

Chapter 1

Background Preparation for Our Expedition

Hey...come on!

I'm Dale, your tour guide for this exciting adventure, an expedition to places where no one has ever been before. This is no ordinary sight-seeing tour; you will be the first to personally view magnificent and wondrous events, providing you with a new, clear insight into the electrophysiology of the heart at a molecular level. Your understanding of the activity of the ions that make the heart tick will empower you with very practical (21st century) knowledge in patient care. Since the heart's electrical messages are recorded by the surface EKG (our main resource for day-to-day cardiac electrophysiological information), we will continuously associate our observations of the activity and behavior of ions with what the EKG records. In this new millennium, understanding still guarantees lasting knowledge.

To prepare for our expedition, you'll need a little background information and a cup of coffee. So, even if you are an expert in the field, please relax and enjoy. I am certain that you will find this fascinating expedition both enlightening and entertaining, as we explore, discover, and understand together.

Hey...let's get going!!



“Understanding is a kind of ecstasy.”

Carl Sagan
from *Broca's Brain*