

# Newsletter

Biophysical Society

MARCH

2013

## DEADLINES

### Membrane Protein Folding

May 19–22, 2013  
Seoul, South Korea

March 19, 2013  
Early Registration

### Mechanobiology of Proteins and Cells

September 30–  
October 3, 2013  
Salisbury Cove, Maine

June 10, 2013  
Abstract Submission

July 8, 2013  
Early Registration

### Video Contest

April 17, 2013  
Video Submission

### Wiki-Edit Contest

July 15, 2013  
Article Submission

## CONTENTS

Biophysicist in Profile	2
Public Affairs	4
Grants & Opps	5
57 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	6
Local Biophysics Gatherings	9

Biophysical Journal	10
Subgroups	11
Members in the News	11
Upcoming Events	12

## Executive Board Bids Farewell

The Biophysical Society Executive Board met for the last time on Friday, February 1, 2013, in Philadelphia. Last year, the Society membership approved the elimination of the Executive Board and named the Society Council the sole governing body. While this will require additional work and time commitment from members of Council, it will also allow its members to become more engaged and better equipped to address the needs of the Society into the future.

At its first meeting, held on February 5, 2013, Council elected the Nominating Committee



Gail Robertson



Wah Chiu



Samantha Harris



Vasanthi Jayaraman



Jane Richardson



David Piston

charged with preparing the slate of candidates for 2015. Elected to the Committee were two members from Council, *Samantha Harris*, University of California, Davis, and *Gail Robertson*, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Also elected were two non-Council members, *Wah Chiu*, Baylor College of Medicine, and *Vasanthi Jayaraman*, University of Texas Health Science Center. In addition to the four elected members, past President *Jane Richardson* and past Nominating Committee Chair *David Piston* will serve on the Committee. *Gail Robertson* was elected Committee Chair.

## 2014 Society Fellows Awards

The Biophysical Society Fellows Awards program has been reinstated for the 2014 awards cycle, with nominations due May 1, 2013. The program was suspended for one year to allow for the development of a more manageable and fair selection process. In the past, the Society Awards Committee was responsible for the selection of all nine Society awards, including the Fellows. The number of Fellow nominations and diversity of scientific expertise required to fairly evaluate all candidates, however, became overwhelming for one committee. An ad hoc subcommittee, chaired by *Steven Block*, Stanford University, conducted

an extensive analysis before developing a proposal, which was approved by the Board and Council, to establish a separate Fellows Committee charged with the solicitation and selection of Fellows. The first Fellows Committee, which is chaired by the Society President, met in Philadelphia and made slight modifications to the material required for nominations and clarified the criteria for the award: sustained scientific excellence in biophysics.

For the full description of the award and to submit a nomination, visit: <http://biophysics.org/Awards/Opportunities/SocietyAwards/tabid/467/Default.aspx>.

## BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

## Officers

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Dorothy Beckett

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Merritt Maduke  
Daniel Minor, Jr.  
Jeanne Nerbonne  
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Claudia Veigel  
Antoine van Oijen  
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## Biophysical Journal

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Executive Officer

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Monika Zakrzewska  
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Bernadette Chepega  
Profile

Ellen Weiss  
Public Affairs



## Biophysicist in Profile

FRANCISCO (PANCHO) BEZANILLA

Incoming Biophysical Society President *Francisco Bezanilla*, better known to most as “Pancho,” has been interested in science and the way things work for as long as he can remember, though it wasn’t until a high school biology teacher linked nerve conduction and electronics that everything came together. “When I learned that nerve conduction was essentially an electrical event, I began to see a real opportunity to use the tools of physics to understand biological phenomena,” Bezanilla said.

Growing up in Chile, Bezanilla headed to the Universidad Católica de Chile as a medical student once he completed high school. After three years of basic sciences, he decided to forgo the clinical path and instead finished his studies in the School of Engineering.

For his PhD, Bezanilla went west, to the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology at Universidad de Chile in Montemar, on the coast of Chile, where he met future colleagues *Ramon Latorre*, *Bob Taylor*, and *Clay Armstrong*. He completed his thesis studying the details of the sodium and potassium conductances during the action potential, using the squid giant axon from the giant Humboldt squid under voltage clamp, while using isotope fluxes simultaneously. Bezanilla followed up his PhD with two postdoc positions—the first at the National Institutes of Health with Taylor and *Kenneth Cole*; the second at the University of Rochester, first with *Paul Horowitz* and then with Armstrong.

