

# SACOMERIC MYOSIN AS A PHARMACOLOGICAL TARGET IN CARDIOLOGY

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**Division of Clinical Physiology, Department of Cardiology,  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, Hungary**

**Czech Cardiovascular Research and Innovation Days 2024**

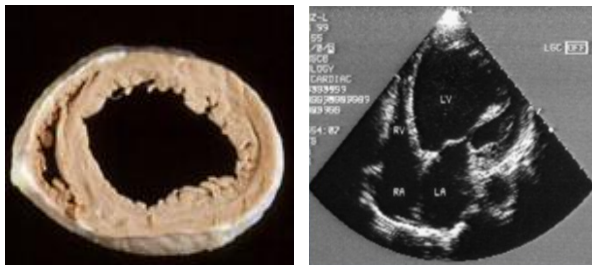
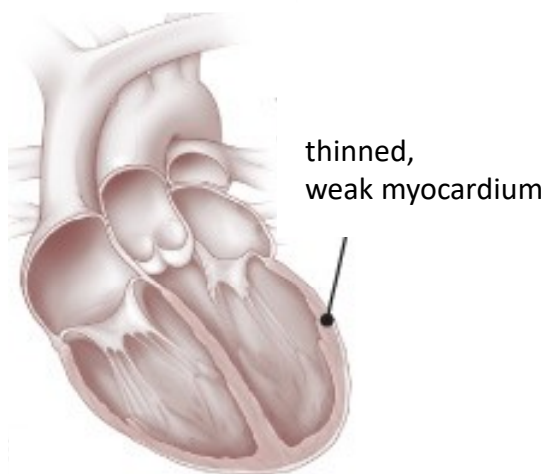
**Heart failure research network – from basic science to clinical evidence I**

**Monday 04/11/2024 9:00 - 10:30**

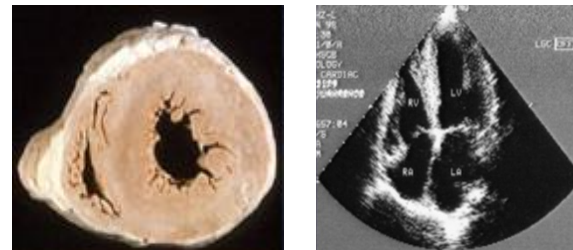
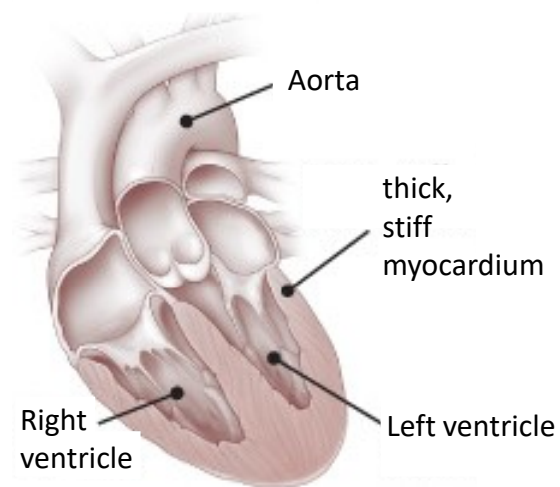


# Cardiomyocyte contractility is altered during Heart Failure

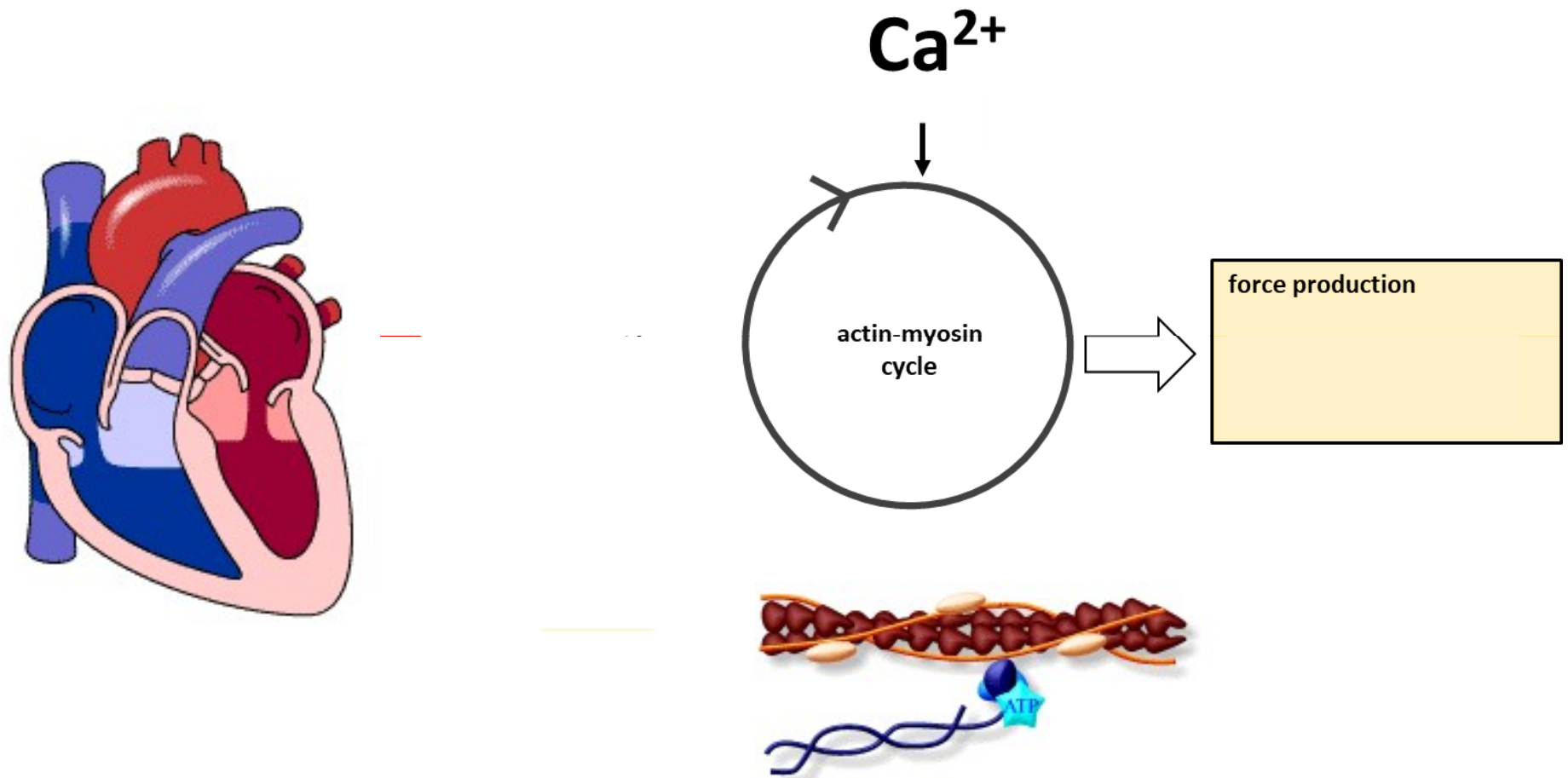
## Systolic Heart Failure (HFrEF)



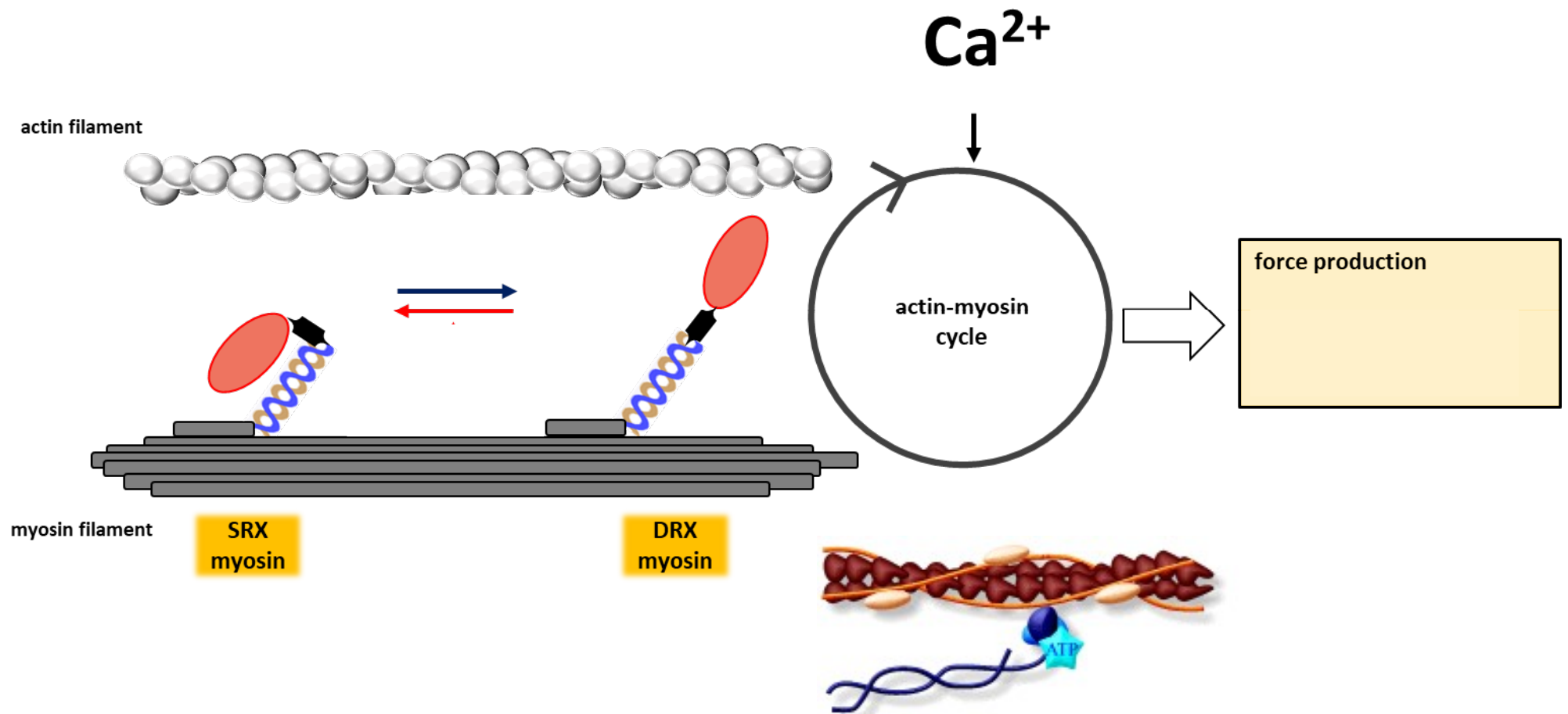
## Diastolic Heart Failure (HFpEF)



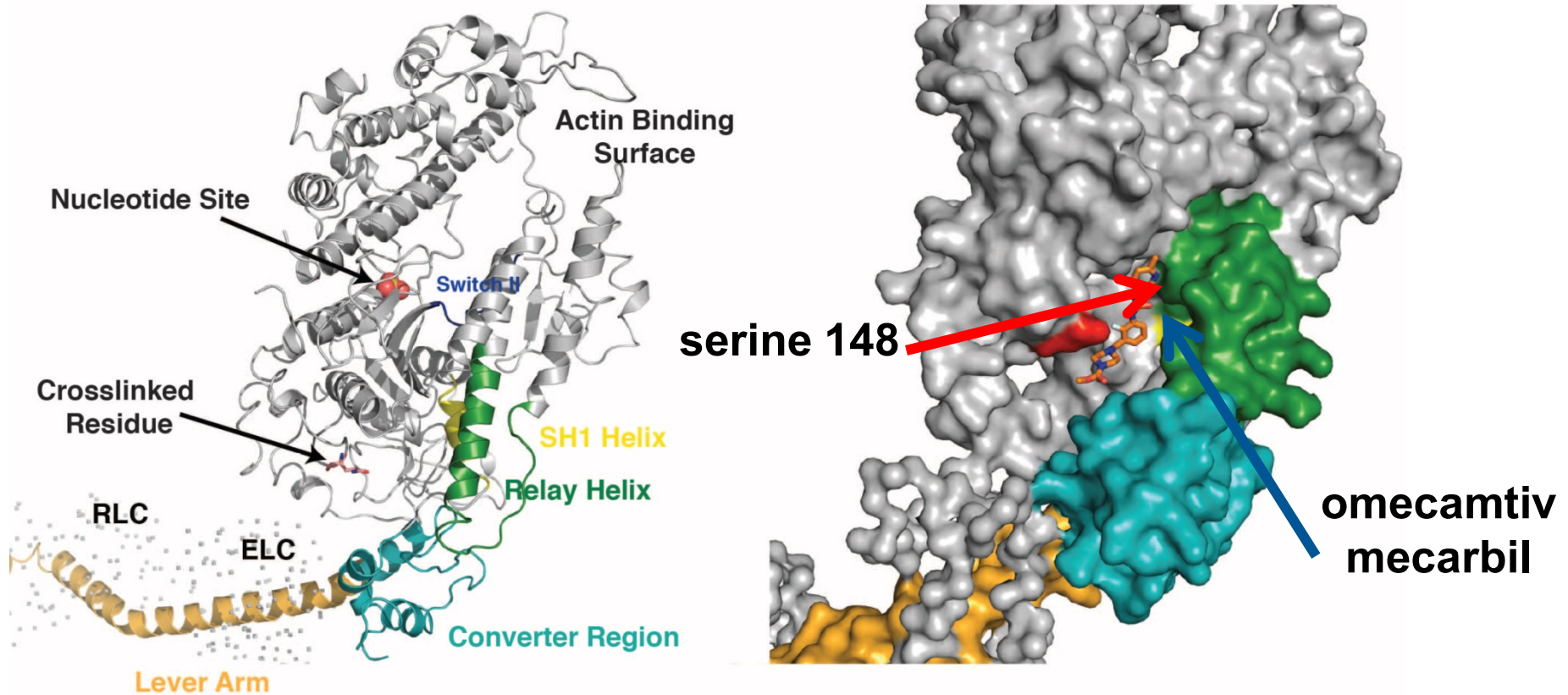
# Myocardial force depends on the number and function of actin-myosin cross-bridges



