Research Article

Shenfu Injection: A Famous Chinese Prescription That Promotes HCN4 Activity in Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells

Xinjun Zhao, Qingmin Chu, Wei Wu, Hui Wu, Song Wang, Lijin Qing, Xiaoxiong Zhou, Zhiyun Luo, Liang Kang, and Rong Li

Department of Internal Medicine-Cardiovascular, The First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou 510405, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Rong Li; lr1348@gzucm.edu.cn

Received 10 March 2021; Revised 27 July 2021; Accepted 8 August 2021; Published 18 August 2021

Academic Editor: Shao-Hsuan Kao

Copyright © 2021 Xinjun Zhao et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

We investigated the effects of Shenfu Injection (SFI) on HCN4 activity in bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs). The sample of BMSCs was divided into six groups: a control group, a high-dose SFI group (0.25ml/ml), a middle-dose SFI group (0.1ml/ml), a low-dose SFI group (0.05ml/ml), an adenovirus-encoded control vector group, and an adenovirus-encoded HCN4 group. Cell ultrastructure was observed using a transmission electron microscope. Quantitative reverse transcription PCR (RT-qPCR) was performed to detect HCN4 expression, and HCN4 activity was detected using the whole-cell patch clamp technique. An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay was performed to detect cAMP content. Application of flow cytometry confirmed that the isolated cells showed BMSC-like phenotypes. Differentiation of BMSCs in both the SFI and the adenovirus-encoding HCN4 groups occurred according to the cellular ultrastructure. Application of the whole-cell patch clamp technique revealed that SFI could activate the inward pacing current of BMSCs in a concentration-dependent manner. The RT-qPCR results showed that HCN4 expression was significantly higher in the high-dose SFI group than in the medium- and low-dose groups, whereas the cAMP content in the overexpressed HCN4 group decreased significantly; this content in the high-dose SFI group increased significantly. In conclusion, SFI promotes HCN4 activity in BMSCs, which could explain its treatment effect when administered to patients with cardiovascular diseases.

1. Introduction

Sick sinus syndrome (SSS) refers to a group of heart rhythm disorders caused by problems relating to the sinus node. Currently, there is no effective treatment for SSS, and an electronic pacemaker is required to support heart function in SSS patients [1]. However, electronic pacemakers are associated with several defects. For example, external magnetic noise commonly interferes with their functions, leading to complications [2]. In addition, some patients, especially children with congenital sinoatrial node dysfunction, are not suitable subjects for pacemaker insertion [3]. Therefore, the search for new therapeutic strategies for treating cardiovascular diseases has become imperative.

With advancing gene and cell therapy techniques, the potential development of biological pacemakers is a topic of considerable interest [4]. Given their self-renewal and multipotent abilities, stem cells can potentially serve as carriers. Potapova et al. used mesenchymal stem cells as a transplantation platform and transfected genes to establish an in vitro model of a stem cell-based pacing function [5]. Additionally, a previous study demonstrated the Tbx18-induced phenotypic transformation of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) into pacemaker-like cells [6, 7]. The HCN4 gene is the molecular basis of pacemaker current, which, through depolarization, provides a large proportion of inward current and plays an important role in the generation and autonomous regulation of the heart rate [8–10]. Moreover, this gene is linked to the diastolic depolarization process of the sinoatrial node [10, 11] and is thought to be a determining channel for cardiocytes [12].
Shenfu Injection (SFI) is a well-known modern Chinese medicinal preparation derived from a traditional formulation known as the “Shenfu Decoction.” This injectable herbal drug is prepared from steamed roots of *Panax ginseng* (red ginseng) and processed lateral roots of *Aconitum carmichaelii* (aconite) [13]. Aconite alkaloids and ginsenosides are thought to be the main active ingredients in Shenfu, and modern pharmacological studies have demonstrated that ginsenosides are the components in Shenfu that promote vasodilation. The alkaloids in Shenfu likely contribute critically to its physiological effects by blocking ion channels [14–16]. In China, SFI has been widely used in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, such as chronic arrhythmia, coronary heart disease, and acute myocardial infarction [17,18], whereas the pharmacokinetic properties of SFI have been well investigated [19]; its effects on the pacing function of the sinus node are still not well-understood. In this study, we investigated the effects of SFI on *HCN4* activity in BMSCs. The findings of this study have important implications for the use of SFI in the treatment of heart diseases.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Ethics Statement. The protocol for the use of rabbits in this study was approved by the ethics committee of the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine (approval number: TCMF1-2019021). Before the surgical procedure, the rabbits were anesthetized with isoflurane. Following the surgery, the animals were euthanized via an intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital.