Today, Bezanilla specializes in the biophysics of ion channels. Specifically, he works on voltage-dependent processes that span not only ion channels, but many other membrane proteins whose function controls or is affected by the membrane potential. Currently, his lab is trying to understand the molecular basis of the dynamics of voltage sensors, using a combination of electrophysiology, site-directed spectroscopy, mutagenesis, and modeling. Voltage sensors generate a gating current, which can be detected in the external circuit. “The challenge,” he explains, “is to find out how the structure is generating the function.”

Through the years, Bezanilla has been called back to studying the squid axons he met during his PhD several times. Working together with *Brian Salzberg*, whom he met as a postdoc at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole (summer 1972), they published a 1989 paper on optical measurement of the series resistance in squid axon voltage clamp

“When morning came, and the weather was absolutely identical to what it had been, Pancho declared that it was ‘better,’ and we headed up.”

– Francisco (Pancho) Bezanilla

experiments. “It remains one of my personal favorites,” says Salzberg, “not least because we were able to, legitimately cite a 1865 paper by *J.C. Maxwell!*” Bezanilla returned again to squid studies with Latorre, who completed his PhD in the Montemar Laboratory at the same time as Bezanilla, and *Miguel Holmgren* after receiving an NIH grant to reshape the old Montemar lab that was in ruins. As Latorre points out, “Squid lovers are die-hard.”

Described by his colleagues as “persistent” (or perhaps stubborn), Bezanilla has faced and overcome many challenges in his career and in science. His biggest career challenge came in Chile, immediately following the 1973 military coup d’état, which left a less than hospitable environment for academics. Along with colleague *Julio Vergara*, now a professor of Physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, Bezanilla tried to set up a lab. “We did what we could,” he says, “we even managed to publish a paper in *Nature* of work we did while in Chile.” After two years, though, Bezanilla returned to the US to take a position at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he remained for 28 years.

He seems to have discovered a way to overcome his personal scientific challenge, a common challenge to researchers: “Not to give up when we fail repeatedly.” Salzberg and Latorre agree that Bezanilla is unbending in the face of such challenges. “He would tell me to do the experiment anyway, even though we were clever enough to think of a hundred reasons why it might not work,” Salzberg explains. “I’ve always tried to remember that.” Latorre agrees, citing as the most important lesson: “Never to surrender when confronting a tough problem.”

Now a professor at the University of Chicago, where he runs a lab with his wife, *Ana Correa*, Bezanilla hopes to get closer to understanding the molecular motions under

the influence of electric fields. “I believe that excitability will not be fully understood until we can predict the function from the molecular motions of the structure quantitatively,” he explains. “This will require developing new equipment to follow in-time transitions of single molecules and new analytical tools to predict their path, and I hope to contribute to that in the future.”

As the new president of the Biophysical Society (his term began in February), he looks forward to continuing the current growth and success of the Society through promotion of new programs, improvements in the annual meetings, expansion of the *Biophysical Journal*, and, in general, more contact between members of the society. “I ask all members to please make their voices heard by contacting me or members of the council with suggestions or criticisms that may improve the function of our Society,” he says, “I would especially like to hear from our young members.”

When he’s not in his lab or attending to his presidential duties, you can find Bezanilla reading, listening to music, or mountaineering. His persistence and optimism became clear to Salzberg while, during a climbing trip more than 25 years ago, he and Bezanilla were 16,000 feet up the side of a mountain in the north of Colombia. “We encountered whiteout conditions and we were stuck in camp for more than two days, unable to ascend the final 1,500 feet to the summit,” Salzberg explains. The group decided that on the next morning, if the weather had improved, they would continue their climb, and if the weather was the same or worse, they would head down, unable to reach the summit. “When morning came, and the weather was absolutely identical to what it had been, Pancho declared that it was ‘better,’ and we headed up.” The group did eventually reach the summit (and the bottom) safely, and celebrated with Bezanilla’s traditional can of condensed milk.



Bezanilla, an avid climber, poses at the summit of a mountain in the Andes.



Bezanilla and Miguel Holmgren conduct experiments using the squid giant axon in the Laboratory of Montemar in Chile.