# Myocardial force depends on the number and function of actin-myosin cross-bridges

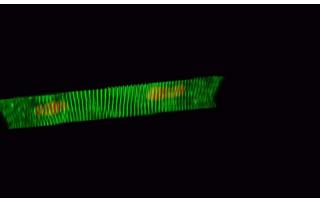


# Direct myosin activators bind to myosin heavy chain





# Isoproterenol increases the amplitude of the $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ transient



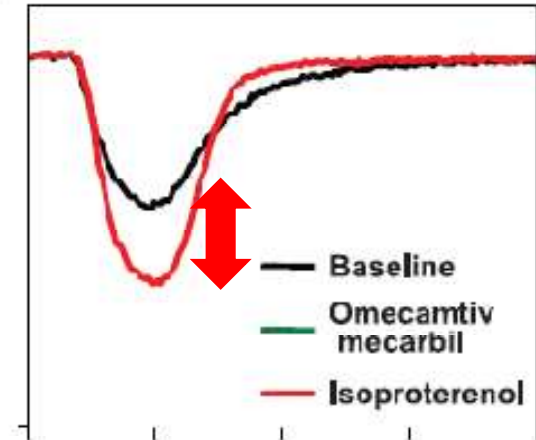
Contractility transient

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transient

Cell Length  $\Delta$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ )

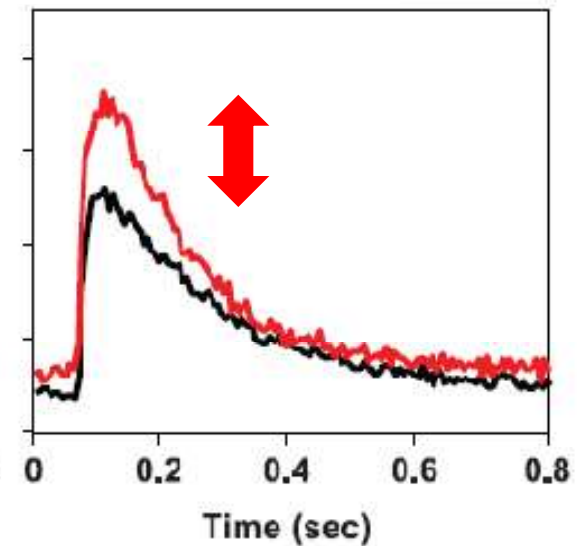
Fura-2 Ratio

Isoproterenol



diastole

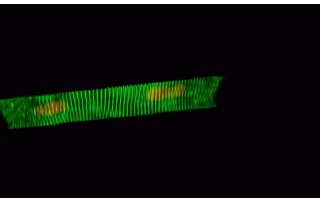
systole



systole

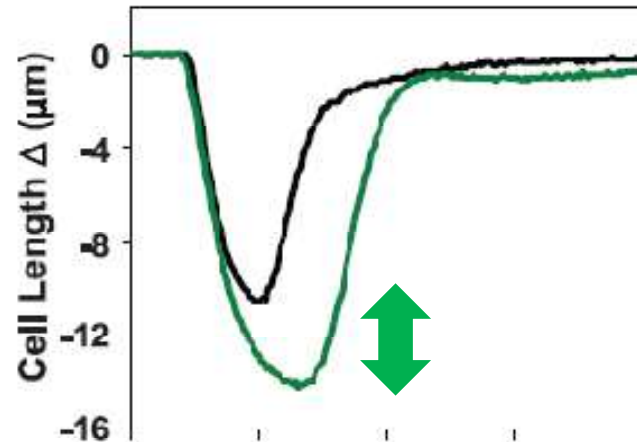
diastole

## Omecamtiv mecarbil does not affect the $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ transient

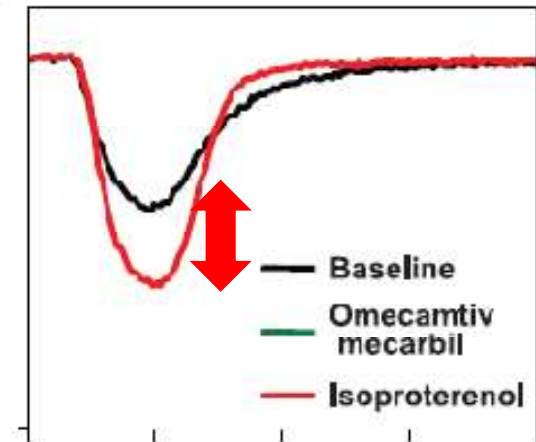


Contractility transient

Omecamtiv mecarbil



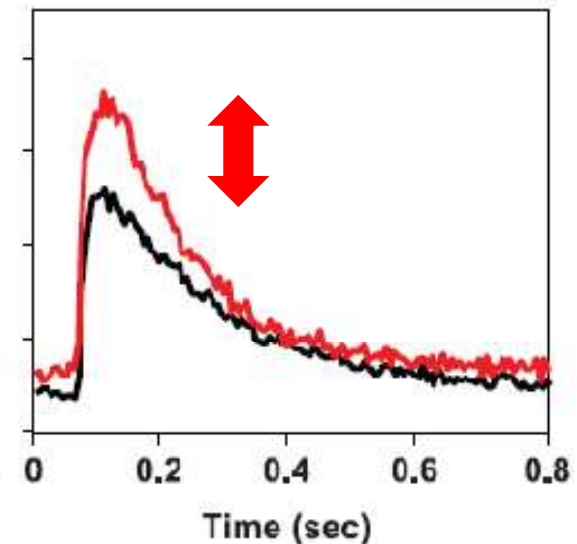
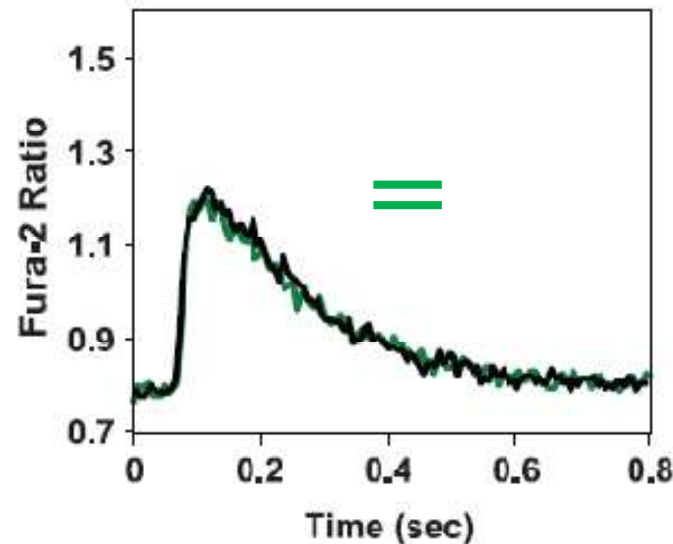
Isoproterenol



diastole

systole

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transient



systole

diastole

# Clinical trials with omecamtiv mecarbil

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2016.01.031>



## Acute Treatment With Omecamtiv Mecarbil to Increase Contractility in Acute Heart Failure



Chronic Oral Study of Myosin Activation to Increase Contractility in Heart Failure (COSMIC-HF): a phase 2, pharmacokinetic, randomised, placebo-controlled trial



## Cardiac Myosin Activation with Omecamtiv Mecarbil in Systolic Heart Failure



J.R. Teerlink, B. Di Somma, G.M. Felker, L.V. Meng, M. Metra, S.D. Solomon, K.F. Docherty, L. Arnold, A. Arias-Mendoza, U. Dahlström, L. D.E. Lanfear, J. Li, F.J.A. Ramires, A.A. Voors, M.

**JAMA | Original Investigation**

## Effect of Omecamtiv Mecarbil on Exercise Capacity in Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction The METEORIC-HF Randomized Clinical Trial



Gregory D. Lewis, MD; Adriaan A. Voors, MD, PhD; Alain Cohen-Solal, MD, PhD; Marco Metra, MD; David J. Whellan, MD, MHS; Justin A. Ezekowitz, MBBCh, MSc; Michael Böhm, MD; John R. Teerlink, MD; Kieran F. Docherty, BSc, MB, ChB; Renato D. Lopes, MD, PhD; Punag H. Divanji, MD; Stephen B. Heitner, MD; Stuart Kupfer, MD; Fady I. Malik, MD, PhD; Lisa Meng, PhD; Amy Wohltman, ME; G. Michael Felker, MD, MHS



# Direct myosin activators are not yet available

News > Medscape Medical News > News Alerts

## FDA Declines Approval for Omecamtiv Mecarbil in HFrEF

Megan Brooks

March 01, 2023

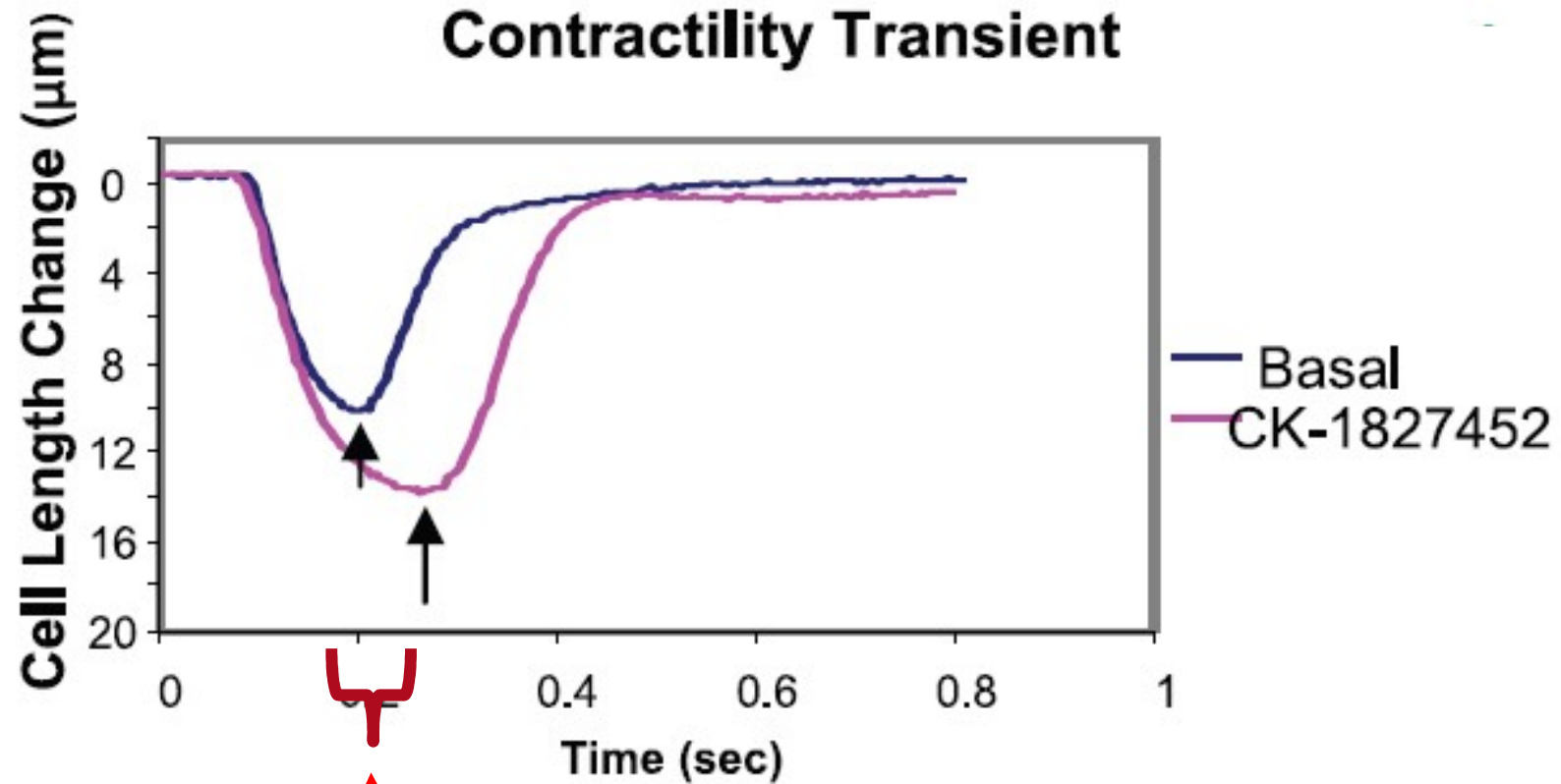


10

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has declined to approve omecamtiv mecarbil (Cytokinetics) for treatment of adults with chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), citing a lack of evidence on efficacy.

Omecamtiv mecarbil is a first-in-class, selective cardiac myosin activator designed to improve cardiac performance.