2.2. Preparation of BMSCs and Drug Treatments. Under aseptic conditions, bone marrow was harvested from the tibia and femur condyle of one anesthetized male New Zealand rabbit (1 month old; 0.7 kg) as described in a previous study [20]. The bone marrow was repeatedly blown out with a sterile syringe, and the bone marrow cells were fully dispersed within a single cell suspension. Following centrifugation, the cells were suspended in Dulbecco’s modified eagle medium (DMEM, Gibco), supplemented with 20% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Hyclone) and cultured at 37°C in an incubator with 5% CO₂. After 24 h, 1 μl of adenovirus (MOI value: 500) encoding *HCN4* was added to the cells in a 5% CO₂ incubator at 37°C. Monitoring of the fluorescence intensity and cell state was conducted on the second day, and the cells were used in subsequent experiments 48 h after transfection.

2.3. Adenovirus Infection. Adenovirus-encoding *HCN4* or adenovirus-encoding control vector was prepared by the Zhonghong Boyuan Company (Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China). The *HCN4* sequence (NM_001082707.1) was obtained from NCBI and integrated into the adenovirus following a procedure described in a previous study [23]. BMSCs (2 × 10⁵/well) were seeded into 6-well plates and cultured at 37°C in an incubator with 5% CO₂. After 24 h, 1 μl of adenovirus (MOI value: 500) encoding *HCN4* was added to the cells in a 5% CO₂ incubator at 37°C. Monitoring of the fluorescence intensity and cell state was conducted on the second day, and the cells were used in subsequent experiments 48 h after transfection.

2.4. Whole-Cell Patch Clamp. After transfection or drug treatments, BMSCs were digested with 0.01% EDTA and 0.25% trypsin. BMSCs were patched using the voltage clamp mode at −70 mV. The *HCN* channel currents in the extracellular fluids of the cells under the voltage clamp were recorded for 3 s at a step hyperpolarization voltage of 10 mV. To avoid a change of ion current caused by differential cell volumes, the current density (PA/PF) on the cell membrane per unit of surface area was calculated according to the membrane capacitance displayed on the Axon200B patch clamp amplifier. The activation curve of the pacemaker ion current of BMSCs was drawn with the pCLAMP software, version 10.7.

2.5. Quantitative Reverse Transcription PCR (RT-qPCR). After transfection or drug treatments, the cell homogenate was collected to extract the total RNA following a procedure described in a previous study [24]. The concentration and purity of RNA (OD260/OD280) were determined using a spectrophotometer. The cDNA was synthesized using an RNA reverse transcription kit (CW2569M, CWBIO, China). The reaction system comprised the following components: dH₂O, 9.5 μl; cDNA, 1 μl; upstream primer, 1 μl; downstream primer, 1 μl; and 2 × SYBR Green PCR Master Mix, 12.5 μl. The reaction steps were as follows: predenaturation, 95°C for 10 min; denaturation, 95°C for 10 s; annealing, 58°C for 30 s; extending, 72°C for 30 s; 40 cycles. The primer sequences were obtained from General Biosystems Co., Ltd. (Anhui). The relative *HCN4* expression was determined using the 2^△△CT method. The following primers were used: HCN4 F 5′-CGTTGCAAAGTGAGGGAGG-3′, HCN4 R 5′-GCGAGAATTGTTGACCCCG-3′; GAPDH F 5′-CCACCTTTGTGAAAGCTCATTTCTC-3′; and GAPDH R 5′-TCGTCCCTCCTGGTGCTCT-3′.

2.6. Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay. The cAMP level was detected with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit, following the manufacturer’s instructions (MM-020602, Meimian Bio Ltd., Shanghai, China), as described in a previous study [25].

2.7. Statistical Analyses. All data were expressed as mean ± standard deviations (SD) and analyzed using the GraphPad Prism 7 software. Significant differences among
groups were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey test \((P < 0.01)\).

