Biophysical Society

June 1, 2014

Dear Biophysical Society Member:

The 2014 ballot for the election of President-Elect, Secretary, and four members of Council is enclosed. Also enclosed are biographical sketches of and statements from all of the candidates.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the candidates before casting your vote.

Council approved the current slate of candidates, presented by the Nominating Committee, when it met in February. The Committee worked diligently to ensure that the slate reflects the diversity of scientific interests and demographics of the Society's membership.

The Biophysical Society, currently with over 9,300 members, continues to be a vital and growing organization, thanks in large part to the active involvement of its members. Each year, a large fraction of the membership participates in the election process. Your participation in the election of the leaders of the Society is important to its future.

Please exercise your right to vote by casting your ballot before the August 1, 2014, deadline.

Sincerely,

Lukas Tamm
Biophysical Society Secretary

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2014 Nominees for President-Elect

(Vote for One)

Susan Gilbert

PhD

Professor, Head Department of Biological Sciences, Center for Biotechnology & Interdisciplinary Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Research Interests: Structure and mechanism of microtubule-dependent kinesin ATPases involved in cell motility and microtubule dynamics; transient-state kinetic analysis of enzyme reaction mechanisms.

Education: BA, Chemistry, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, 1972; MS, Microbiology, University of Connecticut-Storrs,1978; PhD, Cell Biology, Dartmouth College, 1986; Postdoctoral Fellow, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Pennsylvania State University,1986-1994.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 1995-2001; Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2001-2007; Member, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, 1996-2007; Professor & Head, Department of Biological Sciences, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2007-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Muscular Dystrophy Association Postdoctoral Fellow, 1987-1989; American Cancer Society Junior Faculty Research Award, 1996-1999; March of Dimes Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award, 1996-1998; NIAMS NIH Career Development Award, 2002-2007; Fellow of the American Academy of Nanomedicine, 2005-2008; Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 2007-2012; Editorial Board Member, *Biophysical Journal*, 2007-2013; Rensselaer Recognition of Excellence in Mentoring, 2009; Member, NIH Nuclear and Cytoplasmic Structure/Function and Dynamics Study Section, 2010-2014; Elected Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2011; MERIT Award, NIH NIGMS, 2013.

Biophysical Society Activities: Member of BPS and Motility Subgroup 1995-present; Membership Committee, 2006-2012; Chair, Membership Committee, 2006-2009; Member Services Committee, 2006-2009; Council 2007-2011; Executive Board, 2009-2011; Editorial Board Member, *Biophysical Journa*l, 2007-2013; Motility Subgroup Co-Chair, 2010.

Candidate's Statement: The Biophysical Society, from my first Annual Meeting, has always felt like my professional home. Imagine my surprise and excitement at that first meeting, when I learned that there were many other scientists who also appreciated presteady-state kinetics and quantitative approaches to understand the inner workings of the cell. Over the years, I have met and talked with a wide variety of scientists through BPS, from students to established investigators, and I have never failed to be impressed with the strong sense of community fostered by the Society. Each member shares the thrill of scientific discovery, excellence, and innovation. Although the Society is diverse, it is also inclusive, and there is a sense of ownership and commitment to BPS by its members—by us. The Biophysical Society continues to grow in membership, in part because it sits at the interface between the physical and biological sciences. This juncture is a stimulating environment for cross-fertilization, and activity at this juncture has resulted in many new ideas and innovative technologies, all of which most certainly will impact the future of science, as well as the education and training of our next generation of scientists and engineers.

The Biophysical Society is strong and vibrant, and as President, my highest priority will be to continue to promote scientific excellence, excitement, and innovation at the Annual Meeting and the Thematic Meetings, and through The *Biophysical Journal*. Although these are difficult economic times, the Society's fiscal health has remained strong, in part due to the steady growth of our membership, which is linked to our stimulating and engaging scientific programs. It is the science and the scientists that bring us back to BPS year after year.

