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Biophysical Society Congratulates Member Brian Kobilka on Winning the Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Bethesda, MD - The Biophysical Society congratulates Brian Kobilka, Ph.D., on being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Robert J. Lefkowitz, PhD, for studies of G-protein-coupled receptors (“GPCRs”). Kobilka is a professor and chair of molecular and cellular physiology at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He has been a member of the Biophysical Society since 2003, has spoken at the Society’s Annual Meeting, and currently serves on the Program Committee.

Speaking about the significance of Kobilka and Lefkowitz’s work, Society President Jane Richardson noted, “The G-protein-coupled receptors are of central medical importance because their critical biological functions in sensing and signaling have made them the targets of many drugs. GPCRs are also central for the biophysical understanding of their tightly controlled communication between the outside and the inside of our cells.”

Richardson continued, “The Lefkowitz lab and its affiliates, including Brian Kobilka, have for many decades contributed enormously to biophysical and biochemical characterization of GPCR function, but an atomic-level structure for one of these receptors was a long-sought, elusive goal. The elegant crystal structures obtained by Brian Kobilka in 2007 and since have been a dramatic step enabling further insights in this important field.”

Kobilka and Lefkowitz will receive their award on December 10th at the Nobel Banquet in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Biophysical Society, founded in 1956, is a professional, scientific society established to encourage development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics. The Society promotes growth in this expanding field through its annual meeting, monthly journal, and committee and outreach activities. Its members are located throughout the U.S. and the world, where they teach and conduct research in colleges, universities, laboratories, government agencies, and industry.

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