3. Results

3.1. AAV-Encoding HCN4 Promoted HCN4 Expression in BMSCs. Initially, the isolated cells were identified according to the BMSCs’ surface markers. As shown in Figure 1, the possession of BMSC-like phenotypes by the isolated cells was confirmed by the positive rates of CD45, CD29, and CD44 (1.19%, 98.9%, and 98.19%, respectively) [21, 22].

To assess the effect of SMI on HCN4 activity, we transfected the BMSCs with AAV-encoding HCN4 gene treated as a positive control. GFP expression 48 h after transfection was observed under a microscope in both the empty and overexpressed groups (Figure 2(a)). AAV-encoding HCN4 did not demonstrate cytotoxicity, as evidenced by the healthy growth condition of the cells. The RT-qPCR results showed that HCN4 expression in the overexpressed group was significantly higher than that in the control and scrambled control groups (Figure 2(b)), indicating that the transfection was successful.

3.2. Effects of Shenfu Injection on the Ultrastructure of BMSCs. To illustrate the effects of SFI on the ultrastructure of the BMSCs, we examined the cellular ultrastructure of BMSCs using a transmission electron microscope (Figure 3). The nuclei of BMSCs in the normal saline group were located on one side, evidencing clear nucleoli and nuclear membranes. In the SMI-treated groups, BMSCs were clearly differentiated, as evidenced by the rough endoplasmic reticulum, increased mitochondria, cell expansion, and increased stromal vesicles. In the overexpressed HCN4 group, the nuclei increased in size, while the membrane structure remained intact. Moreover, the rough endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, and stromal vesicles were evidently larger than those in the control group. These results indicate that SMI could promote the differentiation of BMSCs.

3.3. Effect of Shenfu Injection on the I-V Curve in BMSCs. BMSCs could differentiate into cardiac cells with a pacemaker function in vitro. We also detected HCN4 activity using the patch clamp method. As shown in Figure 4, potassium channel activity was significantly enhanced in BMSCs transfected with AAV-encoding HCN4. Overexpression of HCN4 downregulated the I/V curve and increased the max HCN current. BMSCs in the SFI treatment group similarly downregulated the I/V curve and increased the max HCN current in a concentration-dependent manner (Figure 4). These findings suggest that SFI promoted HCN4 activity in BMSCs.

3.4. Effect of Shenfu Injection on the Expression of HCN4 and cAMP in BMSCs. The effects of SFI on HCN4 expression at the mRNA level were also evaluated. HCN4 expression in BMSCs increased significantly after treatment with SFI in a concentration-dependent manner compared with HCN4 expression in the control group (Figure 5(a)). Cellular cAMP level was also determined after SFI treatment. Compared with the control group, the cAMP content in the high-dose SFI group increased significantly, and the cAMP content in the overexpressed HCN4 group decreased significantly (Figure 5(b)). These results suggest that SFI could promote HCN4 activity, with the likely mechanism being regulation of HCN4 expression or cAMP levels.

4. Discussion

The sinoatrial node, which is located in the right upper atrium, is the heart’s natural pacemaker [26]. Symptoms and signs of SSS include abnormal sinus impulses and their transmission, which result from sinus node dysfunction. Clinical symptoms mainly include arrhythmia [27], thromboembolism [28], or any other symptoms requiring pacemaker implantation. Although electronic pacemaker therapy has made great strides, it is still associated with serious flaws [29, 30]. Therefore, biological cardiac pacing has emerged as an important research topic within the field of cardiovascular research.

Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) are pluripotent adult stem cells, which are prominent in the bone marrow. The differentiation of MSCs into special cardiomycocytes to treat bradyarrhythmias, such as SSS, is a promising approach [5, 31]. The HCN gene is present in all autonomic cells. Like other potassium channels [32], it is associated with hyperpolarization activation, potassium ion permeability, and intracellular cAMP regulation, and it plays a role in the generation of sinus node action potential [33, 34]. HCN4, which is sensitive to cAMP, is the main subtype of HCN with the largest distribution in the sinoatrial node [35]. The HCN4 gene is widely used by researchers attempting to construct a biological pacemaker in the field of cardiac biological pacing [33]. Our results showed that the transfection of BMSCs with HCN4 overexpression adenovirus vector could promote the differentiation of BMSCs and induce the expression of hyperpolarized inward pacing current, which further confirms the important role of HCN4 in the pacemaker current of sinoatrial node cells.