One hallmark of BPS is its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, which must be maintained to ensure our position in the global network of science. We must continue to enhance the participation of our diverse membership in all activities, including Society governance and scientific programming. Further, we must continue to meet the needs of an increasingly international membership by a combination of sponsoring thematic meetings at international venues and Annual Meetings at US venues that are convenient for international travel. We must also continue to support the participation and attendance of students and early career scientists with travel awards. Students and early career members are the future of BPS, and BPS must represent their interests and promote their professional development. We must continue to expand programs that hone the next generation of leaders.

Advocacy for science is a very important goal of BPS, which it has strongly pursued through the activities of the Public Affairs Committee, as well as via other platforms. If I am elected President, one goal will be to emphasize to policymakers the importance of predictable and modest growth in funding for research. While there has been much discussion about the growing need for scientists, engineers, and other technically skilled workers to meet the global challenges ahead, the link between stable funding for science and meeting these needs has not been convincingly made to the lay public, business leaders, or our policymakers. Funding for science is also an investment in training the next generation of scientists and engineers, and this investment will fuel our current and future economy by training tomorrow's innovators.

2014 Nominees for President-Elect

Suzanne Scarlata

PhD

Professor, Department of Physiology & Biophysics
Stony Brook University

Research interests: G proteins; calcium signaling; phospholipid metabolism; membrane structure and organization; RNA silencing; enzyme activation; fluorescence spectroscopy and imaging.

Education: BA, Chemistry, Temple University, 1979; PhD, Physical Chemistry, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1984.

Summary of Professional Experience: Member of Technical Staff, AT&T Bell Laboratories, 1984-1986; Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College, 1987-1991; Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology & Biophysics, Stony Brook University, 1991-1997; Associate Professor, Department of Physiology & Biophysics, Stony Brook University, 1997-2004; Professor, Department of Physiology & Biophysics, Stony Brook University, 2004-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: NIH FIRST Award, 1988; Member, American Heart Association (AHA) National Study Section, 1996-2000; Chair, Pressure Studies of Biological Systems, European High Pressure Research Group, XXXIVth Meeting, 1996; US Department of Education GAANN Award, 2000; AHA Established Investigator Award, 2001; New York State Technology NYSTAR Award, 2002; Editorial Board Member, Analytical Biochemistry, 2002-Present; Member, NIH BBRC Study Section, 2003-2006; Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 2004-2009; Co-chair and Organizer, FASEB Summer Research Conference on Phospholipases, 2006, 2008; Member, ASBMB Program Committee, 2008; Member, Methods and Applications of Fluorescence Spectroscopy Steering Committee, 2008-present; Keck Foundation Award, 2009; Member, University of Montana CoBRE Advisory Committee, 2012-present; Faculty of 1000, 2012-present; Editorial Board Member, *BBA Biomembranes,* 2012-present; Associate Editor, *Journal of Bioenergetics and Biomembranes*, 2013-present; Member, NIH-BBM Study Section, 2013-present; Member, Laboratory of Fluorescence Dynamics Advisory Committee, 2014-present.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 1983; Committee for Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW), 1997-1999; Chair, CPOW, 1999; Education Committee, 2000-2006; Chair, Education Committee, 2001-2003; Program Committee, 2007-2009; Council, 2005-2008; Nominating Committee, 2006; Executive Board, 2006-2008; Chair, Biological Fluorescence Subgroup 2009, 2010; Finance Committee, 2010-2012; Public Affairs Committee, 2009-Present.

Candidate's Statement: I've only missed one BPS meeting since 1984 because of the birth of my first daughter. Those first meetings consisted mostly of handwritten slides on overhead projectors, keynote addresses in the banquet hall after the catered chicken dinner, and hand-made posters made on construction paper. I find it amazing that the meeting has grown so much but still retains that collegial, small-meeting character. Even more amazing to me is the exploding growth in our ability to probe the 'private lives' of proteins in complexes and in cells, and the technological advances we have achieved from these findings. Since that first meeting, I have had the opportunity to serve on many BPS committees and feel that our strength and success comes from our continued effort to strive for diversity in terms of science, age, gender, race, and nationality. While I feel that our committees and subgroups represent the Society's membership and goals very well, I would like to propose the formation of a committee or task force that focuses on the major issue threatening our Society membership—*funding*. I think that, as a Society, we need to directly and cohesively address this issue. One idea would be to organize a committee representative of the Society including both US and foreign members that would gather ideas and suggestions from our members to come up with a list of thoughts and recommendations in a transparent way. The committee would submit and discuss these ideas with representatives of funding agencies. Additionally, the committee would liaise with the Public Affairs and Education Committees in developing ways to educate the general public and government representatives about the importance of basic biophysical research in order to help garner enhanced support from funding agencies. The committee would also evaluate the potential of combining efforts with other scientific societies. Many members of the Society have good ideas about how to improve funding and provide better opportunities for young investigators. It is time to get together and find the best and most feasible approaches.