## Myosin activators increase systolic ejection time

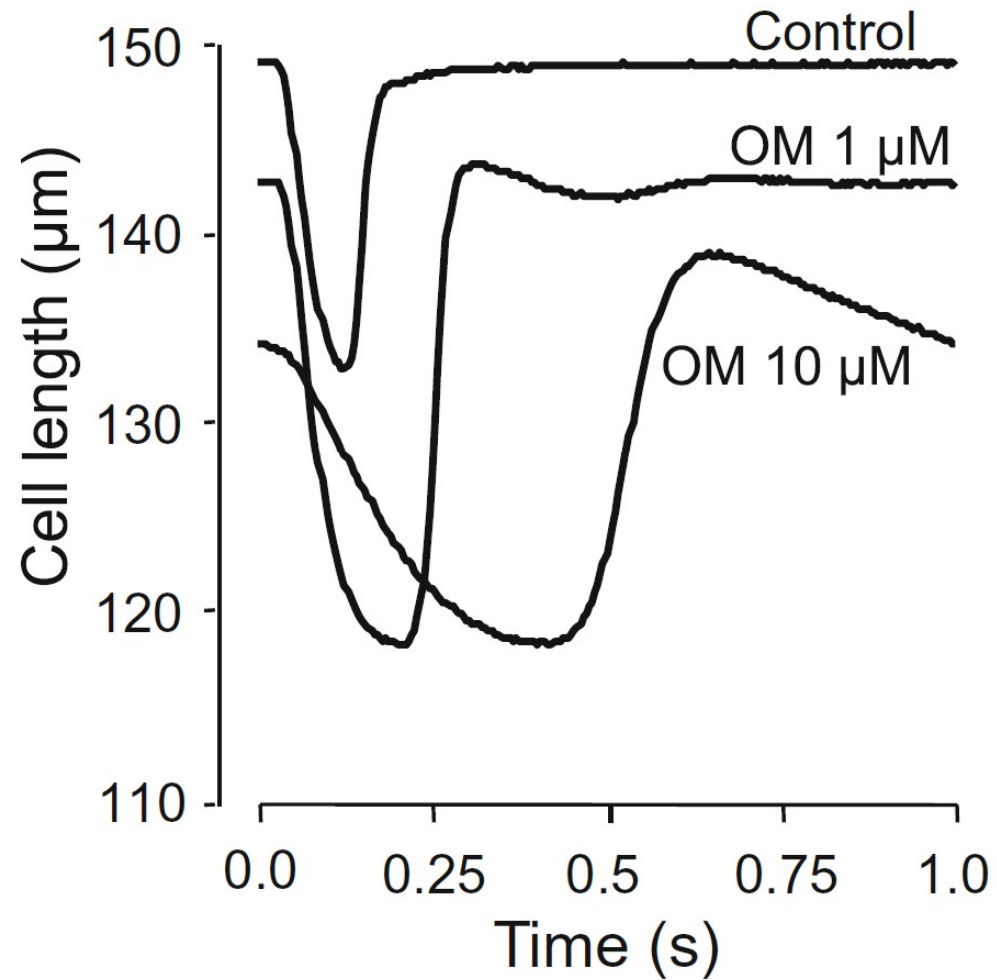
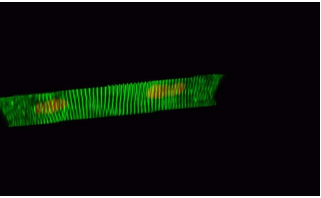


Increased duration of systole

*Malik et al., Science 2011;331:1439–1443*

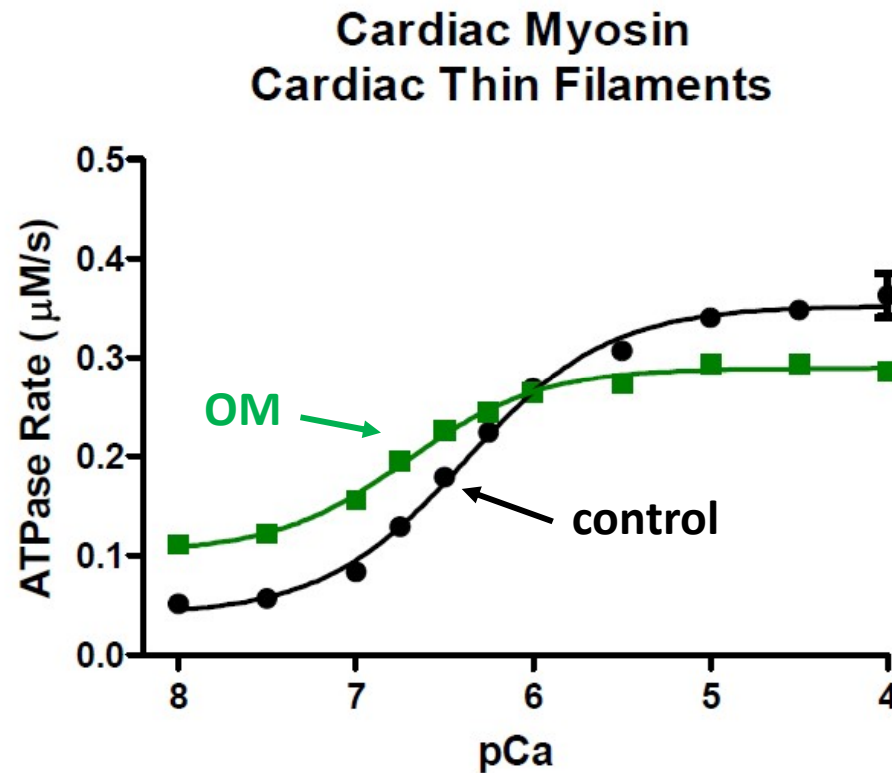
*Anderson et al., Biophys. Soc. Meeting, 2007, Poster*

## Omecamtiv mecarbil decreases diastolic cell length



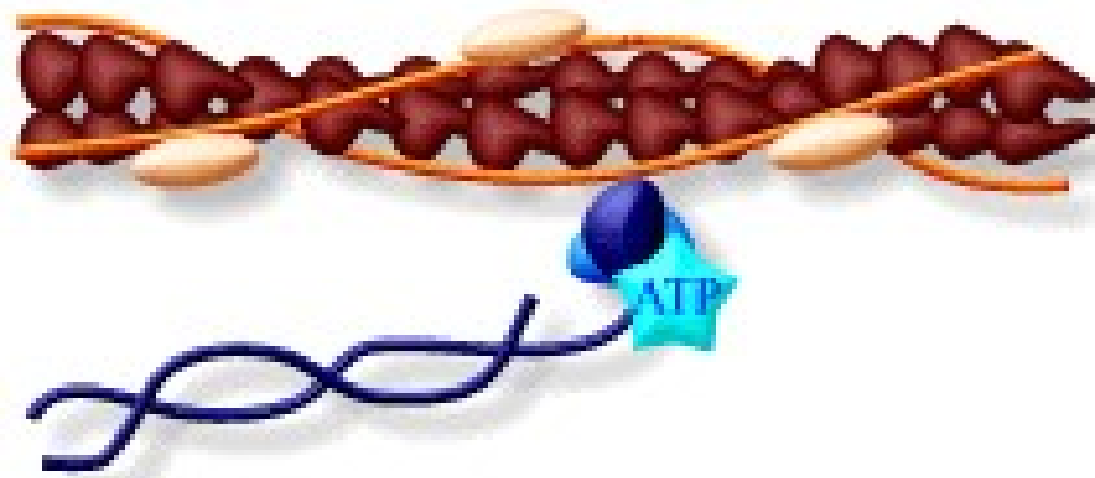
omecamtiv mecarbil (OM) increases the ATPase activity of myosin at low [Ca]

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# What is the problem here?

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**Direct myosin activation: everything comes with a price**

**The two sides of the coin for direct myosin activators**



**positive inotropy  
increase in systolic duration  
slower contraction**

## Direct myosin activation: everything comes with a price

### The two sides of the coin for direct myosin activators



positive inotropy  
increase in systolic duration  
slower contraction

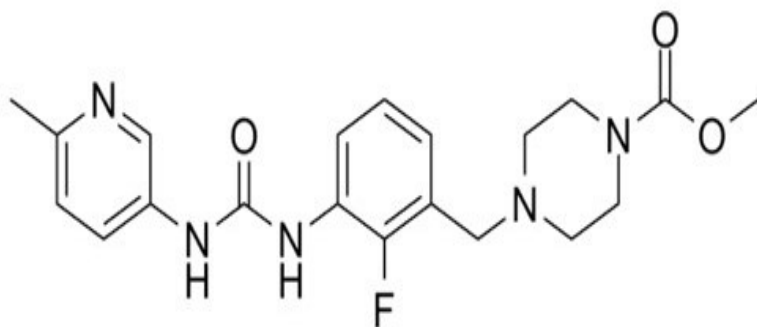


incomplete relaxation  
decrease in diastolic duration  
slower relaxation  
limited tissue selectivity



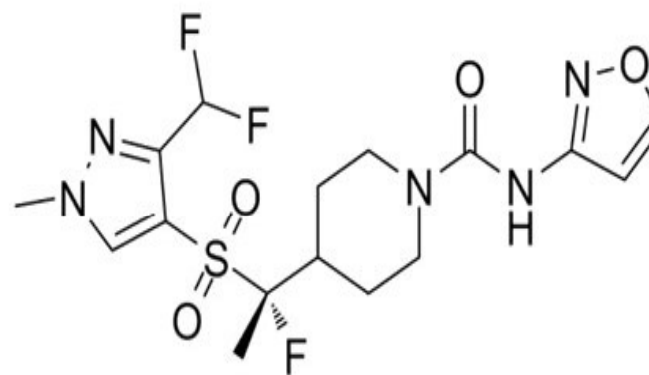
# Myosin activators: 1st and 2nd generation

**omecamtiv mecarbil**



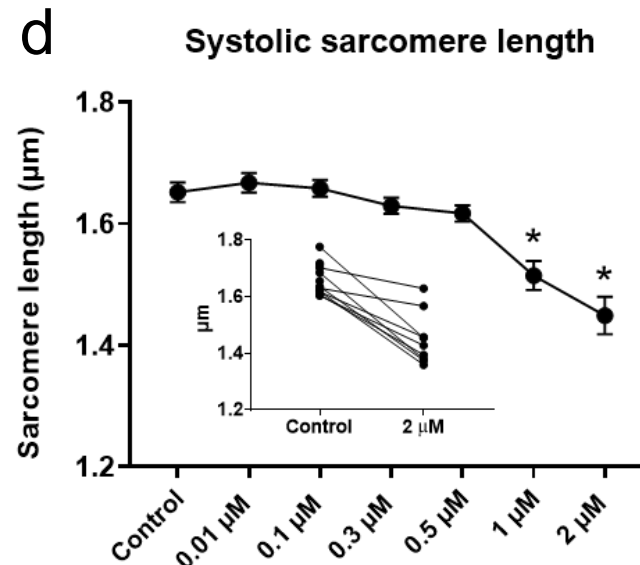
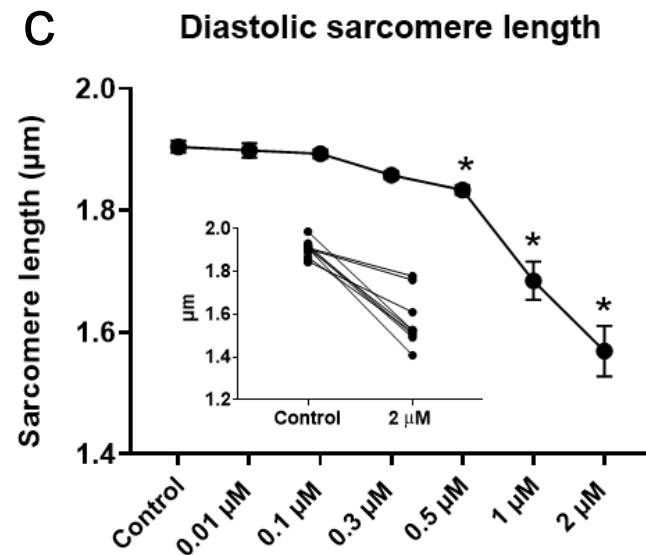
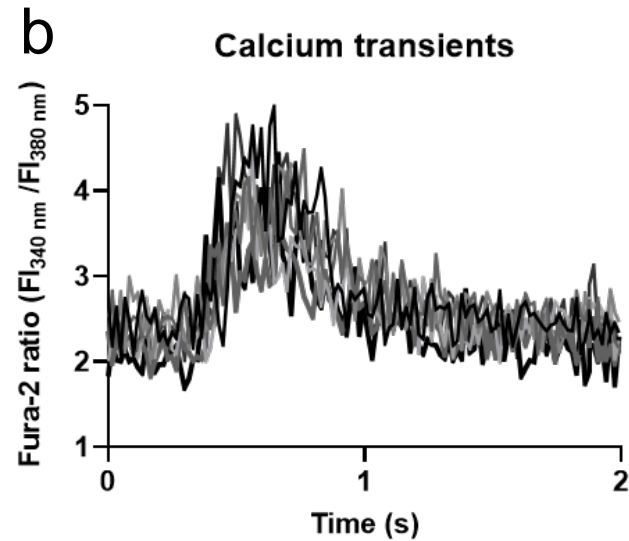
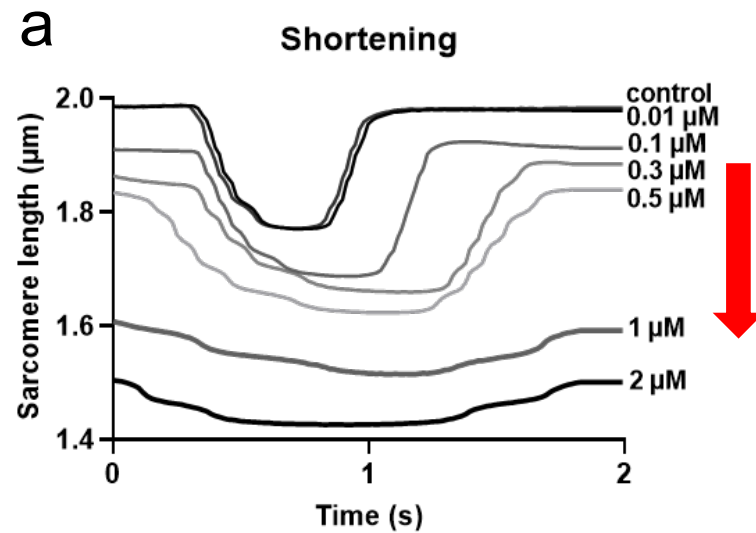
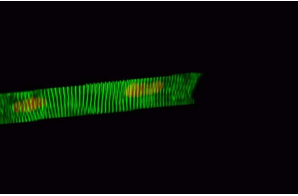
methyl 4-[[2-fluoro-3-[(6-methylpyridin-3-yl)carbamoylamino]phenyl]methyl]piperazine-1-carboxylate

**danicamtiv**



4-[(1R)-1-[3-(difluoromethyl)-1-methylpyrazol-4-yl]sulfonyl-1-fluoroethyl]-N-(1,2-oxazol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide

# Danicamtiv decreases both systolic and diastolic SLs

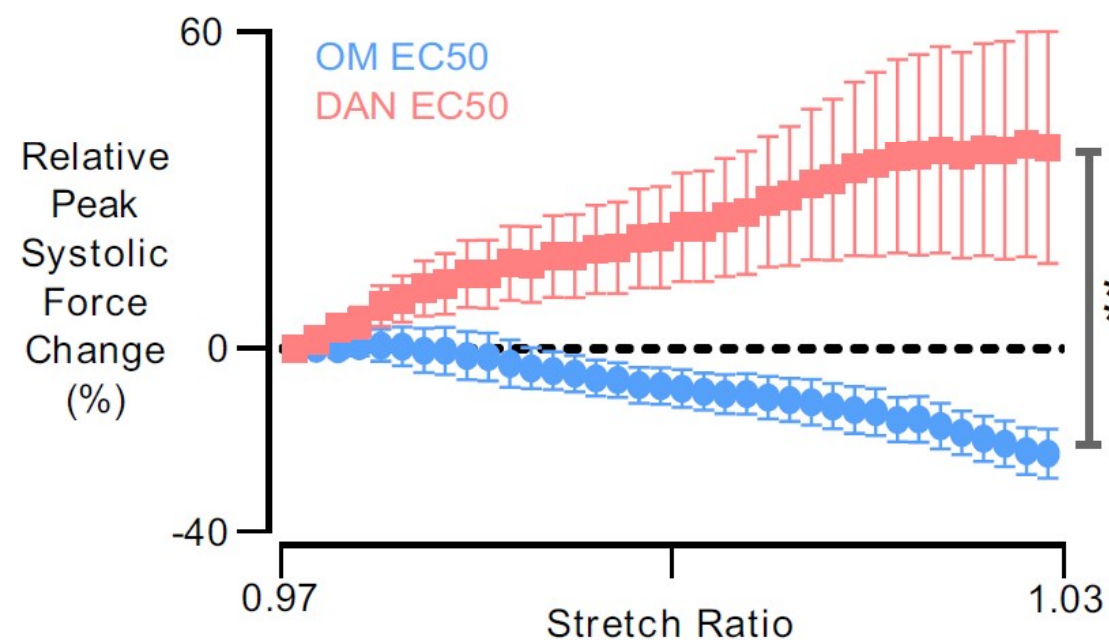
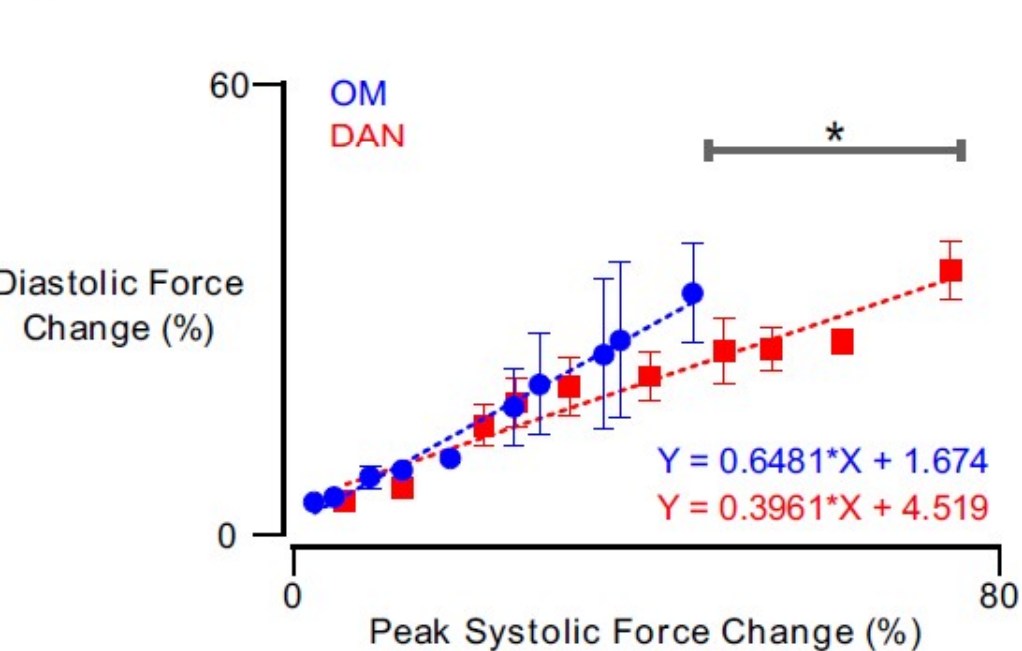




RESEARCH LETTER

# Danicamtiv Enhances Systolic Function and Frank-Starling Behavior at Minimal Diastolic Cost in Engineered Human Myocardium

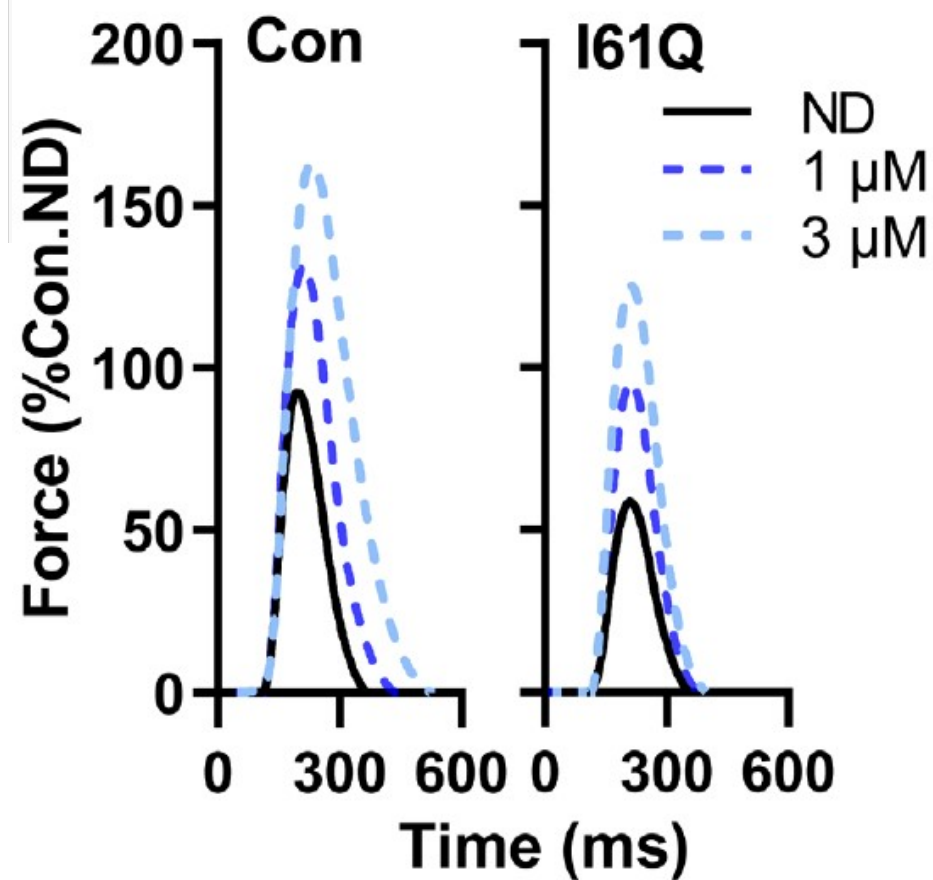
Shi Shen , MS\*; Lorenzo R. Sewanan , PhD\*; Daniel L. Jacoby , MD; Stuart G. Campbell , PhD





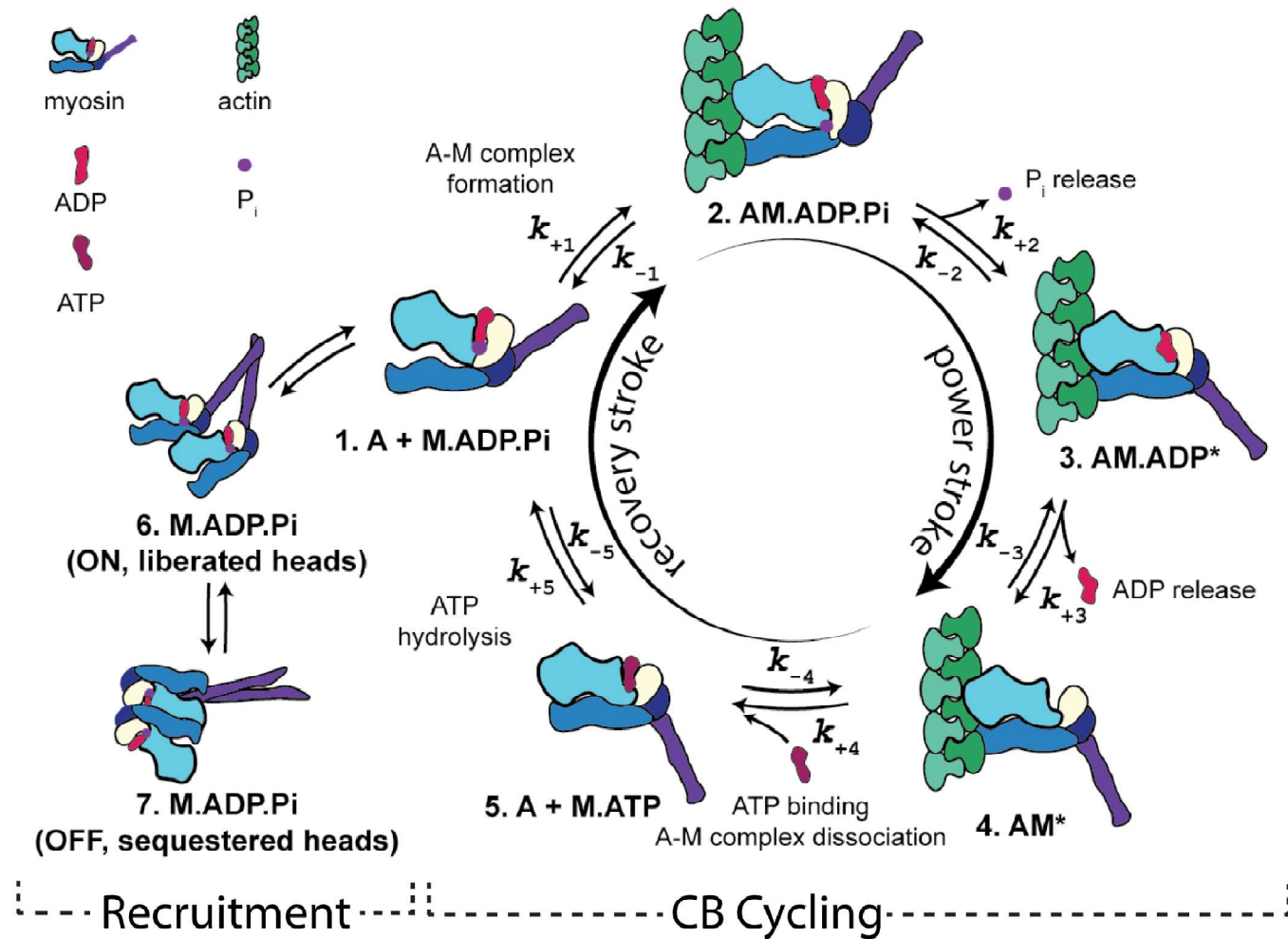
# nicamtiv Increases Myosin Recruitment and ers Cross-Bridge Cycling in Cardiac Muscle

B. Kooiker<sup>1</sup>,\* Saffie Mohran<sup>1</sup>,\* Kyrah L. Turner<sup>1</sup>, Weikang Ma<sup>1</sup>, Amy Martinson, Galina Flint, Lin Qi<sup>1</sup>, Chengqian Gao,  
Zheng<sup>1</sup>, Timothy S. McMillen<sup>1</sup>, Christian Mandrycky<sup>1</sup>, Max Mahoney-Schaefer, Jeremy C. Freeman,  
Gabriela Costales Arenas<sup>1</sup>, An-Yu Tu, Thomas C. Irving<sup>1</sup>, Michael A. Geeves<sup>1</sup>, Bertrand C.W. Tanner<sup>1</sup>, Michael Regnier<sup>1</sup>,  
er Davis<sup>1</sup>, Farid Moussavi-Harami<sup>1</sup>





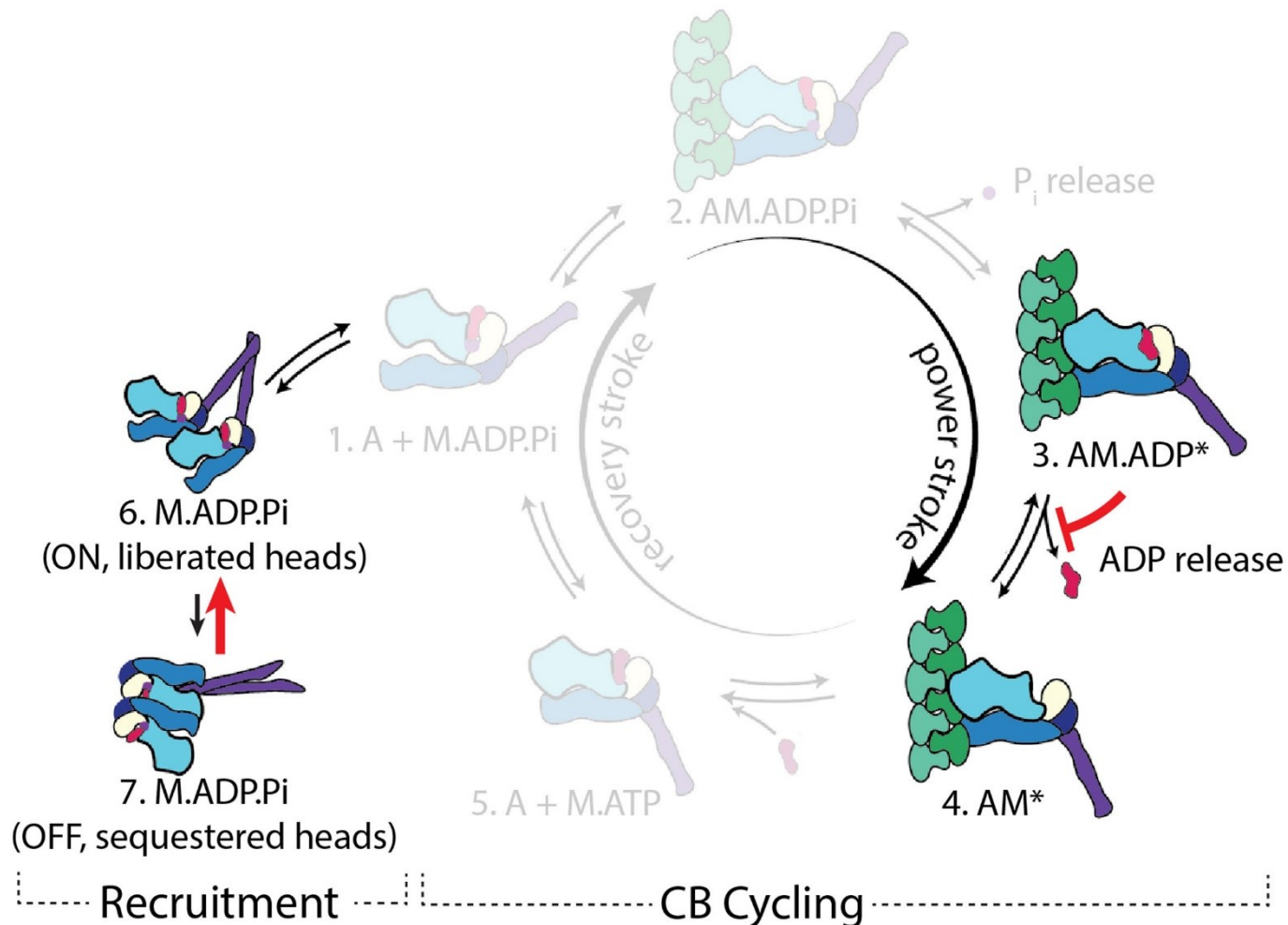
# Janicamtiv recruits myosin motors to aid the failing heart



