

Annual Meeting Deadlines . . . . . 1  
Biophysicists in Profile . . . . . 2  
Annual Meeting Summary . . . . . 4  
    Subgroup Program Information . . . . . 5  
    Minority Affairs Committee . . . . . 6  
Sarah Bellum . . . . . 8  
Opportunities . . . . . 9  
Members in the News . . . . . 12  
Public Affairs . . . . . 13  
Upcoming Events . . . . . 16

## 50th Annual Meeting Deadlines

### Early Registration

*DECEMBER 9, 2005*

#### Register early and save!

Early registration rates are substantially lower than regular, onsite rates. After December 9, online registration will continue to be available at higher onsite rates. Registration will also be available onsite in the Salt Palace Convention Center.

### Late Abstracts

*JANUARY 3, 2006*

#### Missed the regular abstracts deadline?

All late abstracts will be programmed on Wednesday, February 22, 1:00 PM–3:00 PM in a special late-poster session running concurrently with the regular Wednesday poster session. Late abstracts may be submitted at [www.biophysics.org](http://www.biophysics.org). The abstracts will not be published, but will be listed in the Onsite Addendum.

### Childcare Registration

*JANUARY 19, 2006*

The Biophysical Society sponsors excellent childcare, provided again this year by KiddieCorp. Pre-registration is required for childcare, which is available to all registered attendees. Child care will be located at the Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown (directly across the street from the Convention Center).

### General Housing Reservations

*JANUARY 26, 2006*

#### Don't miss out on special rates.

The Society has negotiated special rates with many hotels in Salt Lake City for a limited number of rooms. Make your reservations early.

## Special Annual Meeting Travel Rates

The Biophysical Society has made special arrangements with United Airlines, Budget Rent-A-Car, and Avis Rent-A-Car for special rates to meeting attendees. When making reservations, refer to the respective meeting ID number for extra savings.



800-521-4041

Meeting ID Number: 537TJ



800-772-3773

Budget Convention Discount  
Number: U069706



800-331-1600

Avis Worldwide Discount  
Number: J906779



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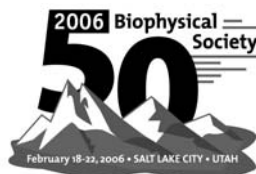
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Ellen Weiss

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## Biophysicists in Profile



### David Davies

Looking back on his life, *David Davies* considers himself lucky to have had the opportunities he did. He attended Oxford University, researched at Caltech, and eventually ended up at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. This is a far cry from the small village of Pontardulais, Wales, where Davies was born in 1927. He was the first member of his family to attend college, but it was his family that encouraged him to apply to Oxford. Once accepted by Magdalen College, Davies never looked back.

Following in the footsteps of neighbor and former editor of *Nature*, *John Maddox*, Davies earned his MA and PhD in physics at Oxford. His undergraduate days were spent playing rugby and rowing, while trying to remember to write assigned weekly essays. After graduation, he went to work in the crystallography laboratory at Oxford under the supervision of renowned crystallographer H.M. Powell.

In 1952 Davies moved to California where he was a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech. The beauty of California overwhelmed him, as did the social atmosphere of Caltech. There, Davies and his lab partner discovered the configuration

of an eight-atom structure called parabanic acid.

After finishing his postdoctoral work, Davies returned to England where he spent a year as a research associate at Albright and Wilson, an industrial company that manufactured phosphorus fine chemicals. Receiving an invitation from colleague *Alex Rich* in 1955, Davies again traveled across the Atlantic to work at NIH in the Mental Health Institute. During this period at NIH, Davies developed a computer program for calculating helical forms and observed the first G-quartet structure from fibers of GMP.

Deciding that it was time for a change, in 1959 Davies began focusing on proteins and went to Cambridge, England. There he worked with Chemistry Nobel Prize recipient, *Sir John Kendrew* in creating the first direct visualization of the alpha-helix. This was the beginning of protein crystallography.

Davies' studies led him to the first meeting of the Biophysical Society in 1957. "It was exciting," he says, "everything was changing from the traditional biochemistry and biology, and it looked like biophysics might be the way to go." His interest in the field and in the Society has not waned. He still attends every meeting and is a speaker in the 50th Annual Meeting Symposium, *Biophysics from Molecules to Cells*, at the 2006



*David Davies* at the Smithsonian Museum's Orchid Show. Davies' love of orchids extends to growing many of them at home.

Annual Meeting. "Originally," he remembers, "there was concern that the Society might be too physiological. However, over time physiology has become very molecular, and we structural biologists fit right in."

Davies moved in 1961 to work in the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases in the new Laboratory of Molecular Biology in the Arthritis and Diabetes Institute. He continued his

**"Crystallography," he says, "has changed from a nice gentlemanly field to cutthroat competition."**

work on protein crystallography, but also took up a new hobby, sailing. "I learned sailing from the NIH sailing club in the 1960s," he says, "and have always found it a challenge."

As studies became more competitive, Davies shifted interests once again. "Crystallography," he says, "has changed from a nice gentlemanly field to cutthroat competition." This time around, Davies focused on structure of antibodies where he looked at precipitates of the cryoglobins. In 1971, *Ian Swan* joined the laboratory and Davies started to study and identify the structure of proteases. Unfortunately, material came up short and the group eventually turned to the third enzyme of HIV and then to tryptophan synthase. More recently, Davies and other scientists have worked on determining numerous other structures, including TGFbeta. Presently, Davies' main research interest lies in the proteins of the innate immune system and, in collaboration with *David Segal* who had been his postdoctoral fellow in the work on antibody structure, they have recently determined the first structure of a Toll-like Receptor.

Davies cannot imagine what he would be doing had science not entered

his life. His research throughout his career has expressed and continues to demonstrate the vitality and development of the field of biophysics. *Phil Gordon*, former Director of NIDDK, sums up Davies in one sentence, "The most remarkable thing about David is the consistent excitement that he brings to science and that science brings to him."