2014 Nominee for Secretary

(Vote for One)

Frances Separovic

PhD

Professor, Head
School of Chemistry
University of Melbourne,
Australia

Research Interests: Membrane biophysics; structural biology; model membrane systems; NMR spectroscopy; biological solid-state NMR; membrane-active peptides; antimicrobial peptides; amyloid antibiotic resistance.

Education: BA, Math & Physics, Macquarie University, 1983; BA (Hons), Physics, Macquarie University, 1985; PhD, Physics, University of New South Wales, 1992; Postdoctoral Fellow, NIAAA National Institutes of Health, 1994-1995.

Summary of Professional Experience: Technical Officer, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), 1979-1983; Experimental Scientist, CSIRO, 1984-1993; Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO, 1993-1995; Associate Professor & Reader, School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne, 1996-2005; Adjunct Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry, San Diego State University, 2001-2011; Professor, School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne, 2005-present; Honorary Research Fellow, Birkbeck College, University of London, 2008-2009; Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne, 2009-2010; Head of School, School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne, 2010-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activites: Australian Academy of Science Award, Kyoto University, Japan 1993; Editorial Board Member, *Concepts in Magnetic Resonance,* 1996-2008; Visiting Fellow, University of Oxford, 2000; Council member, International Union Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB) 2002-2005; Visiting Professor, University of California San Diego, 2004; Visiting Professor, Utrecht University, 2004; Yokohama Industrial Fellowship, Yokohama National University, 2005; Section Editor, *Biochimica Biophysica Acta – Biomembranes,* 2006-present; Robertson Award, Australian Society for Biophysics, 2009; Australian Academy of Science Award, Birkbeck College, University of London, & University of Oxford, 2009; Editorial Board Member, *Accounts of Chemical Research,* 2009-present; Visiting Professor, University of Minnesota, 2009; Visiting Professor, University of Chicago, 2009; ANZMAG Medal, Australian New Zealand Society for Magnetic Resonance, 2011; ISMAR Fellow, International Society for Magnetic Resonance, 2012; Editor, *European Biophysics Journal,* 2012-present; Australian Research Council College of Experts, 2014-2016; Fellow, Australian Academy of Science, 2012; Visiting Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2014.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 1985; Membrane Structure and Assembly Subgroup, 1995-present; International Relations Committee 1998-2001, 2008-2014; Chair, Membrane Structure & Assembly Subgroup 2006-2007; Council 2006-2009; Program Committee 2009-2011; Nominating Committee 2010-2011; Fellow of Biophysical Society 2012.

Candidate's Statement: Since presenting a poster as a student at the 1986 Biophysical Society meeting in San Francisco, I have been to almost every Annual Meeting of the Society. I missed the 1990 meeting as I went to the IUPAB congress in Vancouver and was determined not to miss another Biophysical Society meeting, which has become my 'scientific home'. Living in Australia, I find the flight to the USA a little wearing but from the time I enter the convention centre, the energy returns and the excitement begins. The Society brings together researchers in biophysics from around the globe and succeeds in stimulating across disciplines and international boundaries. This success is due to a large extent by the hard work behind the scenes of the Society Officers, members of Council, the Executive Office, and members of Society and Subgroup committees. As Secretary I will provide liaison between the committees and have an additional reason not to miss the annual meeting. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve the Biophysical Society.