## Public Affairs

### Chu and Suresh Announce Resignations

Secretary of Energy *Steven Chu* and National Science Foundation (NSF) Director *Subra Suresh* have both announced their departures from federal service.

Chu announced he planned to stay until at least the end of February, and would possibly continue to serve until a new Secretary is confirmed. Serving for four full years, Chu has held the position longer than any other Energy Secretary. In a letter to employees announcing his resignation, he stated that the department's goals include serving "the country as a Department of Science, a Department of Innovation, and a Department of Nuclear Security." In the same letter, he also noted some of the successes he has overseen at the Department, including the breaking down of walls between basic and applied research.

In a statement released following Chu's announcement, *President Obama* wrote: "As a Nobel Prize winning scientist, Steve brought to the Energy Department a unique understanding of both the urgent challenge presented by climate change and the tremendous opportunity that clean energy represents for our economy."

NSF Director Subra Suresh plans to step down at the end of March. He will become President of Carnegie Mellon University on July 1. In a letter distributed to NSF staff, Suresh wrote, "It has been my extraordinary honor to lead the National Science Foundation, which is blessed with a marvelous cohort of highly talented and devoted staff, as well as hundreds of thousands of innovative grantees and investigators from every field of science and engineering. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the country in this capacity." Suresh served as the director for two years.

Commenting on Suresh's accomplishments as NSF Director, *John Holdren*, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of

the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said, "Subra has made critical contributions to a broad range of science and technology priorities, including expanding federal investments in fundamental research, accelerating the commercialization of university research, and strengthening our scientific collaborations with partners around the world. He also leaves a crucially important legacy of having expanded NSF's family-friendly policies, which make it easier for young scientists to balance the challenges of furthering their careers while raising a family." President Obama echoed these sentiments in his own statement.

President Obama had not named successors for either position as of late February.

### BPS Continues to Advocate for Research Funding

The Biophysical Society, along with more than 3,200 other organizations from the health, education, law enforcement, science, housing, workforce, transportation, and faith communities, delivered a letter to Congress on February 11 urging leaders to avert sequestration by adopting a "balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to Nondefense Discretionary (NDD) programs." Despite their diverse priorities, these organizations share a common purpose of protecting the core government functions that make up NDD spending. Sequestration, which is the automatic spending cuts that were scheduled to start on March 2, would cut these programs by as much as \$26 billion this year and some \$400 billion in total. The letter also pointed out that NDD spending is a very small amount of the federal budget. In 2011, NDD spending represented less than one-fifth of the federal budget and 4.3 percent of our country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

BPS also joined over 270 other biomedical research and health organizations in sending a letter to Congress focused specifically on how cuts

to NIH would be detrimental to the US. The letter points out that the cuts would jeopardize ongoing research, US competitiveness and leadership in medical research, as well employment and local economies where research is conducted. While many think the NIH budget has grown tremendously due to the “doubling” of the budget in the early 2000s, the NIH budget has actually decreased by nearly 20 percent after inflation over the last ten years. Like the previous letter, this one calls for Congress and the Administration to work together to find a solution that preserves the nation’s investment in medical research and the health of the American people.

Both letters can be read in their entirety at: <http://www.biophysics.org/AboutUs/NewsReleases/tabid/2243/Default.aspx>.

## 2014 Federal Budget Process Delayed

With the 2013 federal budget still unknown for the second half of the fiscal year, the President delayed delivering his blueprint for the 2014 budget to Congress. This budget is usually delivered the first week of February. It is expected that the budget will include the same priorities and similar funding levels as past budget proposals submitted to Congress by President Obama. In the past, President Obama has kept research funding flat or requested modest increases.

The government is currently operating under a continuing resolution that expires on March 27. In addition, unless action was taken, on March 1, \$1.2 trillion in automatic federal spending cuts were scheduled to take effect.

Congress created the automatic cuts in August 2011 as part of an agreement to raise the US debt ceiling. In the legislation passed January 1, lawmakers delayed the spending cuts, half of them coming from defense, for two months.

## Grants and Opportunities

### Wellcome Trust-Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Postdoctoral Fellowship

**Objective:** For postdoctoral scientists to undertake research at the interfaces between biology/medicine and mathematics, engineering, computer, physical or chemical sciences, firstly at MIT and then at a UK institution. The aim is to support those who will train in a new research area that is complementary to, but distinct from, their current field of expertise, to enable an interdisciplinary approach to their research question.