**Harold Morowitz**

"It was fated." That's how *Harold Morowitz* describes his entrance into a career in science, biophysics in particular. Born in Poughkeepsie, New York, on December 4, 1927, Morowitz loved science starting from high school. Like his two sisters, he entered the academic life, although in a different field. To this day, science is still what he spends the majority of his time doing.

Morowitz received his BS at Yale, where *Ernest Pollard* was the director of the Yale Biophysics program. This is what influenced Morowitz to become the second student to register in that new discipline.

After earning his PhD in biophysics, Morowitz headed for the National Bureau of Standards before going to the National Institutes of Health. In 1955 he returned to Yale as an Associate Professor of Biophysics, ultimately becoming

Professor of Molecular Physics and Biochemistry. From 1982 until 1986 he was Master of Pierson College, one of Yale's 12 residential colleges, which at the time housed 300 students. "I learned to sleep with a lot of noise," says Morowitz of the experience.

In 1988 Morowitz left Yale to teach at George Mason University, where he was appointed Robinson Professor, a distinguished professorship dedicated to undergraduate teaching. As a Robinson Professor, Morowitz teaches subjects on broad, fundamental intellectual issues including biology and natural philosophy. From 1993 until 1998 he also served as Director of the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study.

During the years that he studied topics such as the origin of life and thermodynamic foundations of biology, along with biophysics, Morowitz got to know numerous colleagues, many of whom attended the first Biophysics Conference in Columbus, Ohio. "The founding of the Society was an exciting moment," states Morowitz, "the time was right." He

**"Looking back at the history of the Society...that volume defined the field."**

remembers the meeting attendees gathering in a large room and voting for the creation of the Biophysical Society.

"Everyone cheered," he says. Looking back he remembers how young everyone was. "By and large we were a youthful group, post-doctorates and new faculty," he recalls. Morowitz was on the Editorial Board for the proceedings of the first meeting and was charged with collecting manuscripts to be published in that volume. Looking back at the history of the Society, he says "that volume defined the field."

Morowitz shares his love of science with a love of writing. He has published numerous books including, *The*

*(Continued on page 10.)*

# Annual Meeting Symposia, Workshop, and Subgroup Schedule

## Symposia

*Sunday, February 19*

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Bacterial Chemotaxis and Motility

*Richard M. Berry*, Oxford University, Chair  
*Jonathan S. Parkinson*, University of Utah  
*David F. Blair*, University of Utah  
*Makoto Miyata*, Osaka City University

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Nucleosome Structure, Dynamics, and Function

*Jon Widom*, Northwestern University, Chair  
*Karolin Luger*, Colorado State University  
*Tom Owen-Hughes*, University of Dundee  
*Geeta Narlikar*, University of California,  
San Francisco

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

### 50th Annual Meeting Symposium: Biophysics from Molecules to Cells

*Steven M. Block*, Stanford University, Chair  
*David R. Davies*, NIDDK, NIH  
*Thomas D. Pollard*, Yale University  
*Peter K. Sorger*, Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
*Xiaowei Zhuang*, Harvard University

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Rearranging DNA Strands in Recombination, Replication, and Repair

*Tom Ellenberger*, Harvard University Medical  
School, Chair  
*Phoebe A. Rice*, University of Chicago  
*Nynke H. Dekker*, Delft University of  
Technology  
*Stephen C. Kowalczykowski*, University of  
California, Davis

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Self-Assembly of Cellular Architecture

*Eva Nogales*, University of California, Berkeley,  
Chair  
*Keiichi Namba*, Osaka City University  
*Gary G. Borisy*, Northwestern University  
*Tomas Kirchhausen*, Harvard University Medical  
School

*Monday, February 20*

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Energy Transduction and Subunit Coordination in AAA and Related Motor Enzymes

*Tania Baker*, Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology, Chair  
*Kazuo Sutoh*, University of Japan  
*Dale Wigley*, London Research Institute  
*Vincent Croquette*, ENS, Paris

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Structure by Design: From Single Proteins to Nanostructures

*Ruth Nussinov*, NCI, NIH, and Tel Aviv  
University, Chair  
*Nadrian C. Seeman*, New York University  
*David Baker*, University of Washington  
*Luc Jaeger*, University of California,  
Santa Barbara

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

### New and Notable

Program information to be announced

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Dynamics in Enzyme Function

*Judith P. Klinman*, University of California,  
Berkeley, Chair  
*Joseph D. Puglisi*, Stanford University  
*Sharon Hammes-Schiffer*, Pennsylvania State  
University  
*Peter E. Wright*, The Scripps Research Institute

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Small-Scale Systems Biology

*Garrett Odell*, University of Washington, Chair  
*Michael Elowitz*, California Institute of  
Technology  
*Steve Plimpton*, Sandia National Laboratories  
Additional speakers to be announced.

*Tuesday, February 21*

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### RNA Folding and Unfolding

*Anna M. Pyle*, Yale University, Chair  
*Daniel Herschlag*, Stanford University  
*Nils G. Walter*, University of Michigan  
*Sarah Woodson*, Johns Hopkins University

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Visualizing Molecular Function in Living Cells

*Robert Singer*, Albert Einstein College of  
Medicine, Chair  
*Akihiro Kusumi*, Kyoto University  
*Siegfried M. Musser*, Texas A&M University,  
Health Science Center  
*Clare M. Waterman-Storer*, The Scripps Research  
Institute

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

### Awards Symposium

Speakers to be announced.

