



## What a year!

For Sophion it has been a year with many changes, a lot of news and countless achievements. It has also, by far, been the best year in the history of Sophion Bioscience and on behalf of the whole Sophion Bioscience team we would like to thank all our partners and customers for their continued support.

In 2017 we have seen an increased activity from most of our users and together with many new installs, we have been busy helping old friends and new users to set up assays for their discovery research, medchem projects and large ion channel screens.

## New owners

The biggest news for us at Sophion, was off course, the announcement of the [management buy-out](#). Although our years together with Biolin Scientific have taught us to think as a high-quality supplier to the pharma industry, and not as a startup, we also believe that we can push further and reach higher on our own. Something that our 2017 results have confirmed.

We are extremely happy about the messages wishing us well and of support that we have had after 'going solo' and we can assure you the excitement was mutual in the Sophion team. An excitement we have transferred into many great new developments in 2017 and a busy and exhilarating development pipeline that we are looking forward introducing in 2018.

## New offices and new people

In July we got access to our new office in Boston, US. Not only are we happy to be closer to many of our US customers, but also that we have upgraded our lab facilities with a more functional application and training laboratory ([Link](#)). Also, our application scientist Dr. Daniel Sauter will relocate to Boston to strengthen the US team and we are in the process of looking for an additional field service engineer in the Boston area.

Also in Japan we have accommodated the increased operational activities by doubling our office and laboratory space and in Denmark we have hired two [new application scientists](#) over the summer.

## Sophion Ion Channel Modulation Symposium (ICMS)

We had another great Sophion Ion Channel Modulation Symposium meeting at the amazing Clare College in Cambridge. Knowledge sharing, socializing and presentations of new discoveries from the top researchers from academia and pharma industry. Feedback

was again fantastic, so with massive encouragement from the audience we decided on the spot to continue in [2018](#).

*"The organisation was perfect, the talks were of sufficient length and the sessions were perfect.....even the last talk was very engaging!"*

If you were not present see the agenda [here](#), photos [here](#) and some of the talks [here](#). ICMS2018 is now open for [registration](#).

## Sophion User Meetings

We also hosted two user meetings in 2017. We would like to thank SanofiAventis in Paris, France for hosting our European event in September. In October we hosted our user meeting in our expanded office in Japan. Both events with interesting talks and good discussion, both within and after the sessions. A special thanks to all the speakers flying in for these events.

We are looking forward to introducing our new laboratory in Boston during the North American User Meeting on 10-11 April 2018

## Publications and reports

[27 new peer reviewed publications](#) using Sophion instruments were published in peer reviewed journals, three of them in Nature. Also, our own application laboratory has been busy and has published [10 new](#) Application Reports.

1000+ application reports and posters were downloaded from our [new website](#) since it's launch in May 2017. The more popular ones were "[High throughput screening](#) of Nav1.4 on Qube", "[Temperature control](#) on Qube", "[Internal solution exchange](#) on Qube", "[Fast desensitizing](#) ion channels on Qube" as well as our reports on [Ca<sub>v</sub>1.2](#).

The most downloaded poster was the QPatch poster on [Ion channel blocking antibodies](#), a study performed by [Iontas](#). Also the [CiPA poster](#) was downloaded numerous times, as well as the hIPS Cardiomyocyte posters. You can find all six posters from 2017 [here](#).

We are also happy to see that it was a variety of almost 100 different Application Reports and posters which was downloaded.

## Qube

It has been a busy year for the Qube development team. Qube software version 'Duck' was launched on July first introducing 384 channel current clamp as a standard feature and since then more customer specific blocks have been launched. We will continue to develop on the Qube software in 2018 and might even have a few surprises coming up on the hardware front in version 'Eagle'.



- **Current clamp** combined with voltage clamp in same sweep
- **Temperature control** on measurement site with both cooling and heating
- **Reduced ligand exposure** time to 0.8 seconds
- **Data migration** by 'one-click' operation
- **Dilution on the fly**. Dilute stock solutions just prior to addition
- **Resuspension on the fly**. Resuspend stock compounds just prior to addition
- **Automatic change of tips** during screening runs
- **Analyzer updates** with emphasis on current clamp and cardiomyocyte analysis

## QPatch

For QPatch we focused on application development in 2017, with emphasis on stem cells, antibodies and CiPA.

- **CiPA.** The QPatch is widely recognized as the benchmark APC system for cardiac safety, and we have obviously participated in the CiPA program with data generation, but also with CiPA related development work with the FDA. This will continue in 2018.
- **Stem cells.** We see an increased interest in stem cells and have worked with several partners and vendors the last year to help our users unleash the potential of the QPatch. Among other see this [Nature publication](#) by Denise Franz, this poster on [dopaminergic neurons](#) or one of these posters on cardiomyocytes ([1](#),[2](#)). If you are more in YouTube mode you can also view Denise's talk [here](#).
- **Antibodies.** As for antibodies, more and more users work on large molecules and we have of course been supporting these efforts. Some of the work is already published [here](#), but if you need help on your large molecule characterization let us know.



On the publication side users of our instruments have been busy. [27 new peer reviewed publications](#) using Qpatch were published in peer reviewed journals, three of them in Nature.

Also, our OEM partner for the QPatch robots, [Tecan](#), featured the QPatch in one of the 2017 issues of the [Tecan Journal](#) and it was exciting for us to see the story of the QPatch coming out to a wider audience.

It also made us proud when the Danish pharmaceutical company Lundbeck A/S used their running QPatches as the scene for a long feature on national TV on the subject of 'better financial support to the science that will ultimately lead to more Nobel prizes'.

We have planned for a QPatch Software update in 2018 and might have a few surprises up our sleeves for that one. Stay tuned.

## ISO and GLP

In October we received our renewed ISO certification. With the split from Biolin Scientific it was key for us to keep our ISO certification, which needed a new audit due to the split. Our quality system gives us a structured way to deal with complaints, production, development, as well as verification and validations which are helpful tools to ensure continued high quality and focus on improvements.

Several QPatch systems have in the past year been validated for GLP use at customer sites. We are happy to assist in driving the field of electrophysiology towards more standardization to ensure repeatable and reproducible results.

## Best wishes for 2018

2018 is getting started and our plan for another productive year and further growth is in place and well underway.

We wish you all the best for 2018 and are looking forward to seeing you.