2014 Nominees for Council

(Vote for Four)

Ruth Heidelberger

MD, PhD

Professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, University of Texas Medical School at Houston

Research Interests: Exocytosis and endocytosis; ion channels and membrane biophysics; calcium dynamics; membrane fusion; optogenetics.

Education: BS, Chemistry, Stony Brook University, 1984; PhD, Neurobiology & Behavior, Stony Brook University, 1991; MD, Medicine, Stony Brook University, 1993; Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Membrane Biophysics, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, 1993-1996.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, 1996-2004; Associate Professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, 2004-2009; Professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, 2009-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Phi Beta Kappa, 1983; Sigma Xi Award, 1984 & 1991; Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, 1993-1995; Max Planck Gesellschaft Fellow, 1995; Klingenstein Fellowship Award, 1997-2001; Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 1997-2001; Distinguished Alumnus Award, Department of Neurobiology & Behavior, Stony Brook University, 2002; Editorial Board, *Journal of Neurophysiology*, 2003-present; Scientific Review Panels: NIH 1998, 2010, 2011 and NSF 2000-2013.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member, 1995-present; Exocytosis and Endocytosis Subgroup Executive Committee, 2006-2010, 2013; Chair, Exocytosis and Endocytosis Subgroup, 2008; Committee for Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW), 2006-2012; Organizer, CPOW Career Roundtable Luncheons, 2006-2008; Organizer, CPOW Career Transition Panel, 2011; Organizer, CPOW Postdoc to Faculty Luncheon, 2012; SRAA poster judge, 2007, 2009, 2012.

Candidate's Statement: I've attended the Annual Meetings of the Biophysical Society for many years. I enjoy the quality, depth, and breadth of the presented research, the innovative approaches that are often debuted, and the valuable opportunities for scientific interaction. As a two-term member of CPOW and past-chair and multi-term member of a subgroup executive committee, I have experience in creating career development opportunities for young scientists and in organizing symposia. As a member of Council, I will work to maintain the high quality of the Annual Meeting's scientific program and to promote diversity at all levels of the Society. I will continue to promote activities that support the next generation of biophysicists. Finally, I will support the efforts of the Public Affairs Committee to educate the general public about the importance of basic science research.

Erika Holzbaur

PhD

Professor, Department of Physiology Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Research Interests: Understanding the dynamics of motility along the cellular cytoskeleton driven by the molecular motors cytoplasmic dynein and kinesin; coordinated motor activity during vesicle transport in neurons; mechanistic basis for defects in motor function leading to neurodegenerative disease.

Education: BS, Chemistry & History, College of William and Mary, 1982; PhD, Biochemistry, Pennsylvania State University, 1987; Postdoctoral Scientist, Molecular Biology, Pennsylvania State University, 1987-1988; Postdoctoral Fellow, Cell Biology, Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, 1988-1992.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Pennsylvania, 1992-2002; Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 2002-2004; Professor, Department of Physiology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 2004-present.

Awards, Honors and Activities: Thomas J. Watson National Merit Scholarship, 1978-1982; Phi Beta Kappa, 1981; Penn State Graduate School Fellowship, 1984-85, 1985-86; NIH NINDS Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1989-92; Pfizer Award for Research Excellence, 1995; Established Investigator of the American Heart Association, 1996-2001; Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 1999-2004; Keith R. Porter Fellow, 2000-2003; Member CDF-4 Study Section, NIH, 2000-2004; Chair, CDF-4 Study Section, NIH, 2002-2004; Co-organizer, Integration of the Cytoskeleton, Columbia University 2003; Co-organizer, Banbury Conference on Axon Dynamics, 2006; Associate Editor, Molecular Biology of the Cell, 2005; Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Cell Biology*, 2006-present; Porter Foundation Board Member, appointed 2009, Chair, 2014; Editorial Board Member, *Cell*, appointed 2011; Vice-Chair, 2011 & Chair, 2013: Gordon Conference on Motile & Contractile Systems; Co-organizer, Janelia Farm Conference on Axon Degeneration, 2012; Keynote Talk, Gordon Conference on Muscle & Molecular Motors, 2014.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 2011; Member, Motility Subgroup, 2011-present.