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Biophysics of Bacterial DNA Segregation and Cell Division

*Harold P. Erickson*, Duke University, Chair  
*Jeff Errington*, Oxford University  
*Nicholas Cozzarelli*, University of California,  
Berkeley  
*R. Dyche Mullins*, University of California,  
San Francisco

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Structure-Function Relationships between Ion Channels and Ion Transporters

*David C. Gadsby*, Rockefeller University, Chair  
*Michael P. Kavanaugh*, University of Montana  
*Christopher Miller*, Brandeis University  
*Paola Vergani*, University College of London

*Wednesday, February 22*

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

### Electron Transfer-driven Energy Transduction

*Robert R. Gennis*, University of Illinois, Chair  
*James Barber*, Imperial College of London  
*Marilyn Gunner*, City College of New York  
*Carola Hunte*, Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt

8:15 AM – 10:15 AM

**Statistical Mechanical Insights into Biological Function***Robert Phillips*, California Institute of Technology, Chair*Pierre Sens*, Institute Curie, Paris*Nick Buchler*, Rockefeller University*Frank Jülicher*, Max Planck Institute, Dresden

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

**Myosins: Diversity and Mechanism***Richard E. Cheney*, University of North Carolina, Chair*Anne M. Houdusse*, Institute Curie, Paris*Ron Rock*, University of Chicago*Kathleen M. Trybus*, University of Vermont

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

**Protein Folding and Refolding in Biology***Peter Gettins*, University of Illinois, Chicago, Chair*Robert P. Blumenthal*, NCI, NIH*Carol Deutsch*, University of Pennsylvania*Philip Bryan*, University of Maryland

Biotechnology Institute

**Workshops**

Workshops will be held Sunday and Tuesday evenings, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM.

*Sunday, February 19***Analyzing Submicrometer Structure and Motion in Light Microscopy***Jan T. Liphardt*, University of California, Berkeley, Chair*Enrico Gratton*, University of Illinois*Mats Gustafsson*, University of California, San Francisco*Stefan W. Hell*, University of Heidelberg**Biophysics of Channelopathies***Frances M. Ashcroft*, Oxford University, Chair*Stephen C. Cannon*, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*Michael C. Sanguinetti*, University of Utah*Richard W. Tsien*, Stanford University**Visualizing Time-resolved Structures of Macromolecules and Complexes***Philip A. Anfinrud*, NIDDK, NIH, Chair*Michael D. Brenowitz*, Albert Einstein College of Medicine*Roger W. Craig*, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Additional speakers to be announced.

*Tuesday, February 21***Coarse-graining Methods for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics***Gregory A. Voth*, University of Utah, Chair*Charles L. Brooks, III*, The Scripps Research Institute*Siewert-Jan Marrink*, University of Groningen*Michael Thorpe*, Arizona State University**Deducing Mechanisms from Single-Molecule Data: Channels to Enzymes***Taejip Ha*, University of Illinois, Urbana, Chair*Karl L. Magleby*, University of Miami*Ehud Y. Isacoff*, University of California, Berkeley*Hiroyuki Noji*, University of Tokyo**Microfluidics in Biophysics Research***Steven R. Quake*, Stanford University, Chair*Robert H. Austin*, Princeton University*David Beebe*, University of Wisconsin, Madison*Rustem F. Ismagilov*, University of Chicago**Biophysical Journal Workshop****Monday, February 20, 1:00 PM****Tuesday, February 21, 1:00 PM**Join us for informative session presented by *Biophysical Journal* printer Dartmouth Journal Services. The sessions will answer authors' questions about electronic files and publishing.**Subgroups**

All subgroup meetings will be held on Saturday, February 18.

**Bioenergetics***Marco Colombini*, University of Maryland, College Park, Subgroup Chair**Morning Symposium: Mitochondria and Regulation of the Cellular Energy State***Uwe Schlattner*, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and *Petra Dzeja*, Mayo Clinic and Foundation, Co-Chairs*Valdur Saks*, University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble*Nissim Hay*, University of Chicago*William Winder*, Brigham Young University**Afternoon Symposium: Systems Biology: Mitochondria are not Alone***Hartmut Woblrab*, Boston Biomedical Research Institute and Harvard Medical School, and *Svitlana Berezhna*, The Scripps Institute, Co-Chairs*Arvind Ramanathan*, Broad Institute of Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology*Luis A. Nunes Amaral*, Northwestern University*Joseph Bass*, Northwestern University*Vamsi Mootha*, Harvard University\**Rashu B. Seth*, HHMI and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

\*Presentation is sponsored by the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation

**Biological Fluorescence***Robert Clegg*, University of Illinois, Urbana, Subgroup Chair**Fluorescence in Biological Physics***Marcos Dantus*, Michigan State University*Elliot L. Elson*, Washington University School of Medicine*J. Woodland Hastings*, Harvard University*Gerard Marriott*, University of Wisconsin, Madison*(Continued on page 6.)*

(Continued from page 5.)

## Exocytosis/Endocytosis

*Meyer Jackson*, University of Wisconsin, Chair  
*Ege Kavalali*, UT Southwestern Medical Center  
*Ruth Heidelberger*, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health  
*Dirk Fasshauer*, Max-Planck-Institute for Biophysical Chemistry  
*Steven Chu*, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## Membrane Biophysics

*David Yue*, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Subgroup Chair

## Horizons for the Queen of Ion Transport: Ca<sub>v</sub> Calcium Channels

*Daniel Minor*, University of California, San Francisco  
*Henry Colecraft*, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
*Gerald Zamponi*, University of Calgary  
*Diane Lipscombe*, Brown University  
*Veit Flockerzi*, Universitat des Saarlandes  
*Richardo Dolmetsch*, Stanford University

## Membrane Structure & Assembly

*Leonid Chernomordik*, NICHD, NIH Subgroup Chair

## Biological Membrane Fusion: Mechanisms and Intermediates

*Michael Kozlov*, Tel Aviv University  
*Xiaowei Zhuang*, Harvard University  
*Felix Rey*, Institut Pasteur  
*Yinling Li*, University of Virginia  
*Gregory Melikyan*, Rush College  
*Yeon-Kyun Shin*, Iowa State University  
*Andreas Mayer*, Universite de Lausanne