SFI is widely used in the treatment of various diseases and has cardiovascular protective effects. For example, by regulating apoptosis, it can reduce myocardial dysfunction after resuscitation [36]. Moreover, it has been shown to improve the cardiac function of rats with heart failure [36], stimulate antioxidative effects, and change the level and distribution of phospholipids, with an evident myocardial protective effect on rats with ischemic heart failure [37]. In this study, we treated BMSCs with different doses of SFI. Our results showed that SFI could stimulate differentiation of BMSCs and increase the intensity of inward pacing current. This effect was strengthened with higher concentrations of SFI, but the pacing current intensity remained lower than that of BMSCs transfected with overexpressed HCN4. In the high-dose SFI group, the expression and activity of HCN4 increased along with cAMP content. However, we found
that the cAMP content decreased in the overexpressed HCN4 group. In the absence of cAMP, multiple HCN4 channel domains and membrane-related intracellular factors in hamster ovary cells reportedly reduce the self-inhibition of HCN4 channel [38], which indicates that cAMP alone is not sufficient for HCN4 activation. In this study, decreased cAMP content in the overexpressed HCN4 group also signaled the activation of cell hyperpolarization which is in a cAMP-independent pathway.

We used SFI to investigate the effect of the Yi Yang Wen Yang method on the biological characteristics of BMSCs as well as “cell biological pacing” and “gene biological pacing.”
Figure 3: The ultrastructure of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) observed with a transmission electron microscope. In the normal saline group, the nuclei of the BMSCs, which had clear nucleoli and nuclear membranes, were positioned on one side. In the Shenfu Injection-treated group, differentiation of BMSCs was conspicuous, evidenced by rough endoplasmic reticulum, increased mitochondria, cell expansion, and increased stromal vesicles. In the overexpressed \textit{HCN4} group, the nuclei were larger, the membrane structure was intact, and there was a clear increase in the rough endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, and stromal vesicles compared with those of the control group. Scale bar: 2 μm.

Figure 4: Continued.
The findings of this study highlight the function of a traditional Chinese medicine on SSS and provide an experimental and theoretical basis for elucidating the role of traditional Chinese medicine in stem cell differentiation and transplantation in the treatment of major cardiovascular diseases. However, the study had certain limitations. First, in vitro experiments were carried out to investigate the effects of SFI on pacemaker function. In vivo experiments should also be conducted to validate our conclusion. Second, the differentiation of BMSCs should be examined using more indices.

In conclusion, SFI can induce the differentiation of BMSCs and improve the biological function by inducing the expression of the HCN4 channel gene in BMSCs.
Data Availability

The datasets used during the present study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Authors’ Contributions

Xinjun Zhao and Qingmin Chu contributed equally to this work.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the NSFC (grant no. 81774260) and the Key Projects of Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Traditional Chinese Medicine (grant no. 20184011).