Miklós Kellermayer

MD , PhD, DSc

Professor, Department of Biophysics and Radiation Biology, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

Research Interests: Single-molecule imaging and manipulation with AFM and optical tweezers; Actomyosin motility; Molecular biophysics of titin; Nanomechanics of fibrous proteins, polymers and aggregates; Nanoelectronics.

Education: MD, University of Pécs, 1988; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Washington, 1989-93; Research Associate, Washington State University, 1995-97; PhD, University of Pécs, 1998; DSc, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2008.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Biophysics, University of Pécs, 1998-2000; Associate Professor, Department of Biophysics, University of Pécs, 2000-2008; Professor & Chair, Department of Biophysics and Radiation Biology, Semmelweis University, 2008-present.

Awards, Honors and Activities: Fellow, American Heart Association (AHA), 1991-1993; Bolyai Fellow, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1998-2001; HMMI Inernational Scholar, 2001-2005; Széchenyi Scholar, 2003-2005; Sanofi-Aventis Nanotechnology Prize, 2009; Member of NMP Expert Advisory Group, European Commission, 2008-2012; Editor, PLoS ONE, 2011-present; Head, Cellular and Molecular Biophysics PhD Program, Semmelweis University, 2009-present; Vice Rector for Scientific Affairs, Semmelweis University, 2009-2012; Vice Dean of Medical School, Semmelweis University, 2013-present.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 1991; Motility Subgroup, 1995-present.

Candidate's Statement: I consider biophysics a key ingredient in the transformation of biology and medicine into highly quantitative disciplines. The Biophysical Society plays a pivotal role in this transformation by advocating genuine quantitative research, directing attention towards novel biomedical approaches and narrowing the gap between physicists, biologists, and physicians. Having been a Society member for nearly 25 years and attended nearly every Annual Meeeting in this period, I owe a lot to this excellent community. I would be honored to become a Council member and to return, via my service, some of the intellectual gifts I have received. I consider two areas as priorities: maintenance and promotion of excellence in the assembly of the Annual Meeting programs, and the support and guidance of young biophysicists along their initial career paths.

Robert Nakamoto

PhD

Professor, Department of Molecular Physiology & Biological Physics, University of Virginia

Research Interests: Molecular mechanisms of transmembrane active transport systems; Approaches include biochemical, kinetic, and thermodynamic analyses of mutant transporters; spectroscopic approaches to monitor the kinetics of conformational transitions during transport cycles.

Education: AB, Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, 1978; PhD, Biochemistry, University of Maryland, Baltimore, 1985; Postdoctoral Associate, Genetics, Yale University, 1987-1991; Research Fellow, Osaka University, 1991-1993.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Physiology & Biological Physics, University of Virginia, 1993-1998; Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Physiology & Biological Physics, University of Virginia, 1998-2006; Professor, Department of Molecular Physiology & Biological Physics, University of Virginia, 2006-present; Director of Graduate Studies, Biophysics, University of Virginia, 2007-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, 1991-1993; Visiting Researcher, Japan Science and Technology Corporation, 1998; Regular member, PB and MSF-C study sections, 2001-2005; Charter member, BRT study section, 2006-2012 (Chair, 2011-2012); Editorial Board, *Journal of Biological Chemistry,* 2006-2010; Editorial Advisory Committee, *Biochemistry*, 2007-present; Editorial Board, *Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics*, 2008-present; Co-Chair, Cold Spring Harbor Asia Conference on Membrane Protein Structure and Function, 2013, 2015.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 1984; Bioenergetics Subgroup, 1995-2001; Organizer and Chair, Workshop on Membrane Protein Expression, Annual Meeting, 2003; Co-organizer and Co-chair, Mini Symposium on Oxidative Processes in Biological Membranes, Annual Meeting, 2008; Editorial Board, *Biophysical Journal*, 2008-2014; Finance Committee, 2009-2015; Organizer, Networking Event, Charlottesville, VA, 2012; Member, Program Committee, 2013-2015; Chair, Program Committee, 2014.