## Motility

*Anne Houdusse*, Institut Curie, and *Roberto Dominguez*, Boston Biomedical Research Institute, Subgroup Co-Chairs  
*Michael Rosen*, HHMI and UT Southwestern Medical Center  
*Gaudenz Danuser*, Scripps Research Institute  
*Lois Weisman*, University of Michigan  
*Dominique Soldati*, University of Geneva  
*Erika Holzbauer*, University of Pennsylvania  
*Joe Howard*, Max Planck Institute, Dresden  
*Lee Sweeney*, University of Pennsylvania  
*David M. Warshaw*, University of Vermont

## ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES

### Continuing Medical Education

This year, up to 25 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award will be available to meeting attendees. CME application forms are available from the FASEB OSMC, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD, 20814-3998; email [mcgovern@faseb.org](mailto:mcgovern@faseb.org) or from the Biophysical Society Office. There is a \$45 application fee, payable upon submission of the form. For complete information visit <http://www.biophysics.org>.

### VISA Information

Scientists planning to attend the Annual Meeting are encouraged to visit the following websites for the latest VISA requirements and related information:

<http://www.biophysics.org>  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html)  
<http://national-academies.org/visas>

### Register for the Career Placement Service!

During the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, the Career Placement Service is happy to announce that Ed Bocko, Jr. of PROTRAN Resources will be joining the Career Placement Service team for the third consecutive year. Bocko will lead seminars and forums in the Career Placement Center throughout the meeting. He will also give a seminar discussing his own path in becoming an HR consultant. A full schedule of events will be listed in the Annual Meeting printed program. These seminars are open to all registered meeting attendees.

In addition, Bocko will provide one-on-one sessions to review and rework resumes. Only candidates registered for the Career Placement Service are eligible to use these personalized services. Onsite registration for the one-on-one resume critiques will be available in the Career Placement Center. These individual sessions fill quickly, so register early onsite to secure your spot.

We encourage you to post your CV online and register for the Career Placement Service prior to the meeting at: <http://www.biophysics.org/placement/>

Don't miss the wonderful opportunities offered this year. Join us this winter in the Career Placement Center in Salt Lake City!

### Cyber Cafe

The Biophysical Society will be providing a cyber cafe in the Salt Palace Convention Center. There are no fees associated with the computers used in our cyber cafe. Attendees may also use their own laptop and wireless connection within the Center. Internet access is available in the common areas of the Salt Palace Convention Center for \$14.95 per day. Computer, internet, and email access at the Convention Center's Business Center is available for \$4.00 per 15 minutes or \$10.00 per hour. Attendees can also print at the Business Center.

## Membrane Biophysics Subgroup

### Student Tickets to the Cole Award Dinner

The 2006 Cole Award Dinner will be held on Saturday evening, February 18, (location to be announced) following the Subgroup Symposium presented that afternoon. The Kenneth S. Cole Award is presented annually to an investigator who has made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of membranes. Those wishing to attend the dinner who did not prepay with their dues can reserve a ticket by contacting *Carol Beck* at [carol.beck@jefferson.edu](mailto:carol.beck@jefferson.edu).

To encourage student participation in the subgroup, the subgroup is once again offering a free ticket to the Cole dinner for any student member of the Biophysical Society who enters the student poster competition. Additional free tickets will be available on a lottery basis to student members who do not enter the poster competition. The deadline for students to request tickets is January 31, 2006.

— *David T. Yue*, Chair and  
*Carol L. Beck*, Secretary/Treasurer

## Minority Affairs

The Minority Affairs Committee will host a forum entitled, *Easing the Transition for Graduate Students at Major Research Institutions*, at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. The program will focus on the difficulties that students, and particularly minority students, may experience in the transition from their undergraduate years to graduate education at a major research institution. The relationship between minority students and research universi-

ties will also be discussed within (i) the context of the Summer Mini-Course in Biophysics, (ii) the best practices for minority student recruitment and retention at three leading institutions, and (iii) the expectations of governmental agencies that fund training programs in biophysics. The forum will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2:00–3:30 PM. Panelists will include: *Margarita Dubocovich* (Northwestern University), *Elizabeth Komives* (University of California, San Diego), *Barry Lentz* (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), *Ishita Mukerjee* (Wesleyan University), and *Janna Wehrle* (National Institute of General Medical Sciences).

— *Wilma Olson*, Minority Affairs  
Committee Chair



Downtown Salt Lake City featuring shops and restaurants.

## SALT LAKE CITY ATTRACTIONS

### Ski Salt Lake

February is the perfect time to enjoy the powder of the Wasatch Mountains in Salt Lake. Here you can ski, cross-country ski, snow board, ride a snowmobile, tube, take a sleigh ride, and even a hot air balloon ride! Don't worry about packing your own equipment, there are many ski rental shops that are conveniently located around the city, at the mouth of the canyons, and at the resorts. Discount ski lift tickets are also available. Visit <http://www.skisaltlake.com/> for more information.