Kooiker et al., Circulation Research. 2023;133:430

Maicon Landim-Vieira , Bjorn C. Knollmann Circulation Research. 2023;133:4

# Danicamtiv recruits myosin motors to aid the failing heart

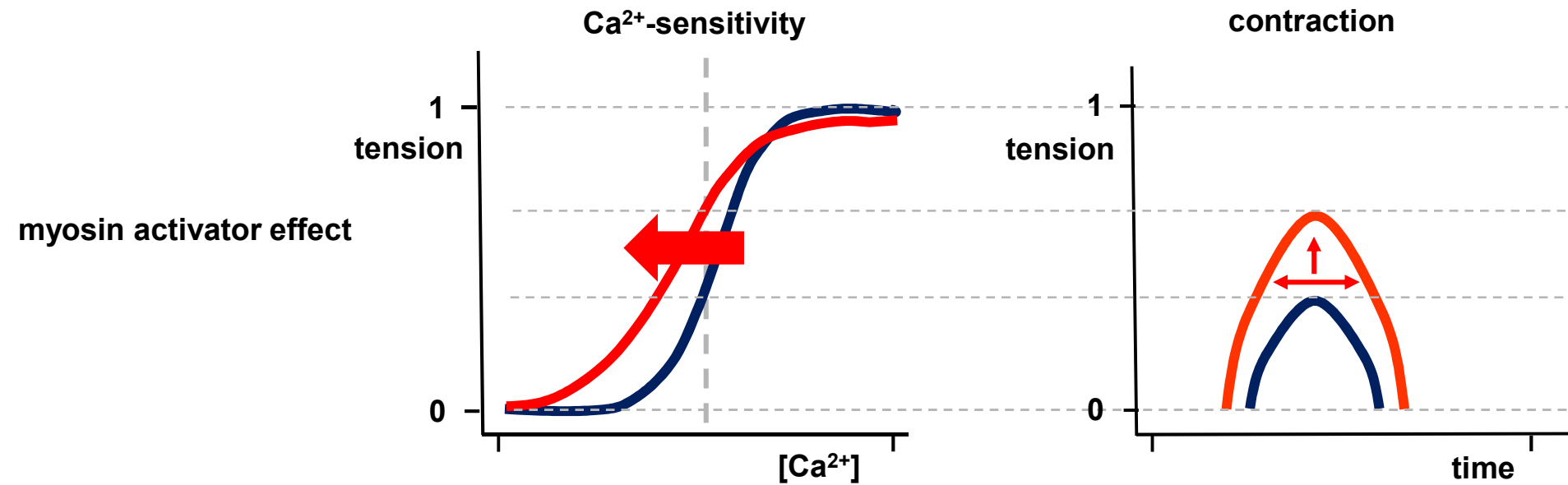


## Danicamtiv Modes of Action

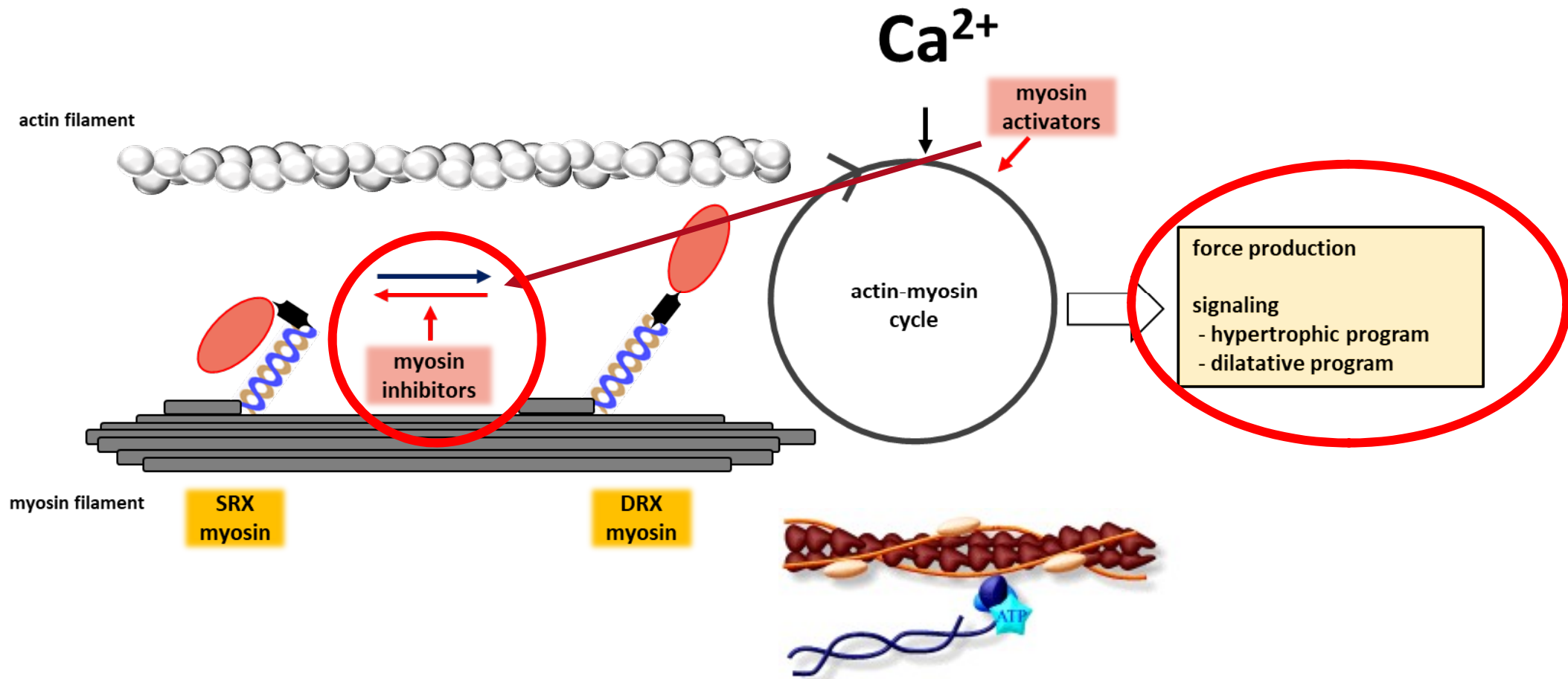
Kooiker et al., *Circulation Research*. 2023;133:430

Maicon Landim-Vieira , Bjorn C. Knollmann *Circulation Research*. 2023;133:4

# Potential explanation for direct myosin activation effects



# Myosin activators may normalize hypocontractility brought about by genetic alterations

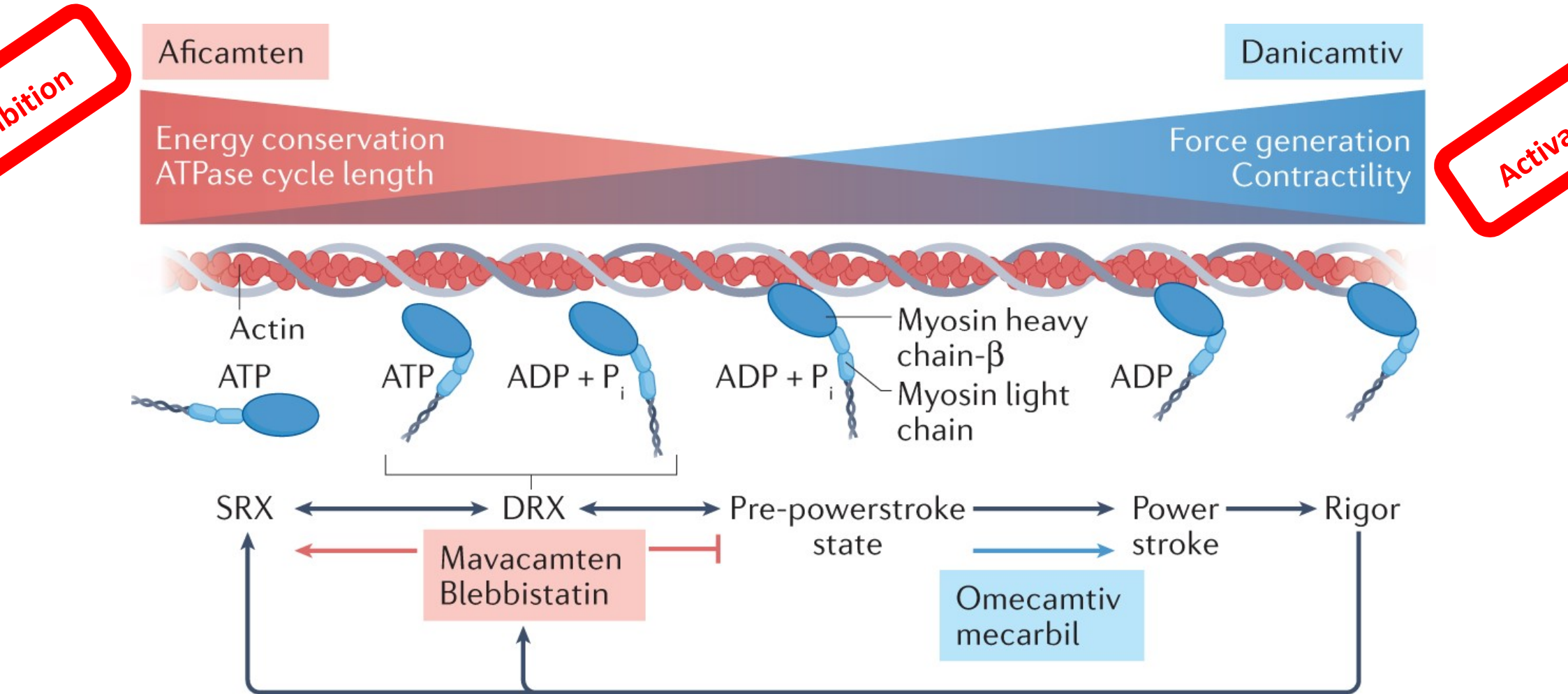


# NCT trials with danicamtiv

NCT Number	Condition	Start Date	Phase
NC T04572893	Primary Familial Dilated Cardiomyopathy	August 4, 2020	Phase 2
NC T03447990	Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction Dilated Cardiomyopathy	February 6, 2018	Phase 1 Phase 2
NC T05162222	Healthy Participants	December 15, 2021	Phase 1
NC T05806359	Healthy Volunteers	March 31, 2023	Phase 1
NC T03062956	Dilated Cardiomyopathy	January 16, 2017	Phase 1
NC T05952089	Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction	July 17, 2023	Phase 1

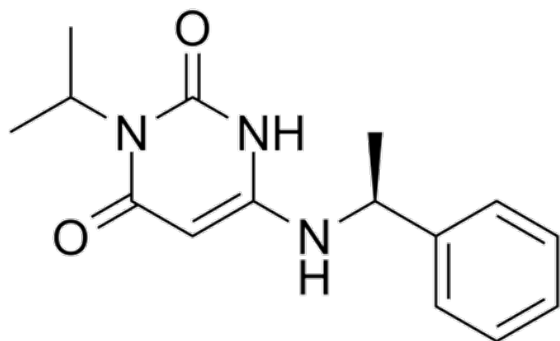


# From myosin activation to myosin inhibition



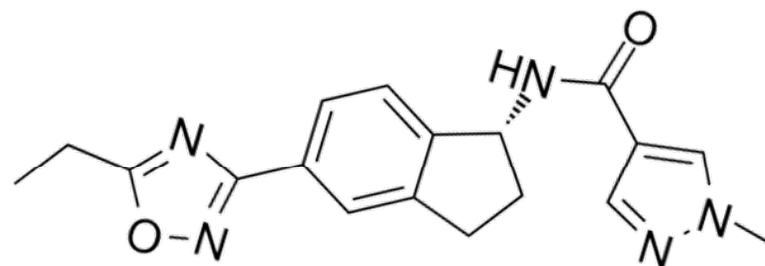
# First and second generation of myosin inhibitors