References

[1] V. Adán and L. A. Crown, “Diagnosis and treatment of sick sinus syndrome,” American Family Physician, vol. 67, no. 8, pp. 1725–1732, 2003.
[2] M. Semelka, J. Gera, and S. Usman, “Sick sinus syndrome: a review,” American Family Physician, vol. 87, no. 10, pp. 691–696, 2013.
[3] P. C. Gillette, C. Shannon, A. Garson Jr. et al., “Pacemaker treatment of sick sinus syndrome in children,” Journal of the American College of Cardiology, vol. 1, no. 5, pp. 1325–1329, 1983.
[4] S. Chauveau, P. R. Brink, and I. S. Cohen, “Stem cell-based biological pacemakers from proof of principle to therapy: a review,” Cytotherapy, vol. 16, no. 7, pp. 873–880, 2014.
[5] I. Potapova, A. Plotnikov, Z. Lu et al., “Human mesenchymal stem cells as a gene delivery system to create cardiac pacemakers,” Circulation Research, vol. 94, no. 7, pp. 952–959, 2004.
[6] Y. Li, M. Yang, G. Zhang et al., “Transcription factor Tbx18 promotes adult rat bone mesenchymal stem cell differentiation to biological pacemaker cells,” International Journal of Molecular Medicine, vol. 41, no. 2, pp. 845–851, 2018.
[7] H. Xiao, Y. J. Yang, Z. L. Lin, S. Peng, S. Lin, and Z. Y. Song, “Transcription factor Tbx18 induces the differentiation of c-kit(+) canine mesenchymal stem cells (cMSCs) into SAN-like pacemaker cells in a co-culture model in vitro,” American Journal of Translational Research, vol. 10, no. 8, pp. 2511–2528, 2018.
[8] M. Baruscotti, A. Barbuti, and A. Buchi, “The cardiac pacemaker current,” Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 55–64, 2010.
[9] A. Buchi, A. Barbuti, D. DiFrancesco, and M. Baruscotti, “Funny current and cardiac rhythm: insights from HCN knockout and transgenic mouse models,” Frontiers in Physiology, vol. 3, p. 240, 2012.
[10] D. DiFrancesco and D. Noble, “The funny current has a major pacemaking role in the sinus node,” Heart Rhythm, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 299–301, 2012.
[11] D. DiFrancesco, “The role of the funny current in pacemaker activity,” Circulation Research, vol. 106, no. 3, pp. 434–446, 2010.
[12] Y. Saito, K. Nakamura, M. Yoshida et al., “HCN4-over-expressing mouse embryonic stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes generate a new rapid rhythm in rats with bradycardia,” International Heart Journal, vol. 59, no. 3, pp. 601–606, 2018.
[13] Y. Li, X. Zhang, P. Lin et al., “Effects of Shenfu injection in the treatment of septic shock patients: a multicenter, controlled, randomized, open-label trial,” Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, vol. 2016, Article ID 2565169, 9 pages, 2016.
[14] J. Zhu, L. Kang, Q. Ye et al., “Effects of Shenfu injection and its main components on the contraction of isolated rat thoracic aortic rings,” PLoS One, vol. 8, no. 10, Article ID e78026, 2013.
[15] Y. Zhang, D. Tian, Y. Huang et al., “Pharmacokinetic evaluation of Shenfu Injection in beagle dogs after intravenous drip administration,” Acta Pharmacutica Sinica B, vol. 6, no. 6, pp. 584–592, 2016.
[16] P. U. Unschuld, “The past 1000 years of Chinese medicine,” The Lancet, vol. 354, p. SIV9, 1999.
[17] J. Ni, Y. Shi, L. Li et al., “Cardioprotection against heart failure by Shenfu injection via TGF-beta/smads signaling pathway,” Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, vol. 2017, Article ID 7083016, 16 pages, 2017.
[18] Z. Guo, D. Niu, Y. Yu, D. Zhen, and W. Li, “Effects of hydration combined with Shenfu injection on contrast-induced acute kidney injury in acute coronary syndrome patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention,” Biomedical Reports, vol. 7, no. 5, pp. 477–481, 2017.
[19] B. Q. Shen, C. Qu, L. Mi, H. Y. Yang, and H. Yang, “Simultaneous quantification of twenty-eight components of Shenfu Injection in rat plasma by UHPLC-QQQ MS and its application to a pharmacokinetic study,” Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis, vol. 203, Article ID 114211, 2011.
[20] W. Zhang, F. Zhang, H. Shi et al., “Comparisons of rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell isolation and culture methods in vitro,” Clinical and Experimental Medicine, vol. 1, no. 2, Article ID e88794, 2014.
[21] H. Liao, Z. Zhong, Z. Liu, L. Li, Z. Ling, and X. Zou, “Bone mesenchymal stem cells co-expressing VEGF and BMP-6 genes to combat avascular necrosis of the femoral head,” Experimental and therapeutic medicine, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 954–962, 2018.
[22] T. R. Ramos, L. I. Sanchez-Abarca, S. Muntion et al., “MSC surface markers (CD44, CD73, and CD90) can identify human MSC-derived extracellular vesicles by conventional flow cytometry,” Cell Communication and Signaling, vol. 14, p. 2, 2016.
[23] W. Xu, J. Cao, Y. Zhou, L. Wang, and G. Zhu, “GPR30 activation improves memory and facilitates DHPG-induced LTD in the hippocampal CA3 of middle-aged mice,” Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, vol. 149, pp. 10–19, 2018.
[24] G. Zhu, X. Wang, S. Wu, and Q. Li, “Involvement of activation of PI3K/Akt pathway in the protective effects of puerarin against MPP+-induced human neuroblastaoma SH-SY5Y cell death,” Neurochemistry International, vol. 60, no. 4, pp. 400–408, 2012.
[25] S.-j. Yang, Z.-j. Song, X.-c. Wang, Z.-r. Zhang, S.-b. Wu, and G.-q. Zhu, “Curculigoside facilitates fear extinction and prevents depression-like behaviors in a mouse learned helplessness model through increasing hippocampal BDNF,” Acta Pharmacologica Sinica, vol. 40, no. 10, pp. 1269–1278, 2019.
[26] G. Bagliani, F. Leonelli, and L. Padeletti, “P wave and the substrates of arrhythmias originating in the atria,” Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 365–382, 2017.