**Who may apply:** Individuals about to submit their doctoral thesis or have up to, but no more than, three years postdoctoral experience prior to the deadline.

**Submission Deadline:** July 12, 2013

**Website:** <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Fellowships/International-fellowships/WTX054661.htm>

### Planning Grant for Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases and Disorders Across the Lifespan: Fogarty International Research Training Planning Award

**Objective:** To strengthen the capacity of institutions in low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) to conduct non-communicable disease (NCD) research. The planning grant application should be developed and implemented collaboratively with all designated participating institutions.

**Who may apply:** Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research training as the PD/PI is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support.

**Deadline:** April 17, 2013

**Website:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-277.html>

# 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | February 2–6, 2013

*Always good to see cutting edge research and interact with others in related fields. Many collaborations begin via interactions at this meeting.*

-Joseph G.

*...fundamental research presented by a diverse background of scientists (engineers, physiologists, physicists, and mathematicians).*

-Erik B.

*The world-wide participation is impressive.*

-Roger K.

## Symposia



Meeting attendees spent their days immersed in scientific symposia, poster sessions, and career workshops—and still had time to see the sights in Philadelphia, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

## National Lecture



The 2013 National Lecture, *The Making and Breaking of Nucleosomes*, was presented by *Karolin Luger*, Colorado State University. The Lecture was followed by an ice cream sundae reception and a fervent dance party.

## Career Programs

The BPS Annual Meeting included daily career- and education-related sessions, including committee-sponsored workshops, resume reviews by career experts, and an active career center with dozens of job listings.



### Congratulations Apple iPad Winners



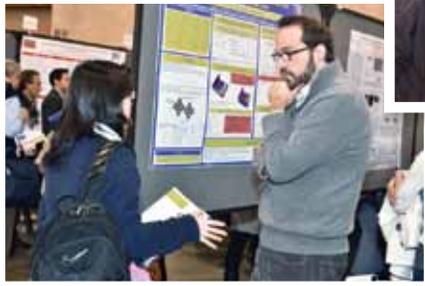
Colby Smith, University of Arkansas, won the exhibitor iPad raffle with only one entry!



Mihaly Mezei, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, won the iPad mini during the new Meet the Speakers/Meet the Editors event.



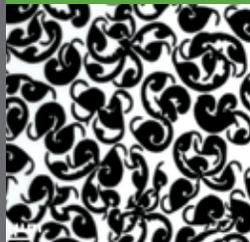
## Poster Presentations



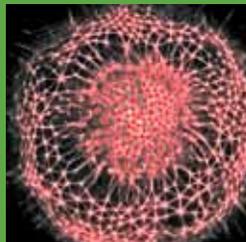
The meeting saw over 3,900 abstracts submitted for presentation. From among the submissions, more than 500 were selected for platform presentations. Nearly 900 posters were presented each day in the exhibit hall.

## Image Contest

The Biophysical Society's third annual Image Contest, sponsored by Photometrics, received over 30 submissions. The 10 finalist entries were displayed at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, where attendees voted for their top two images. The prizes were donated by Asylum Research. Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. For the description of the images, visit [www.biophysics.org](http://www.biophysics.org).



**1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
**Carbon Nanodiamond Particles (1 wt %) Alter the Morphology of DPPC Monolayers**  
 Prajnaparamita Dhar



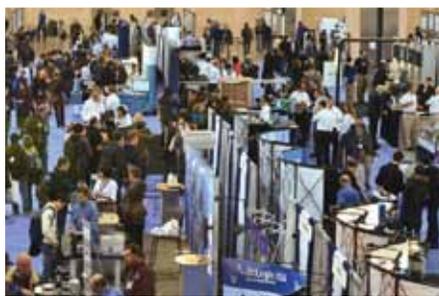
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**  
**Geodesic Actin Structure**  
 Dong-Hwee Kim



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**  
**Number Six is Alive**  
 Marketa Havrdova