### Sporting Events

Salt Lake City is home to the NBA's Utah Jazz. The team will be at home taking on the Boston Celtics on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for US \$42.00 - US \$95.00. For team details visit: <http://www.nba.com/jazz/>

Hockey fans can catch the AA Grizzlies Hockey League team in action against the Stockton Thunder on Friday, February 17 at 7:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for US \$8.00 - US \$28.00. For team details visit:

<http://www.stocktonthunder.com/home/>

### Temple Square

Historic Temple Square is home to the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Visitors to Salt Lake City may attend the Tabernacle Choir's free rehearsals on Thursdays 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM or Sundays 8:15 AM - 10:00 AM. The Orchestra at Temple Square, which often plays with the Choir, also has 30-minute recitals daily, beginning at 12:05 PM and on Sundays beginning at 2:05 PM. For further details about the musical events or other activities in the Temple Square, visit: <http://www.visittemplesquare.com/>

For information on other area attractions, visit:

Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://www.saltlakechamber.org>

Utah Museum of Fine Arts:  
<http://www.umfa.utah.edu/>

The Living Planet Aquarium:  
<http://www.thelivingplanet.com/>

## Ask Professor Sarah Bellum

Professor Sarah Bellum answers your questions on navigating the often-uncharted waters of early career development. Professor Bellum is communicated by Patricia L. Clark, chair of the Early Careers Committee. Do you have a question for Professor Bellum? Send it to [sarah\\_bellum@biophysics.org](mailto:sarah_bellum@biophysics.org). Your privacy and anonymity are assured!

### Is It Time to Hit the Road?

**Q:** *I'm probably about six months away from defending my dissertation. I've got a couple of potential post-docs lined up, but yesterday my advisor sat me down and suggested I do a one-year postdoc here, in his lab, to finish up some side projects that are only just now starting to get off the ground. I'm really torn: I'm interested in the projects, I get along well with my advisor, and I love living in this city. But I have always heard that it is "academic suicide" for a grad student to stay at the same university for a postdoc. Is this really true, and if so, are there exceptions for situations like mine?*

— *Wanderlust-less at Washington*

**A:** The conventional wisdom says: moving to a new university for your postdoc is good because it exposes you to new ideas, techniques, and experimental challenges. Moving also shows you are adaptable, and can work effectively in new situations with new people. In contrast, staying at the same university (and worse, the same lab) for your postdoc is like living with your parents when you are in your thirties: even if you have a really good reason for doing it, to an outsider, something won't smell quite right.

That being said, there can be many good reasons to stay on for a year to complete a brief postdoc, reasons that will ultimately enhance (rather than detract from) your overall career development.

For example, you might have recently gotten an absolutely groundbreaking, exciting result on a side project while following up on an intriguing result from your core project. If merely confirming that result, plus running some additional controls, will result in a blockbuster publication, by all means, stay a while longer and see the project through. Likewise, if you have a thesis worth of results (and maybe a ho-hum paper or two) but your core project is really just starting to break

wide open, your advisor might suggest you stay on for a year-long postdoc after your defense. By all means, take this opportunity, if it works with your future plans; the addition of a high-quality publication to strengthen your CV will be well worth the time. Just make sure you clarify expectations with your advisor before you commit (read on for more on this).

Alternatively, if your advisor suggests you stay on for a short postdoc not because your project is on the cusp of greatness, but because he needs time to find your replacement (and for you to train the replacement), it's definitely time for you to move on.

Of course, it is rare that reality is so clear-cut, so here are some additional points to ponder when considering your advisor's offer: How different will the postdoc project be from your thesis work? Would this year's experience give you exposure to a new field or technique, possibly one you might be interested in returning to later? Have any of your advi-

sor's previous graduate students stayed on for a short postdoc? If so, how did that turn out? Do you have any reason to expect your experience will be different? Whether an "in-house" postdoc is a common scenario in your lab or not, it is extremely important to be very explicit

**"...staying at the same university (and worse, the same lab) for your postdoc is like living with your parents when you are in your thirties: even if you have a really good reason for doing it, to an outsider, something won't smell quite right."**

about expectations (your's and your advisor's), responsibilities, and a plan/schedule for the year ahead, both at the outset and at regular intervals throughout the postdoc project. Also look carefully at the situation for postdocs at your current institution: yes, postdoctoral stipends are probably significantly higher than your student stipend, but what health insurance options (and other benefits) are available? The situation for postdocs has improved dramatically over the past ten years, but significant disparities between institutions still exist, so make sure you understand what institutional support is available for postdoctoral researchers.

Would you be "finishing up" these

projects, or merely “working on” them? Realistically, how confident are you that these projects will result in publications in a year’s time? If you do decide to stay for a year-long postdoc with your thesis advisor, I would suggest making concrete arrangements for your “real” postdoc position now, before committing to your advisor. Deciding on a firm endpoint for the year-long postdoc will help maintain your focus, and prevent that year from sliding into two, or more, when experiments and/or writing do not go as fast as you expect.

But perhaps in your situation, the scientific reasons to stay are not so compelling, but you nevertheless feel a tug to stay. Realize that change can be challenging to face, and the changes involved in the transition from graduate research at one university to postdoctoral research on a completely different project, possibly in a different field, at another university that might be entirely

**“You owe it to your scientific self to try another environment, physically and scientifically, even though it will require an adjustment period.”**

across the country (or even in a different country!) can be daunting, to say the least. But regardless of how much you like where you live, or how well you get along with your advisor, or how much you like your current project, these alone are lousy reasons to stay in the same place for a postdoc. You owe it to your scientific self to try another environment, physically and scientifically, even though it will require an adjustment period. Make sure general fears of change do not hold you back!

Of course, there will always be individual situations that argue strongly for staying put for a short while, even in the face of non-ideal science. Family situations are perhaps the most common: perhaps you have a significant other who is a year behind you in graduate school, or you currently live near home and your mother is recovering from a debilitating

illness. Other, more long-term scenarios might have you forgo moving altogether: Perhaps you live (and plan to stay) in a poor country with little support for scientific research, and you’re already at the only university with any capacity to do patch-clamp experiments, etc. Perhaps your partner already has a dream job, and is unwilling or unable to find an equivalent position anywhere else. Ideally, these situations would only occur to people who live in large, coastal cities with multiple research universities in easy driving distance, but in reality, sometimes your best option is to stay at your current university.

If you feel you must stay where you are, and you are committed to an academic career at a research-focused university, you would be wise to investigate opportunities to change as many other things as possible for your postdoc. Change your advisor, and department.