Candidate's Statement: Having the privilege to serve as Program Chair for the 2014 Annual Meeting provided me an opportunity to work closely with BPS operations and administration as well as participating in Society governance for the past two years. The enthusiasm with which members and staff carry out Society activities is infectious and I have developed deep appreciation of the tremendous benefits these activities provide to many people both inside and outside our organization. By serving on Council, I intend to pursue issues in education and diversity in biophysics, to further establish the roles of BPS in providing advice and information for developing scientists, to increase the breadth of fields represented within the Society, and to increase the international presence of the Society.

B. Montgomery Pettitt

PhD
Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Texas Medical Branch

Research Interests: Theory of protein and DNA structure and function; Molecular recognition in complex liquid environments.

Education: BS, Chemistry & Mathematics, University of Houston, 1975; PhD, Chemistry, University of Houston, 1980; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Texas at Austin, 1980-1983; Postdoctoral Fellow, NRSA, Harvard University 1983-1985

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor of Chemistry, University of Houston, 1985-1990; Associate Professor of Chemistry, University of Houston, 1990-1993; Professor of Chemistry and Computer Science, University of Houston, 1993-2011; Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Houston, 1994-2011; Professor of Physics, University of Houston, 1998-2011; Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Texas Medical Branch, 2012 – Present; Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas Medical Branch, 2012 – Present; Director of the Sealy Center of Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics, University of Texas Medical Branch, 2012 – Present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, 1989-1993; Fellow, American Physical Society, 1993; Local Section Award, American Chemical Society, 2002; Achievement Award, Association of Laboratory Automation, 2003; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2008.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 1991; Editorial Board Member, *Biophysical Journal,* 1999-2002.

Candidate's Statement: I appreciate the opportunity to serve the biophysics community by running for a spot on Council of the Biophysical Society. We have a field which is broad and rich but not always easy to categorize or simply describe and so we must make special efforts to make our impact understood. As such, biophysics is underappreciated by society at large and needs more advocacy. The strategic planning aspects of the Council are especially important in this regard. Funding and job opportunities, along with how we do science, are in a period of rapid change resulting in instability in some cases and opportunities in others. We have an opportunity to showcase our best work and how it impacts the world. The Biophysical Society Annual Meeting provides an excellent forum for young scientists to highlight their work of highest impact. I would be honored to be able to help maintain the Meeting's high quality and reinforce it as a career building resource for all biophysicists.

Gabriela Popescu

PhD

Professor, Department of Biochemistry University at Buffalo, School of Medicine

Research Interests Reaction mechanisms and molecular physiology of glutamate-gated channels, approached with one-channel and macroscopic electrophysiology, kinetic modeling, calcium imaging, and synaptic physiology.

Education: BS, Chemistry, University of Bucharest, 1980-1984; MS, Biochemistry, University of Bucharest, 1984-1985; PhD, Biochemistry, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 1992-1999; Postdoctoral Associate, Neurobiology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 1999-2000; Postdoctoral Fellow, Ion Channel Biophysics, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2000-2005.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2006-2009; Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2010-2013; Professor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2014-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Exceptional Scholar, University at Buffalo (UB), 2010; Established Investigator, American Heart Association (AHA), 2012-2016; Cardiac Electrophysiology review panel member, AHA, 2006-2011; President, Society for Neuroscience Buffalo Chapter, 2009-2010; NIH review panel member, NTRC, 2014-2020; Handling Editor, *Journal of Neurochemistry*, 2013-present; Executive Board member, Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS), 2013-2016; Executive Committee member, UB Faculty Senate (FSEC) 2013-2016.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 2002; Membrane Biophysics Subgroup, 2004-present; Committee for Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW), 2010-2016; Organizer, CPOW Career Roundtable Luncheon, 2011-2014.

Candidate's Statement: The Biophysical Society is my scientific home, the space where my interests are validated and supported, and the community I can count on for inspiration, guidance, and encouragement. As a Council Member, I would be deeply honored to add my energy, passion, and experience to maintaining and developing high-quality innovative programs that will: support the dissemination of new knowledge and technology, through meetings, publications, and other media; assist the professional development of members across the entire career arc, and in particular across critical transitions; and support advocacy efforts for sustained and predictable state and federal research funding.