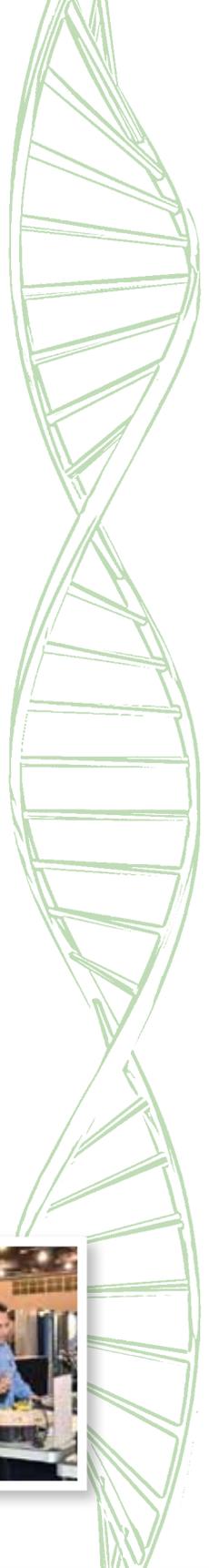


1<sup>st</sup> Place Image Contest Winner, Prajnaparamita Dhar



## Exhibits

With a record number of new companies showing off their products, attendees had the opportunity to see the latest lab equipment, scientific publications, and explore new technologies in the exhibit hall during the meeting.



57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | February 2–6, 2013

## 2013 SRAA Winners



The 13 winners of the annual Student Research Achievement Awards were recognized at the awards ceremony on February 4. The students were selected by judges from the Society's subgroups for their outstanding presentations during the poster competition. One hundred and forty-one students participated in the competition. The winners are:

**Bioenergetics**

*Khadijeh Alnajjar*, Wright State University  
*The Role of the N-terminus of Subunit III in Proton Uptake in Cytochrome C Oxidase of Rhodospirillum rubrum*

**Biological Fluorescence**

*Jie-Pan Shen*, Academia Sinica, Taiwan  
*Multiple Mine-Associated States and Nucleoid Stabilize Self-Organized Minde Pattern Formation in E. coli*

*Anand Singh*, National University of Singapore  
*SPIM-FCCS: A Novel Technique to Quantitate Protein-Protein Interaction in Live Cells*

**Biopolymers in vivo**

*Shahar Sukenik*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel  
*Thermodynamic Fingerprints Reveal Variability in Cosolute Effect on Peptide Folding*

**Exocytosis & Endocytosis**

*Reuben Friend*, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom  
*VAMP 3 and 8 Define Distinct Vesicle Pools that Regulate the Secretion of Inflammatory Mediators in Human Mast Cells*

**Intrinsically Disordered Proteins**

*Kiersten Ruff*, Washington University  
*Modulation of Polyglutamine Conformations and Associations by C-terminal Proline Rich Regions from Exon 1 of Huntingtin*

**Membrane Biophysics**

*David Baez-Nieto*, CINV, Chile  
*Voltage-dependence in Thermo-voltage Sensitive Channel TRPV1, a Delocalized Voltage Sensor?*

**Membrane Structure & Assembly**

*Stefan Scheidelaar*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
*Towards Detergent Free Solubilization of Membrane Proteins into Nanodiscs: a Biophysical Study on the Interaction Between Styrene Maleic Acid (SMA) Copolymers and Synthetic Phospholipid Vesicles*

**Molecular Biophysics**

*Swati Tyagi*, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Germany  
*Long-term Single-molecule TIRF Observation of Biomolecules without Immobilization*

**Motility**

*Li Wang*, University of Iowa  
*Cardiac Myosin Binding-Protein C (CMYBP-C) Phosphorylation Affect Cross Bridge Function*

**Nanoscale Biophysics**

*Niccolo Banterle*, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Germany  
*Absolute Stoichiometry of the Nuclear Pore Complex*  
*Ziqing Zhao*, Harvard University  
*Spatial Organization of RNA Polymerase II Revealed by Super-Resolution Imaging of Mammalian Cell Nucleus*

**Permeation & Transport**

*Kuang Shen*, California Institute of Technology  
*Activated GTPase Movement on SRP RNA Drives Cotranslational Protein Targeting*

# Local Biophysics Gatherings

The Biophysical Society is pleased to be sponsoring several local networking events in 2013. This program, which is in its third year, provides members an opportunity to apply for funds to organize an event close to home, bringing together members and non-members interested in biophysics and the Society. The program has grown quickly, from

two events in 2011 to ten this year. Two events, shown on the map below in gray, have already taken place. The remaining events are listed on the map in black. Information on each event will be available on the Biophysical Society website and will be emailed to members living near the meeting sites.