No matter what, do your darnedest to avoid a postdoctoral project that plays like a bad movie sequel (“Thesis II: More of the Same”): go out of your way to work on new systems, ask new questions, use new experimental methods. Also realize that when you go on the job market, you will need to explain up front (and probably have your reference letter-writers explain, too) your very good reasons for staying put, and, if you are applying for jobs in other locales, why those reasons no longer apply to your situation.

Incidentally, it is worthwhile to point out that the “suicide” you are referring to here is academic suicide at research-focused universities, rather than general scientific suicide. Other career tracks, including industrial research, patent/legal work, and four-year college teaching, will not place nearly so much emphasis on relocating for postdoctoral research.

## Opportunities

### American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowships

*Up to \$30,000 annually*

Deadline: December 1, 2005

<http://www.aauw.org/>

### Chateaubriand Fellowship; Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the United States

*Award of \$2,050 to \$4,050 per month, plus travel expenses and health insurance*

Deadline: December 31, 2005

<http://www.france-science.org/home/hp.asp?LNG=us>

### Dr. A.H. Heineken Prize for Medicine 2006

*Award of \$150,000*

Deadline: January 1, 2006

<http://www.knaw.nl/heinekenprizes/>

**The Holiday Season is just around the corner. Visit the Society Shoppe today for great gift ideas.**

<https://www.biophysics.org/shoppe/>

(Continued from page 3.)

*Thermodynamics of Pizza and Mayonnaise and the Origins of Life*. His wife, *Lucille*, runs a publishing company, Ox Bow Press, which has published many scientific reprints. Morowitz continues to teach and conduct research at George Mason University.



**Richard Podolsky**

Renowned for his work in muscle physiology, *Richard "Dick" Podolsky* took great pride in knowing that his work had practical applications that could touch people's lives in positive ways.

Born in Chicago in 1923, Podolsky received his BS in physical science from the University of Chicago and in 1952 a PhD in biophysics. He began what would be a long and productive career at NIH in 1962, when he became Chief of the Laboratory of Physical Biology. Over the next 20 years Podolsky had a tremendous impact on others through his research, teaching, and interactions with the larger, non-scientific community.

While at NIH, Podolsky demonstrated an obvious talent for teaching. "He loved teaching scientists," explains his son *Paul*, adding that teaching people with-

out a mathematical mind, however, frustrated his father. He cites his own experience at seeing the frustration when his father tried to teach him calculus. Teaching young scientific minds was another story altogether. More than thirty postdocs passed through Podolsky's lab, among them some of the leading biophysicists in today's world. One of them, *Clara Franzini-Armstrong*, now at the University of Pennsylvania, remembers his thoroughness and attention to detail. "He always liked to have the details fully explored," says Franzini-Armstrong.

Another former postdoc, *Leepo Yu*, at NIAMS, remembers him for his "exceptional determination and focus on his research." Colleague and friend *Annemarie Weber*, of the University of Pennsylvania, remembers that "he had a facility to be skillful with his hands." She notes that "he was able to use his hands for research in such a way that others could not duplicate." This skill, coupled with his determination, she explains, led to countless contributions including the discovery of very active calcium stores in

muscle and initiating the study of cross-bridge kinetics. He also made advances to the mechanical study of muscle contraction, using the tension clamp, as opposed to the

length clamp for research purposes, and studying in vivo muscle structure by X-ray diffraction with physiological measurements.

He was most proud, however, of the practical use of his findings. Podolsky's research paved the way for advancements in treatments of muscle diseases and injuries, as well as skin diseases. Through his research came a better understanding

of muscular dystrophy. His contributions to muscle physiology are recognized as having laid the groundwork for understanding muscle function and structure.

Podolsky attended the first meeting of the Biophysical Society in 1957, and his abstract, entitled *The Influence of Hydrostatic Pressure on Ion-Solvent Interaction and Its Application to the Study of Biological Ionic Specificity*, appears in the Meeting's proceedings.

He continued to be an active member of the Society throughout his life. "He liked the people in it," says Weber, "and

had a special feeling for the Biophysical Society." After the untimely death of his wife, Podolsky

became less active in the Society so he could focus on raising his two young sons, *Alexander* and *Paul*. "He sacrificed a lot for us," says Paul.

In addition to his Society activities, Podolsky often contributed to *Biophysical Journal*. "I believe one of his major contributions was to promote *Biophysical Journal* by submitting his papers to the Journal when very few, if any, muscle papers were published there (early 1980s)," says Yu. "With his initiative, the Journal has become one of the premier journals for the muscle field."

Podolsky was a classic NIH scientist, remembers his son. "On a typical night home," says Paul, "he would listen to classical music and read diagrams and big charts. For a person at NIH this is normal." Podolsky had other interests as well, including cycling, swimming, and even ballroom dancing. Raising two boys also afforded him the opportunity to go camping and hiking.

Podolsky gained respect through his research, but also through his quiet, thoughtful manner. He died on October 11, 2001, in Boston at the age of 78.

**"With his initiative, the Journal has become one of the premier journals for the muscle field."**

**"His contributions to muscle physiology are recognized as having laid the groundwork for understanding muscle function and structure."**



Photo taken by Busath Photography.

## J. Walter Woodbury

*J. Walter Woodbury's* name is synonymous with science and biophysics. He himself cannot conceive of a life lived as anything other than a scientist, immersed in the world of biophysics. Gifted genetically with a curious nature, and having an older brother who interested him in physiology, his love of science seemed inevitable.

Woodbury attended the University of Utah, where he earned his BS in physics in 1943. Rushed to complete his studies because of WWII, Woodbury graduated and went to work at the Radiation Laboratory at MIT, where he worked on radar in the field and where he remained until 1945. He remembers many unique and "educational" experiences while at the Radiation Lab, including an overnight cruise to tune the radar aboard the USS St. Paul, a WWII warship.