Erin Sheets
PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice & Pharmaceutical Sciences and Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
University of Minnesota Duluth

Research Interests: signal transduction; biomembranes; fluorescence microscopy and spectroscopy.

Education: BA, Chemistry, Juniata College, 1991; MS, Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994; PhD, Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1997; Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate, Chemistry & Chemical Biology, Cornell University, 1997-2002.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Pennsylvania State University, 2002-2009; Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice & Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota, 2009-present; Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Minnesota Duluth, 2012-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: NIH National Research Service Award, 1997-2000; Co-chair, Physical Chemistry Foundations of Biological Membrane Phenomena, Fall 2006 American Chemical Society Meeting; Young Alumni Achievement Award, Juniata College, 2006; Academic Leadership Fellow, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 2010-2011.

Biophysical Society Activities: SocietyMember since 1993; Biological Fluorescence Subgroup, 1995-present; Membrane Structure Subgroup, 1995-present; CPOW, 2001-2006; Early Career Committee, 2006-2009; Membership Committee, 2006-present; Chair, Membership Committee, 2009-present; Member Services Committee, 2009-present; Nominating Committee, 2011-2012; Organizer, "Advancing in a New Position" workshop, 2003; Organizer, "Successful Mentoring in Science" workshop, 2004; Co-organizer, CPOW mentoring lunch, 2005 & 2006.

Candidate's Statement: Serving the members of the Biophysical Society has been and will be a privilege for me. I have witnessed the impact of the Society on the careers and professional development of many colleagues in the US and internationally. As a member of Council, I will champion mentoring initiatives for new members and seek new ways to actively engage our membership so that the Biophysical Society continues to play a vital role for them. I will also work diligently to reach out to the general public, funding agencies, and policy makers to advocate for the broad impact that our science has on innovation, global competiveness, and the training of new generations of interdisciplinary scholars.

Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede
PhD

Professor
Department of Chemistry
Umeå University
Sweden

Research Interests: molecular mechanisms of copper transport proteins; protein folding in cell environments; small molecule intervention of protein misfolding.

Education: Combined BS & MSc, Chemical engineering, Chalmers University, 1992; PhD, Physical Chemistry, Chalmers University, 1996; Postdoctoral associate, California Institute of Technology, 1997-1998.

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Tulane University, 1999-2002; Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Tulane University, 2002-2003; Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Rice University, 2004-2008; Professor, Department of Chemistry, Umeå University, 2008-present.

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Camille and Henry Dreyfus New Faculty Award, 1998; Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award, 2000; Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 2001; Albert Wallin's Science Award, Gothenburg Royal Academy of Science and Art, 2001; The National Fresenius Award, 2003; Wallmarkska Prize, 2009; Göran Gustafsson's Prize in Chemistry, 2009; Nordea's Prize for Life Science, 2010; Wallenberg Scholar, 2010-2015.

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 2000; Molecular Biophysics Subgroup, 2000-2009; Co-founder Biopolymers in vivo (BIV) Subgroup, 2010; BIV Subgroup, 2010- present; Chair, BIV Subgroup, 2012-2013.

Candidate's Statement: If elected to the Biophysical Society Council, I will use all my energy and enthusiasm to promote biophysics in general and the Society in particular. In today's world with many competing meetings and 'modern' scientific topics, we must assure that the BPS Annual Meeting remains a vital activity for researchers worldwide in all aspects of fundamental biophysics. Quantitative and molecular biophysical research is an indispensable part of today's science and in the future; this must be transmitted to the younger generation. Although it is a large meeting, it is important to retain a small-scale feeling and a welcoming atmosphere at the Annual Meeting. From my experiences as a researcher in both the United States and Europe, I believe that increased international integration and recruitment of Society members is a key subject for continued outstanding reputation. Finally, current young researchers face a multitude of career choices as well as difficulties; I will advocate that BPS increases its commitments in career development and mentoring of young scientists pursuing academic careers in biophysics.