[27] P. H. Brubaker and D. W. Kitzman, “Chronotropic incompetence,” Circulation, vol. 123, no. 9, pp. 1010–1020, 2011.

[28] R. Sutton and R. A. Kenny, “The natural history of sick sinus syndrome,” Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology, vol. 9, no. 6, pp. 1110–1114, 1986.

[29] M. Saito, A. Iannaccone, G. Kaye, K. Negishi, W. Kosmala, and T. H. Marwick, “Effect of right ventricular pacing on right ventricular mechanics and tricuspid regurgitation in patients with high-grade atrioventricular block and sinus rhythm (from the protection of left ventricular function during right ventricular pacing study),” The American Journal of Cardiology, vol. 116, no. 12, pp. 1875–1882, 2015.

[30] F. Z. Ahmed, M. Motwani, C. Cunnington et al., “One-month global longitudinal strain identifies patients who will develop pacing-induced left ventricular dysfunction over time: the pacing and ventricular dysfunction (PAVD) study,” PLoS One, vol. 12, no. 1, Article ID e0162072, 2017.

[31] J. F. Heubach, E. M. Graf, J. Leutheuser et al., “Electrophysiological properties of human mesenchymal stem cells,” The Journal of Physiology, vol. 554, no. 3, pp. 659–672, 2004.

[32] Z. Zhang, Z. Song, F. Shen et al., “Ginsenoside Rg1 prevents PTSD-like behaviors in mice through promoting synaptic proteins, reducing Kir4.1 and TNF-α in the Hippocampus,” Molecular Neurobiology, vol. 58, no. 4, pp. 1550–1563, 2021.

[33] V. Vedantham, “New approaches to biological pacemakers: links to sinoatrial node development,” Trends in Molecular Medicine, vol. 21, no. 12, pp. 749–761, 2015.

[34] B. Husse and W. M. Franz, “Generation of cardiac pacemaker cells by programming and differentiation,” Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, vol. 1863, no. 7, pp. 1948–1952, 2016.

[35] S. Fenske, K. Hennis, R. D. Rötzer et al., “cAMP-dependent regulation of HCN4 controls the tonic entrainment process in sinoatrial node pacemaker cells,” Nature Communications, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 5555, 2020.

[36] W. Gu, C. Li, W. Yin, Z. Guo, X. Hou, and D. Zhang, “Shen-fu injection reduces postresuscitation myocardial dysfunction in a porcine model of cardiac arrest by modulating apoptosis,” Shock, vol. 38, no. 3, pp. 301–306, 2012.

[37] H. Wu, Z. Dai, X. Liu et al., “Pharmacodynamic evaluation of Shenfu injection in rats with ischemic heart failure and its effect on small molecules using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-mass spectrometry imaging,” Frontiers in Pharmacology, vol. 10, p. 1424, 2019.

[38] Z. Liao, D. Lockhead, J. R. S. Clair, E. D. Larson, C. E. Wilson, and C. Proenza, “Cellular context and multiple channel domains determine CAMP sensitivity of HCN4 channels: ligand-independent relief of autoinhibition in HCN4,” The Journal of General Physiology, vol. 140, no. 5, pp. 557–566, 2012.