encourage the invest of the French physiology community to the international level and specially to promote rapprochements between the south and the north of Europe.



Meetings of FEPS Member Societies & Related Organisations

3rd Regional Congress of Physiological Society and the 5th Congress of Croatian Physiological Society will take place on September 22 – 24, 2022 in Plitvička jezera, Croatia. The program can be viewed at: www.hdf.hr/html/indexeng.htm



3rd Regional Congress of Physiological Societies and 5th Congress of Croatian Physiological Society
22 - 25 September 2022, Plitvička Jezera, Croatia

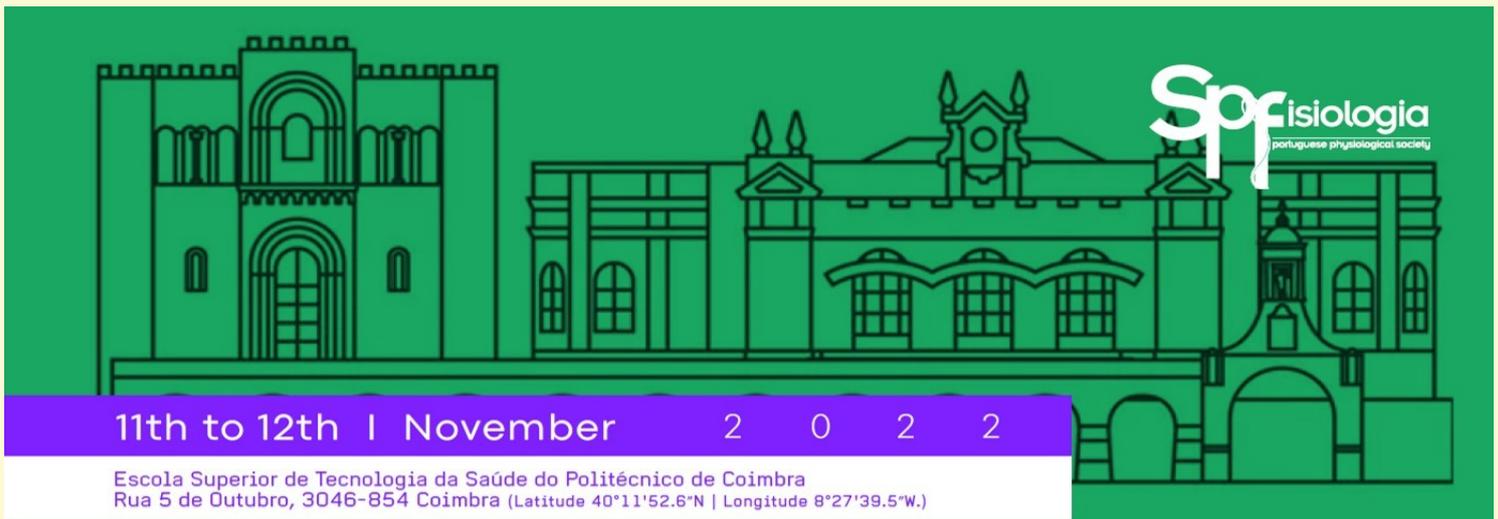
47th Turkish Physiology Congress, 1 - 4 November 2022, Antalya, Turkey

47th Turkish Physiology Congress will be organised in Antalya, Turkey on 1 - 4 November 2022.

Details of the meeting can be found at: www.ufk2022.org



2nd International Physiology Congress of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Fisiologia will take place on November 11 – 12, 2022 in Coimbra, Portugal. Details for the meeting can be found at the meeting web page: www.sociedadefisiologia.pt



11th to 12th | November 2022

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