**mavacamten**



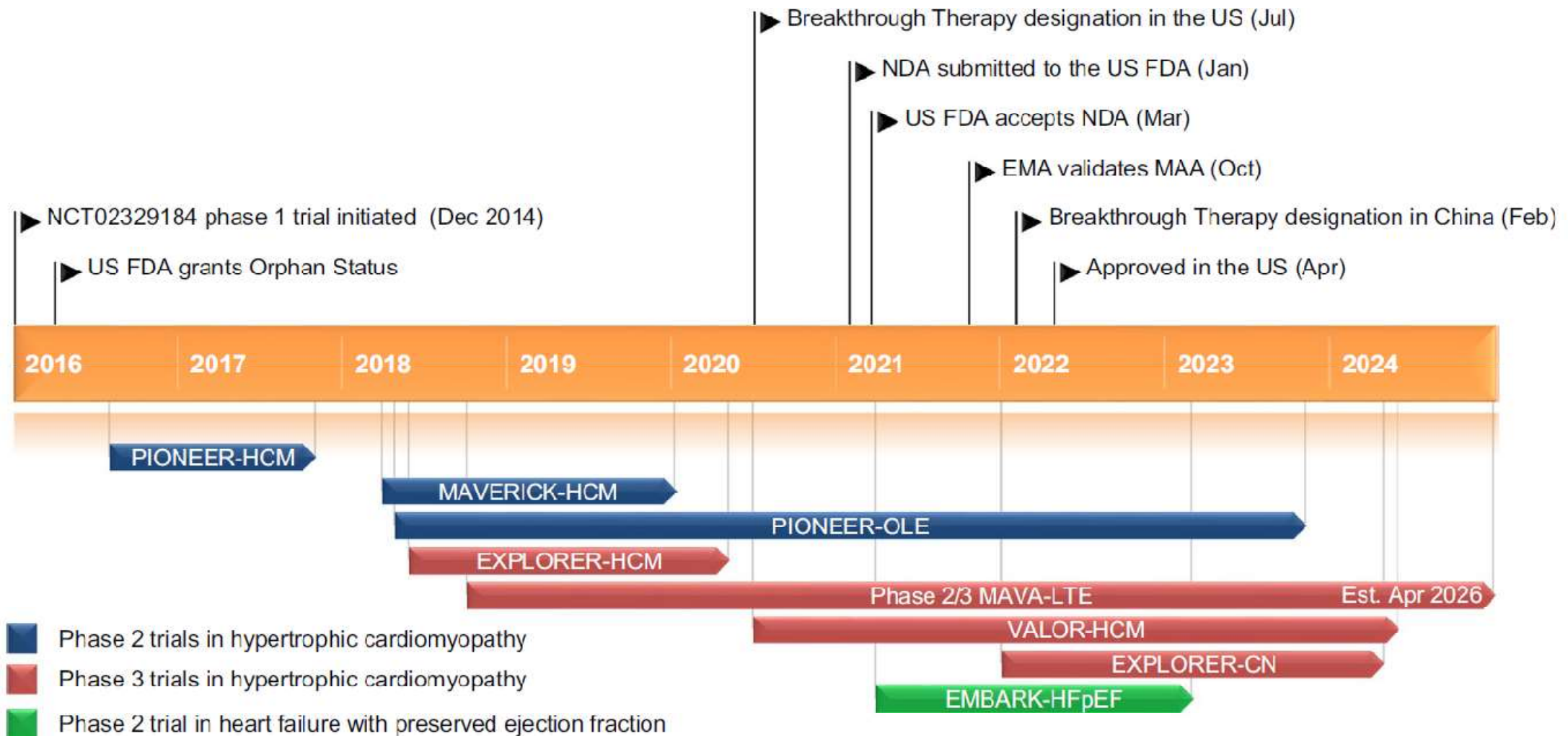
6-[[*(1S)*-1-phenylethyl]amino]-3-propan-2-yl-1*H*-pyrimidine-2,4-dione

**aficamten**



*N*-[(*1R*)-5-(5-ethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-yl]-1-methylpyrazole-4-carboxamide

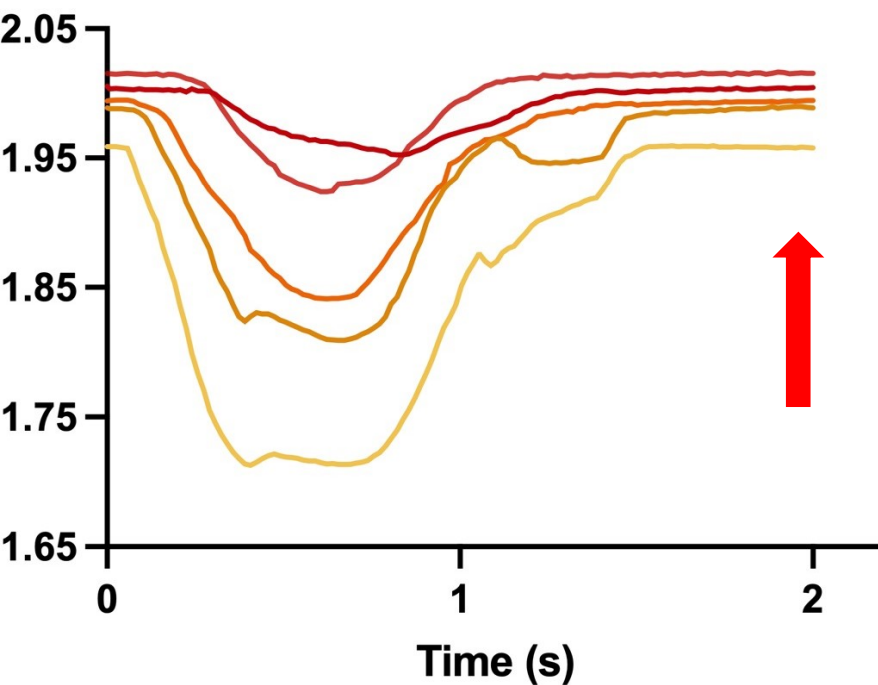
# Milestones in the development of mavacamten



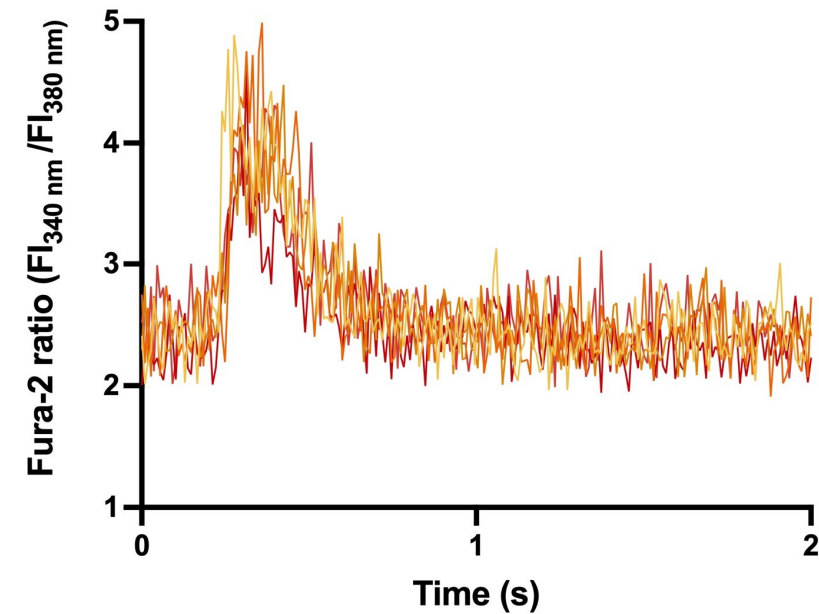
# Effects of aficamten on SL and $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ transients

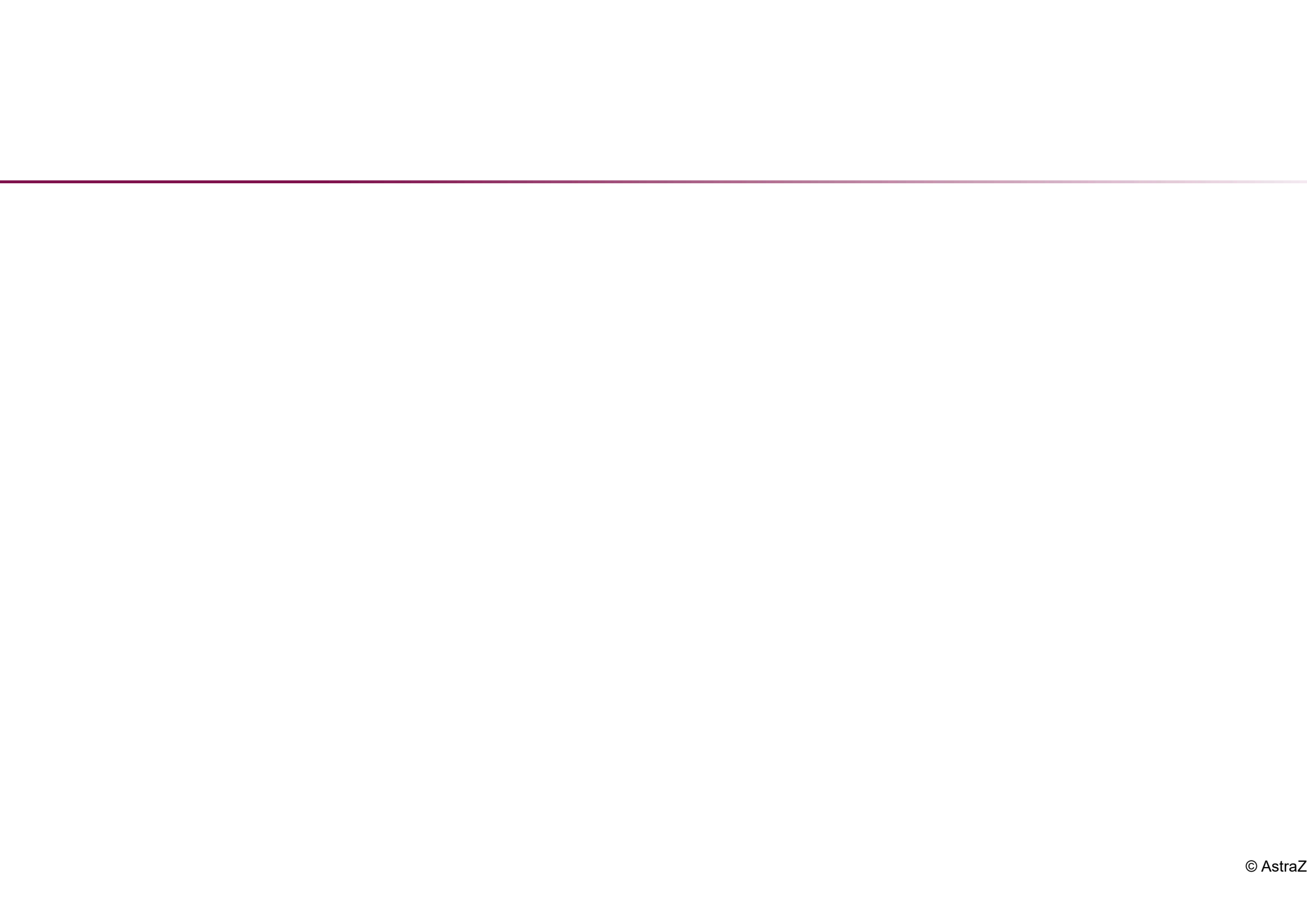


Concentration dependency



- 1  $\mu\text{M}$  AFI
- 0.75  $\mu\text{M}$  AFI
- 0.25  $\mu\text{M}$  AFI
- 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  AFI
- ctrl.