## Networking Events in US



## Networking Events Outside the US



Interested in attending one of these events? Please visit the Society website for more details: [www.biophysics.org](http://www.biophysics.org) click 'Membership/Subgroups' then 'Networking Events'.



## Biophysical Journal Editor's Corner

### Best of 2012

Recently, *Biophysical Journal* compiled a supplement issue containing a collection of papers that were the most downloaded in 2012. The list of papers included in that issue are below. To view the virtual issue, go to [www.biophysj.org](http://www.biophysj.org).

#### Reviews

*Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Towards a Unified View on Physiological Calcium Regulation of Voltage-gated Sodium Channels*  
Filip Van Petegem; Paolo A. Lobo;  
Christopher A. Ahern

#### Biophysical Letters

*Imaging Protein Structure in Water at 2.7 nm Resolution by Transmission Electron Microscopy*  
Mirsaidov, Utkur M.; Zheng, H.; Casana, Y.; Matsudaira, P.

*Mechanosensing in T Lymphocyte Activation*  
Judokusumo, E.; Tabdanov, E.; Kumari, S.; Dustin, Michael L.; Kam, Lance C.

*Direct Measurement of the Mechanical Properties of Lipid Phases in Supported Bilayers*  
Picas, L.; Rico, F.; Scheuring, S.

#### Regular Articles

*In Vivo Imaging of the Actin Polymerization State with Two-Photon Fluorescence Anisotropy*  
Vishwasrao, Harshad D.; Trifilieff, P.; Kandel, Eric R.

*Crosstalk and Competition in Signaling Networks*  
Michael A. Rowland; Walter Fontana;  
Eric J. Deeds

*Live-Cell Fluorescence Microscopy with Molecular Biosensors: What Are We Really Measuring?*  
Haugh, Jason M.

*Impact of Methylation on the Physical Properties of DNA*  
Perez, A.; Castellazzi, C.; Battistini, F.; Collinet, K.; Flores, O.; Deniz, O.; Ruiz, M.; Torrents, D.; Eritja, R.; Soler-Lopez, M.; Orozco, M.

*Membrane Tension, Myosin Force, and Actin Turnover Maintain Actin Treadmill in the Nerve Growth Cone*  
Craig, Erin M.; Van Goor, D.; Forscher, P.; Mogilner, A.

*Fluorescence Fluctuation Spectroscopy Enables Quantitative Imaging of Single mRNAs in Living Cells*  
Wu, B.; Chao; Jeffrey A.; Singer, Robert H.

*Protein Folding Is Mechanistically Robust*  
Weber, Jeffrey K.; Pande, Vijay S.

*Determination of Membrane-Insertion Free Energies by Molecular Dynamics Simulation*  
Gumbart, J.; Roux, B.

### Know the Editors

Each month we feature a *Biophysical Journal* (BJ) editor and highlight a BJ section.



*Kathleen Hall*  
Washington University  
School of Medicine,  
Associate Editor of Proteins  
and Nucleic Acid Section

#### Q: What is your area of research?

My research interests focus on RNA and RNA:protein interactions. We use NMR, fluorescence, ITC, and computational methods to characterize the fundamental properties of the molecules and their associations. Our goals are to describe the conformational dynamics of RNAs, and the molecular basis of specific RNA:protein recognition.

**Q: As Associate Editor of the Proteins & Nucleic Acids section, what type of papers is *BJ* looking for in that area?**

We are looking for manuscripts that bring new insights to fundamental properties of these molecules, such as ion-dependent folding of RNA or conformational states of intrinsically disordered proteins. New methods that provide new perspectives on biological systems are essential, such as super-resolution fluorescence in nanoscopy of cell surface proteins or combinations of molecular dynamics simulations with NMR data to describe ensembles of proteins in solution. One of the modern challenges of protein biophysics is mapping and predicting protein:protein interactions, and papers describing novel assemblies and their thermodynamics and kinetics are important to be able to appreciate how such complexes function in vivo. Theoretical approaches to that can be used to predict or interpret experimental results are key to biophysics, such as protein packing and RNA electrostatics, and we need more of these papers. Single-molecule biophysics is exploding, with applications to protein folding, RNA folding, DNA:protein interactions, and protein:protein complexes, and *BJ* is a natural venue for those papers.