Once the War ended, Woodbury proceeded to earn a PhD in Physiology in 1950 from the University of Utah. While working on his PhD, Woodbury was one of the first people to receive an NIH Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. He subsequently became a professor at the University of Washington, where he helped build the graduate program in biophysics and managed the Biophysics Training Grant from NIH. Most of his research focused on intracellular recordings of resting and/or action potentials from various cell types

and animals. Many of his papers were published during this period, as he moved into a new field of research studying thyroid tissue in rats and guinea pigs. Woodbury learned how to make micropipette electrodes from *Gilbert Ling* at the University of Chicago. He discovered that nerve cells can be stimulated by an electric current through the recording micropipette and invented the flexibly mounted micropipette for recording from moving tissues such as heart.

Around the year 1955, Woodbury began writing limericks to use as teaching tools. One example is:

*The membrane is made of lipid;  
The channels are pretty well hid.  
There's ion penetration  
At infrequent fenestration  
And elsewhere the ions just skid!*

As students remembered these poems, it became easier to teach biophysics, something Woodbury spent a good amount of time doing, and doing well. He says one of his greatest achievements is being the first to present the Hodgkin and Huxley analysis in a textbook. "Nobody understood it for about 10 years and I was the first one to put it in a textbook of physiology," he states "I feel the best about that: that I put that out into the scientific public and helped promote general understanding."

In 1957 he attended the First Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, in which he voted against the formation of the Society. "I'm still not quite sure why I did it," he says, "I just didn't see the

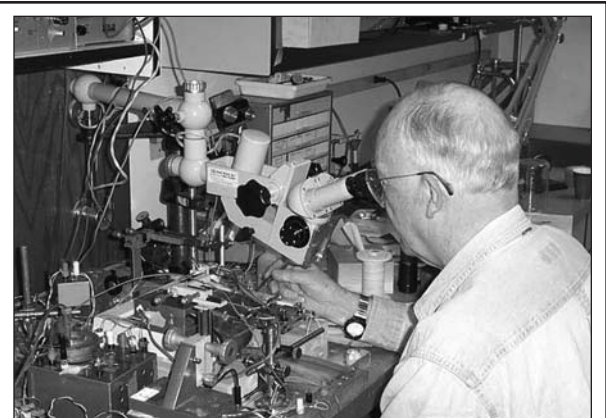
need for it." This vote proved to be a mistake by his own admission, and one he regrets immensely. "I was too conservative at the time," he says. Roughly 15 years later, Woodbury developed the Society's Membrane Biophysics Subgroup, making up for his previous decision. He persuaded *K. S. Cole* to endow a Cole award in the Membrane Group in addition to the Society's K.S. Cole award.

To say that the Society helped create the field of biophysics is an understatement, Woodbury says. "As we developed it (the Society), biophysics departments and departments of physiology and biophysics sprang up all over the place," he explains.

In 1963 Woodbury was one of 24 people in the world to receive the first personal computer for his lab. The Laboratory Instrument Computer (LINC) was far beyond its time. "It was a really nifty thing," Woodbury notes. "To this day you can't buy a computer like that with a built in a/d converter. It was really far ahead of its time." The computer was used for analyzing the information

*(Continued on page 12.)*

**"To say that the Society helped create the field of biophysics is an understatement, Woodbury says."**



*Woodbury's* final experiment study was on the inhibitory effects of vagus nerve stimulation on the nociceptive reflex of an anesthetized rat.

## Members in the News



*Michael R. Wasielewski*, of Northwestern University, and Society member since 1979, received the 2006 James Flack Norris Award in Physical Organic Chemistry.



*Lila Gierasch*, of the University of Massachusetts, and Society member since 1981, received the 2006 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal.



*Eva Nogales*, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Society member since 2000, received the 2005 Early Career Life Scientist Award from the American Society for Cell Biology.



*Roderick MacKinnon*, of Rockefeller University, and Society member since 1985, was recently elected to the American Philosophical Society.



*Todd Martinez*, of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a Society member since 2000, was named a 2005 MacArthur Fellow.



*Clare M. Waterman-Storer*, of Scripps Research Institute, and Society member since 2003, received a 2005 NIH Director's Pioneer Award.

(Continued from page 11.)

pouring into his lab, including measuring electrical potential of cells.

Woodbury moved to the University of Utah in 1973 where he taught and was Master for the Medical Physiology Course. He retired in 1993, but has been doing research on vagus nerve stimulation for control of epileptic seizures. He's proud that these implanted stimulators have improved the quality of life for over 32, 000 people worldwide. He is also currently writing a book about the comprehensive theory of brain function.

Woodbury will receive a Biophysical Society Fellow Award at the 2006 Annual Meeting. "It came as a total shock to me," he says. He is being honored for "his considerable contribution to the study of ion channel function."

Apart from doing science, Woodbury and his wife *Betty*, grow fruits and vegetables. They have over 30 fruit trees, raspberries, 6 rows of corn and bushels of tomatoes and beans, which they love to share with family and friends. His talents spill over into drama as well. He and his wife having performed with the Seattle Gilbert and Sullivan Society in the 1960s, a group that still brings top-notch performances to a wide audience at an affordable price. Woodbury served as secretary to the board for a number of years. Coincidentally, this year is the 50th anniversary of the Seattle Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

In a family of three generations of academicians, it is no surprise that at least one child of J. Walter Woodbury chose a science career. His son, *Dixon*, is a professor of Physiology and Developmental Biology at Brigham Young University. We will continue to hear the name Woodbury connected with science for many years to come.

### Does Your Library Subscribe to *Biophysical Journal*?

Archived back issues from the Journal's inception in 1957 will be available online in early 2006.

Complete a library recommendation form at <http://www.biophysjcs.org/members/> and let your librarian see what's been missing.