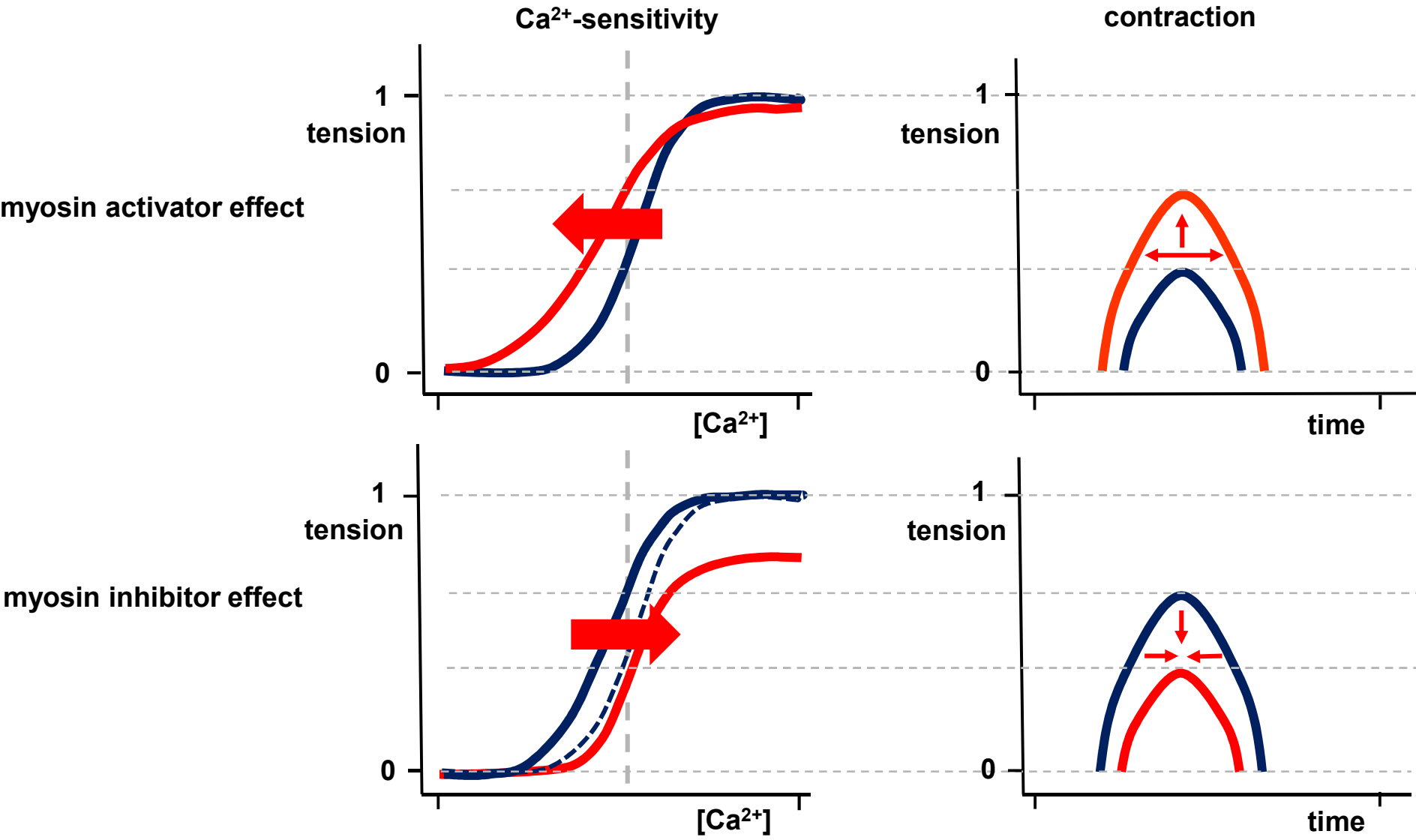




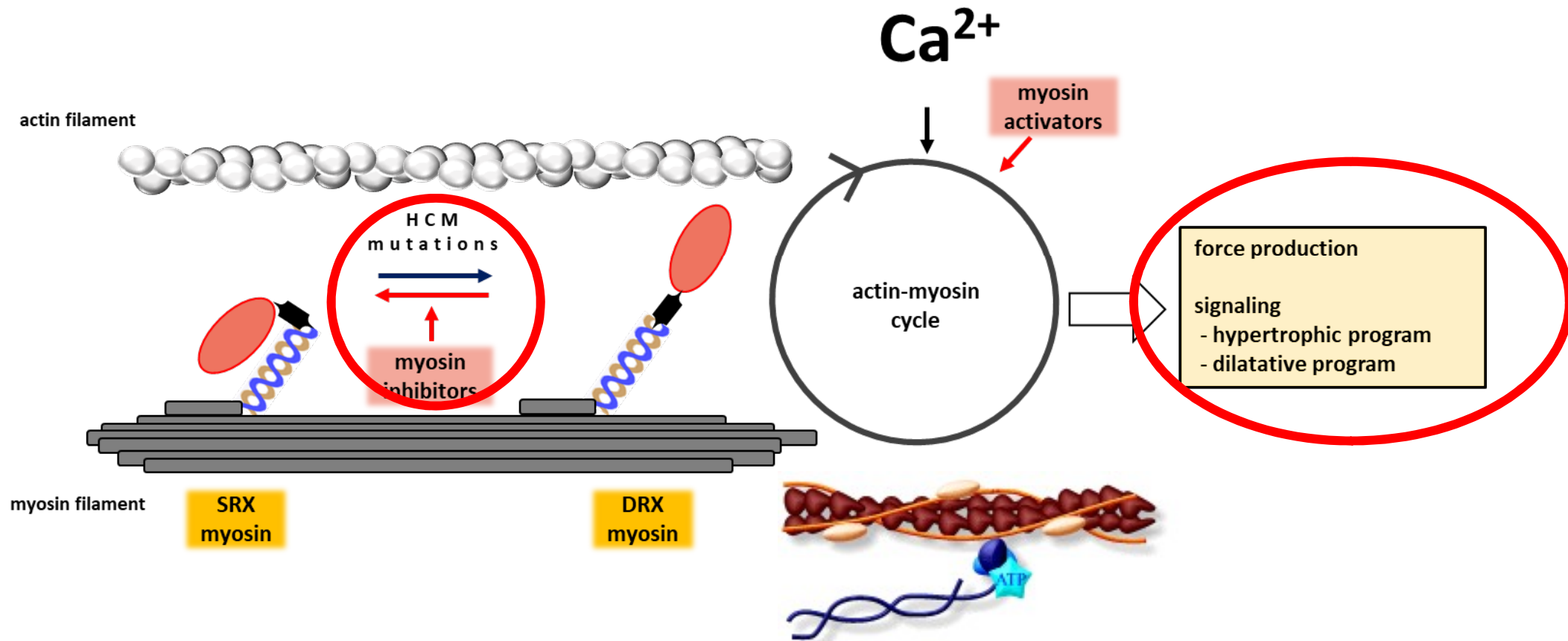




# Potential explanation for direct myosin activator and inhibitor effects



# Myosin inhibitors might better compensate for genetic alterations than myosin activators



# Conclusions

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Omecamtiv mecarbil evokes positive inotropic effects in murine, canine and human cardiac preparations *in vitro* and *in vivo*, consistently with its myosin activating and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -sensitizing effects.

The myosin activator evoked increase in systolic performance is tightly coupled to increased ejection time and slow contraction-relaxation kinetics.

Bypassing the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activation step in cardiomyocytes limits physiological contractile regulation.

Direct myosin inhibitors hold promises for the treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

# Acknowledgements

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## VU Medical Center Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dr. Jolanda van der Velden  
Prof. Dr. Walter J. Paulus  
Prof. Dr. Ger J.M. Stienen



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Prof. Dr. Róbert Sepp



## Jagiellonian University Medical College Krakow, Poland

Prof. Dr. Stefan Chłopicki



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Dr. Beáta Bódi  
Dr. Fruzsina Sárkány  
Dr. Ágnes Balogh  
Dr. Attila Tóth  
Dr. Attila Borbély  
Prof. Dr. István Édes



## Heart and Vascular Center, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Tamás Radovits  
Dr. Csaba Mátyás



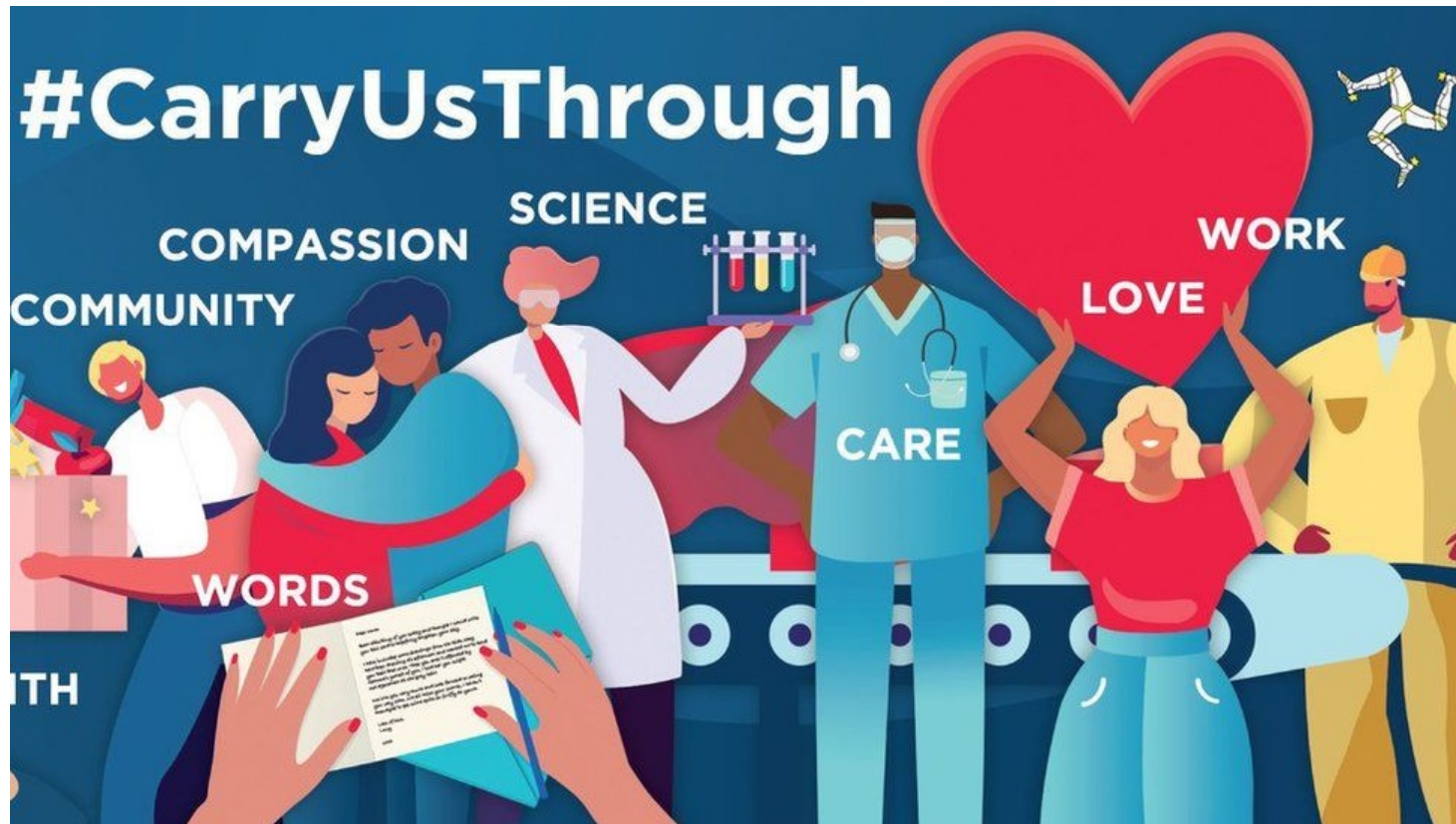
## Ludwig Boltzmann Cluster for Cardiovascular Research, Medical University of Vienna

Dr. Bruno Podesser  
Dr. David Santer  
Dr. Ouafa Hamza  
Dr. Attila Kiss



**Thank you for your attention!**

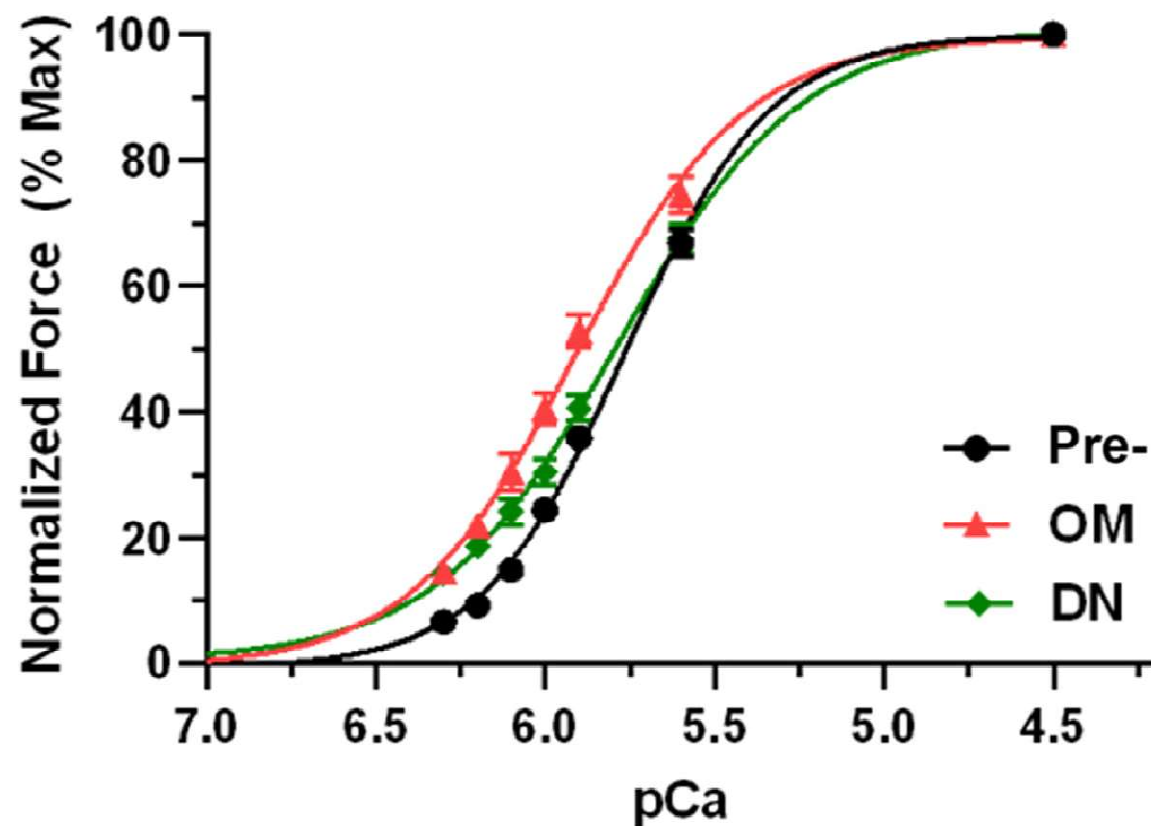
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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# Effect of the Novel Myotrope Danicamtiv on Cross-Bridge Behavior in Human Myocardium

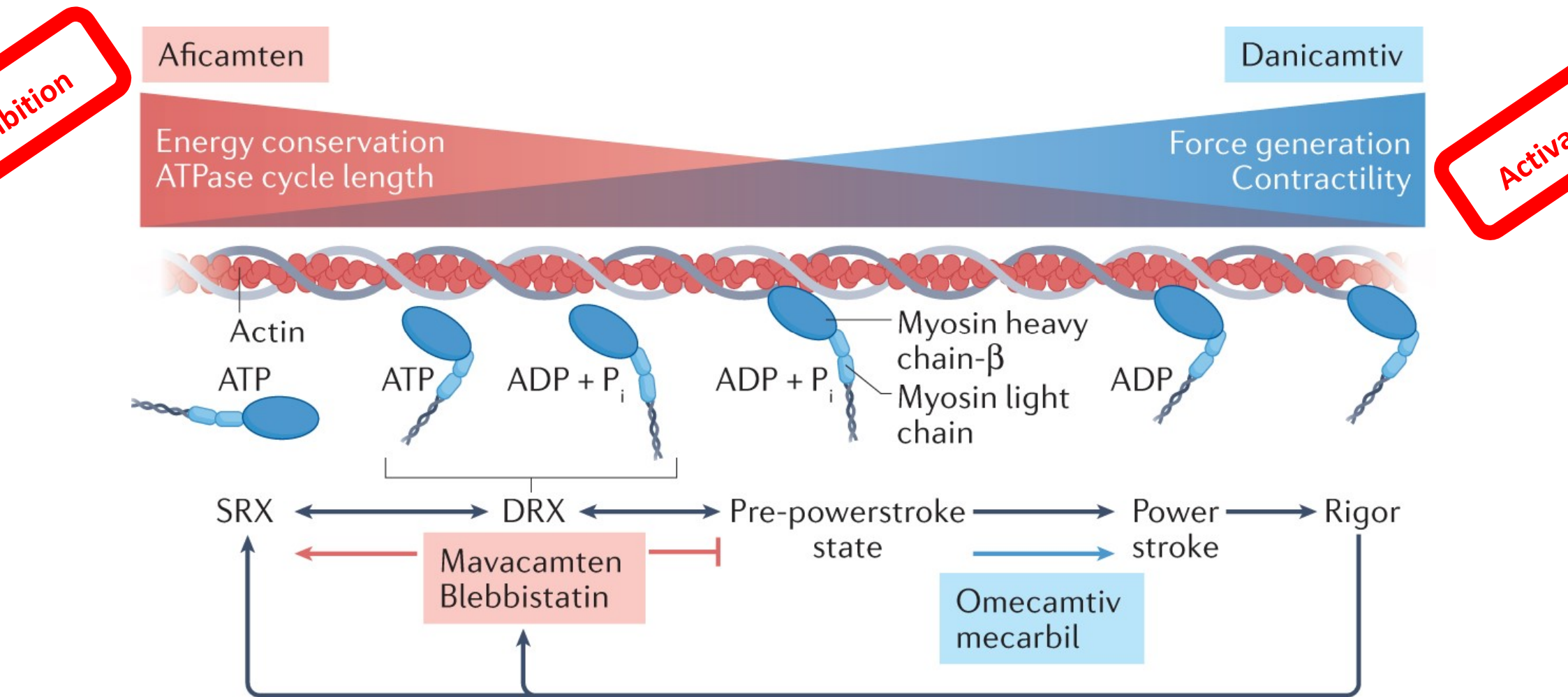
Johee Choi , PhD; Joshua B. Holmes , BS; Kenneth S. Campbell , PhD; Julian E. Stelzer , PhD



Choi et al., J Am Heart Assoc. 2023;12:e030682.