If I may be permitted an editorial comment, I would say that good science is a community effort as well as an individual responsibility. *BJ* is a Society journal where manuscripts are handled by scientists who work hard to achieve and maintain standards of excellence for all papers that we publish. In my section of Proteins and Nucleic Acids, we welcome experimental, computational, theoretical, and methodological papers that expand general knowledge and offer exciting new discoveries.

**Q: What is the most rewarding part of being an Associate Editor?**

As an Associate Editor, I have been able to bring together a superb group of Editorial Board Members who are experts in their fields. They are the backbone of the Journal for they represent research areas that are fundamental to biophysics and fields that are emerging. With such Members, authors can be assured that their manuscripts will be handled by scientists who are active in their research areas and leaders in their field. These Members work to ensure that *Biophysical Journal* is the premier journal for our Society and for biophysics.

## Subgroups

### IDP

Congratulations to the two IDP Postdoctoral Research Award winners, *Xu Wang*, University of Texas-Houston Medical School, and *Abhinav Nath*, Yale University. Each received a \$500 prize and presented a talk at the subgroup symposium, which took place, February 2, 2013.

At the annual business meeting, *Doug Barrick* completed his term as Subgroup Chair and *Ashok Deniz* took over. *Elizabeth Rhoades* began as Secretary-Treasurer. The subgroup chose *Elizabeth Komives* as Subgroup Chair-elect and *Tanja Mittag* as Secretary-Treasurer-elect. *Garyk Papoian* was elected to a three-year term as council member. The Subgroup also elected two new junior officers: *Lauren Ann Metskas*, Yale University, as the Graduate Student Representative, and *Rahul Das*, Washington University, St. Louis, as Postdoctoral Representative.

This year's symposium was organized by *Ursula Jakob* and *Garyk Papoian* around the theme of Functional Roles of Protein Disorder. *Ben Schuler* and *Jianhan Chen* were chosen by the subgroup to organize the 2014 symposium.



### Suggest a Student or Postdoc to Spotlight

Do you have a spotlight-worthy student or postdoc in your lab? Let us know. Send his/her name to [society@biophysics.org](mailto:society@biophysics.org) so that they can be featured in our monthly newsletter.

## Members in the News



**James Hamilton**, Boston University School of Medicine and Society member since 1981, has been selected to be a fellow of the Massachusetts Academy of Sciences (MAS).



**Helen M. Berman**, Rutgers University and Society member since 1980, is the most recent recipient of the DeLano Award. This award is given by The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

### May

#### May 19–22, 2013

Membrane Protein Folding  
*Seoul, South Korea*  
[www.biophysics.org/  
2013korea](http://www.biophysics.org/2013korea)

#### May 15–19, 2013

4th Workshop on Biomolecules  
and Nanostructures  
*Pultusk, Poland*  
[www.nanofun.edu.pl/  
bionano4/conference-poster.  
html](http://www.nanofun.edu.pl/bionano4/conference-poster.html)

### June

#### June 5–7, 2013

NIMBioS Investigative Workshop:  
Modeling Blood Cell Interactions  
(MBCI)  
*Knoxville, Tennessee*  
[www.nimbios.org/workshops/  
WS\\_bci](http://www.nimbios.org/workshops/WS_bci)

#### June 7–10, 2013

Cardiac Biology: From Development  
to Regenerative Medicine  
*Heidelberg, Germany*  
[www.embo-embl-symposia.org/  
symposia/2013/EES13-02/  
index.html](http://www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2013/EES13-02/index.html)

### July

#### July 13–17, 2013

9<sup>th</sup> European Biophysics Congress  
*Lisbon, Portugal*  
[www.ebsa2013.org/](http://www.ebsa2013.org/)

#### July 29–August 1, 2013

Structural Life Science  
*Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan*  
[www.c-linkage.co.jp/ICSG2013/](http://www.c-linkage.co.jp/ICSG2013/)

### August

#### August 4–8, 2013

EMBO Conference—  
Helicases and nucleic  
acid translocases  
*Cambridge, United Kingdom*  
[www.biochemistry.org/tab-  
id/379/MeetingNo/74HDN/  
view/Conference/default.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/tab-id/379/MeetingNo/74HDN/view/Conference/default.aspx)

#### August 4–9, 2013

Clusters, Nanocrystals &  
Nanostructures  
*South Hadley, Massachusetts*  
[grc.org/programs.aspx?year=  
2013&program=clusters](http://grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2013&program=clusters)