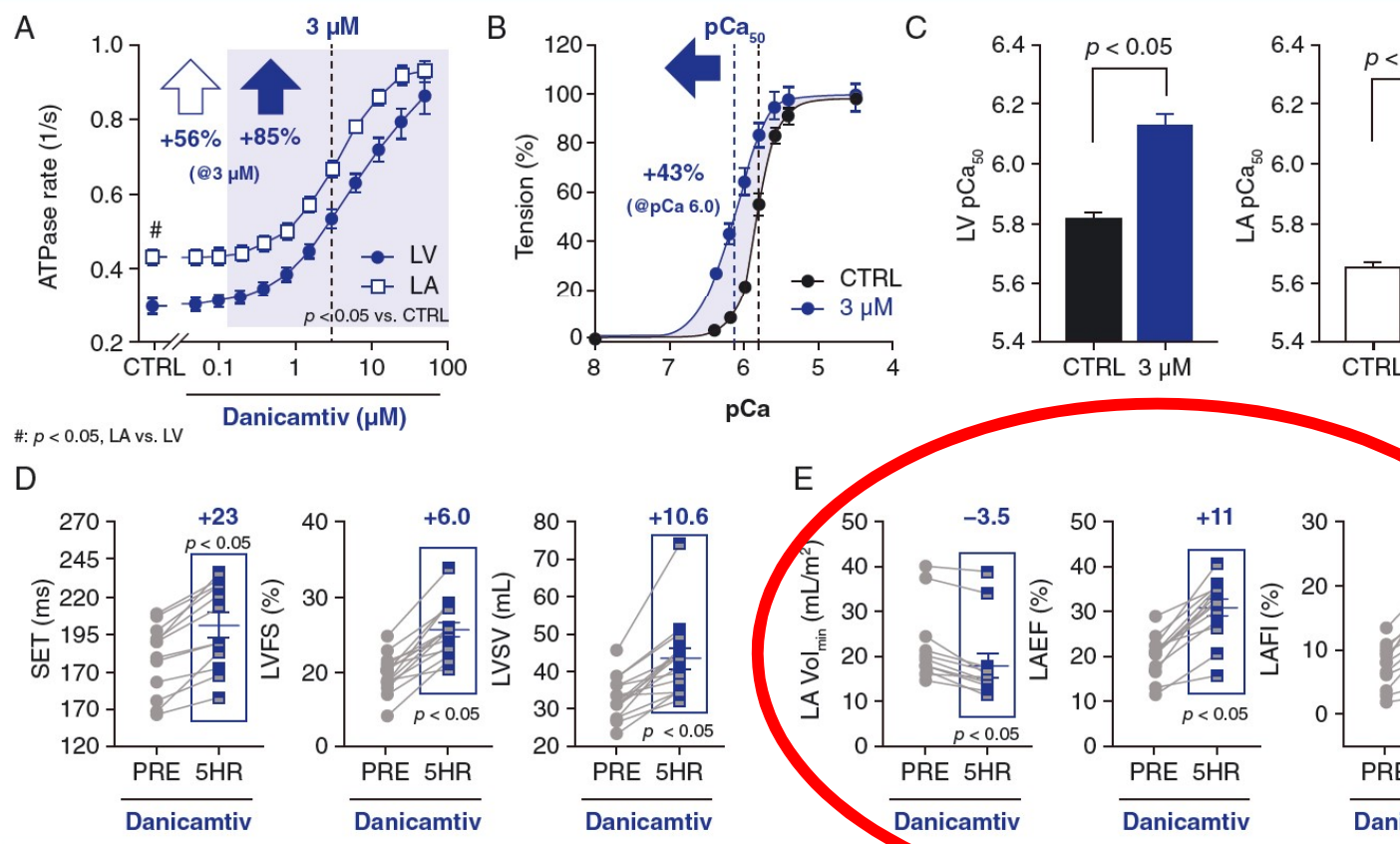
# From myosin activation to myosin inhibition





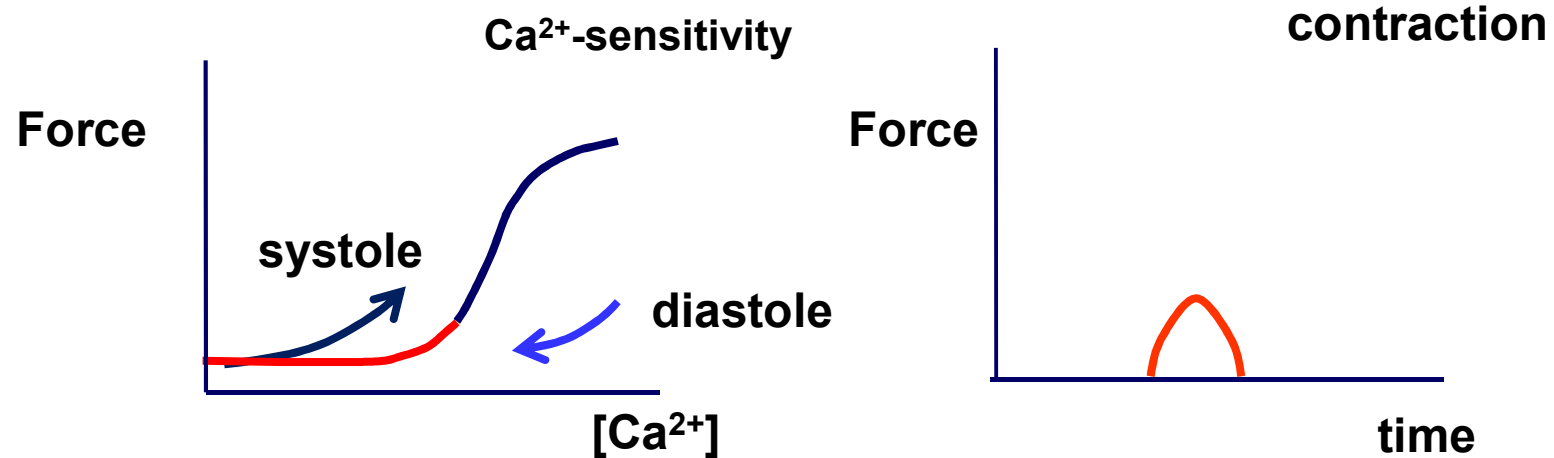
# Effects of danicamtiv, a novel cardiac myosin activator, in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction: experimental data and clinical results from a phase 2a trial

A. Voors<sup>1\*</sup>, Jean-François Tamby<sup>2</sup>, John G. Cleland<sup>3</sup>, Michael Koren<sup>4</sup>, D. J. Van Veldhuisen<sup>5</sup>, Dinesh Gupta<sup>6</sup>, Lars H. Lund<sup>7,8</sup>, Albert Camacho<sup>9</sup>, Ravi Karra<sup>10</sup>, J. W. J. Swart<sup>11</sup>, Pierpaolo Pellicori<sup>12</sup>, Frank Wagner<sup>12</sup>, Ray E. Hersberger<sup>13</sup>, S. S. V. de Boer<sup>14</sup>, Robert Anderson<sup>2</sup>, Anu Anto<sup>2</sup>, Kaylyn Bell<sup>2</sup>, Jay M. Edelberg<sup>2</sup>, J. H. W. J. van der Wal<sup>2</sup>, Marcus Henze<sup>2</sup>, Cynthia Kelly<sup>2</sup>, Gregory Kurio<sup>2</sup>, Wanying Li<sup>2</sup>, J. L. J. van der Wal<sup>2</sup>, Chun Yang<sup>2</sup>, Sam L. Teichman<sup>15</sup>, Carlos L. del Rio<sup>2</sup>, and D. J. Van Veldhuisen<sup>16</sup>



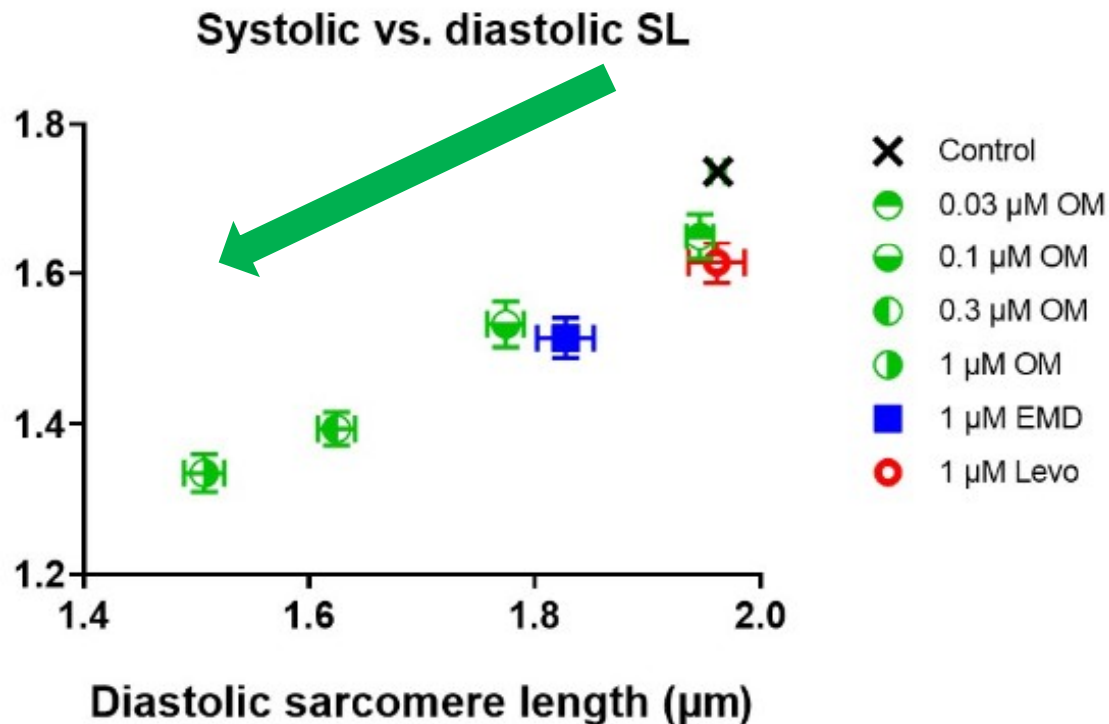
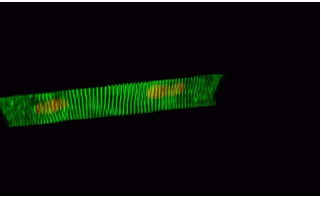
# $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -sensitivity and contractile force under steady-state conditions

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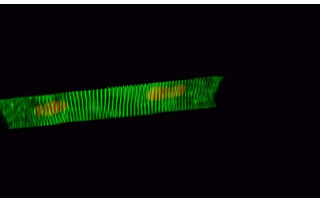




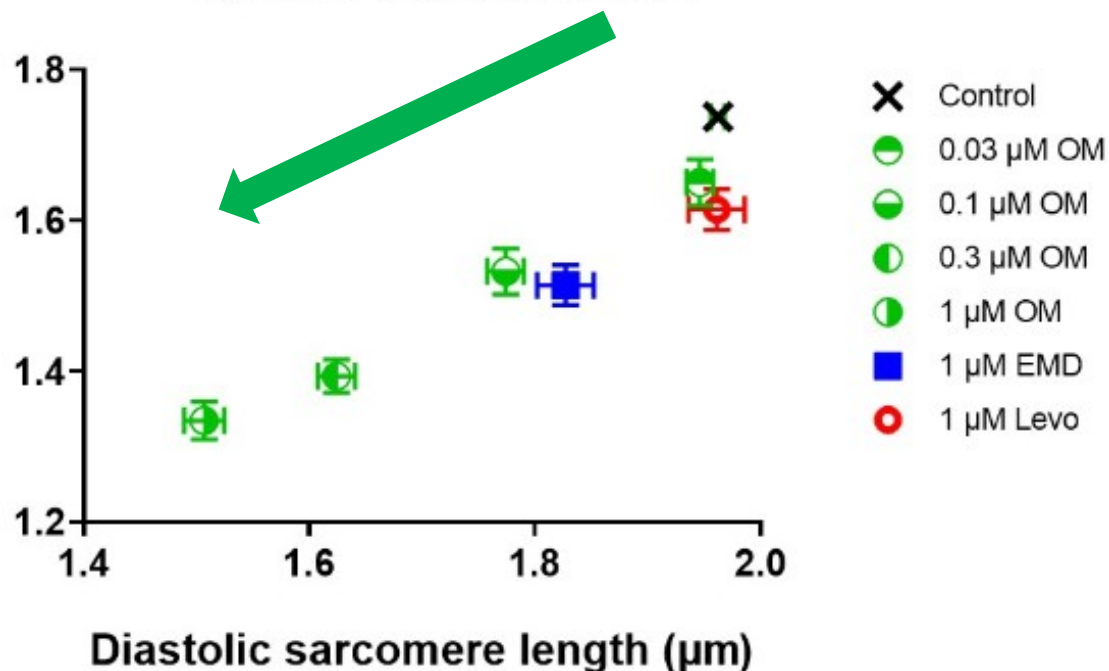
# Changes in diastolic sarcomere length are associated with those in systolic sarcomere length/contraction duration



# Changes in diastolic sarcomere length are associated with those in systolic sarcomere length/contraction duration



### Systolic vs. diastolic SL



### Contraction duration vs. diastolic SL