## Public Affairs

### Federal Agencies Operating on a CR

As has become the norm in recent years, Congress did not complete its work on the federal budget by the beginning of the 2006 fiscal year on October 1. To prevent the government from a shutdown, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR), funding government agencies through November 18, 2006. By that time, Congress will have either passed the appropriations bills as agreed to by the House and Senate, or will have to pass another continuing resolution.

In the resolution that expires on November 18, each agency receives funding based on the lowest of three funding levels: the House-passed level, the Senate-passed level, or the FY2005 current rate. Congress passed the CR with this provision, rather than funding agencies at the 2005 level, because many agencies are slated to have their budgets cut in 2006.

By funding the agencies at the lowest of the three levels, Congress hopes to prevent agencies from spending more than they will ultimately receive. The leadership has instructed appropriations committees to re-examine budgets they have already approved to find additional cuts to compensate for the unexpected hurricane-related expenditures.

The 2006 Federal Budget chart (below) provides the status of appropriations for science-related agencies as of October 17.

### NIH Reauthorization

Chairman *Joe Barton's* (R-TX) plans to pass legislation reauthorizing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been put on the backburner. Barton's committee, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, found itself faced with urgent issues after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast. The Committee is responsible for energy issues as well as Medicare and Medicaid, all of which needed immediate attention after the dis-

asters. In addition, Barton's lead staff member on the NIH Reauthorization has switched positions, and now works for Majority Leader *Roy Blunt* (R-Mo). Because of these setbacks, it is expected that Congress will not consider reauthorization legislation until early 2006.

The scientific community remains concerned over the content of the legislation, fearing that the legislation will set a cap on how much money the NIH can receive in any given year. The community would prefer that the authorizing legislation allow for "such sums as necessary" to be spent on NIH each year. There is also concern about the way the legislation groups the Institutes and Centers into "science-enabling" and "mission-specific" clusters for the purpose of receiving appropriations.

### NIH Revised Ethics Rules

At the end of August, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced its revised ethics regulations for NIH employees. The revisions come after criticism from NIH employees and outsiders that the interim regulations released in February 2005 were too restrictive.

In revising the regulations, HHS relied on these principles:

1. The public must be assured that research decisions made at NIH are based on scientific evidence and not by inappropriate influences;
2. Senior management and people who play an important role in research decisions must meet a higher standard of disclosure and divestiture than people who are not decision-makers; and
3. To advance the science and stay on the cutting edge of research, NIH employees must be allowed interaction with professional associations, participa-

<b>2006 Federal Budget</b>				
(in billions)				
	<b>FY 05 Enacted</b>	<b>House Passed</b>	<b>Senate Passed*</b>	<b>Continuing Resolution</b>
<b>NIH</b>	28.40	28.50	29.41	28.40
<b>NSF</b>	5.47	5.64	5.53	5.47
<b>DOE (Office of Science)</b>	3.59	3.67	3.7	3.59
<b>NASA (Science, Aeronautics, Exploration)</b>	7.68	9.72	9.76	7.68
<b>USDA (National Research Initiative)</b>	0.18	0.22	0.19	0.18

\*The full Senate has passed appropriations legislation for all the listed agencies with the exception of NIH. The number given for NIH is the amount the Senate committee approved.

(Continued on page 14.)

(Continued from page 13.)

tion in public health activities, and genuine teaching opportunities.

With these in mind, HHS removed professional associations such as the Biophysical Society and other science and health-related organizations from the list of entities with which NIH employees are prohibited from engaging in outside activities. This change means that the prohibition against compensated or uncompensated employment with, and compensated teaching, speaking, writing or editing for, professional or similar associations has been removed. With prior approval, employees may serve as an officer or board member of these organizations.

HHS has also eased its divestiture of financial holdings requirement. Senior employees (and their spouses and minor children) may retain an aggregate interest in a substantially affected organization (SAO) up to \$15,000 and an aggregate interest in SAO sector funds up to \$50,000. Non-senior employees may hold any amount of interest in an SAO, with certain exceptions where necessary. Under the interim rule, senior employees could not hold any interest in an SAO and non-senior employees were allowed up to \$15,000 per SAO.

The last change HHS made to the interim regulations was to eliminate the special restriction on awards received by senior employees. This means that the same conflict of interest criterion used for non-senior employees will be used for senior employees, rather than a blanket prohibition based on the source of the award.

## NAS Report on U.S. Competitiveness

In October, the National Academies of Science (NAS) released a report entitled,

*Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future.* The report, called for by Senators *Alexander* (R-TN) and *Bingaman* (D-NM) and endorsed by the House Science Committee, calls for a coordinated and comprehensive federal effort to bolster U.S. competitiveness in a time of rapid globalization. The study can be found at [www.nationalacademies.org/prospering](http://www.nationalacademies.org/prospering).

The congressionally requested report—written by a 20-member committee that included university presidents, CEOs, Nobel Prize winners, and former presidential appointees—makes four recommendations and suggests 20 implementation actions that federal policy-makers should take to create high-quality jobs and focus new science and technology (S&T) efforts on meeting the nation's need for clean, affordable, and reliable energy.

"America must act now to preserve its strategic and economic security by capitalizing on its knowledge-based resources, particularly in S&T, and maintaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries that create well-paying jobs," said committee chair *Norman R. Augustine*, retired chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corp., in a press release. "The building blocks of our economic leadership are wearing away. The challenges that America faces are immense."

The four recommendations are to:

1) **Increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 mathematics and science education.** The committee recommends creating a merit-based scholarship program to attract 10,000 outstanding students to math and science careers annually;

2) **Sustain and strengthen the nation's commitment to long-term basic research.** The committee believes the federal government should increase

the national investment in basic research by 10 percent per year over the next seven years. Special attention should be paid to the physical sciences, engineering, mathematics, and information sciences, and to basic research funding for the U.S. Department of Defense, the report says. The report also suggests that authorities make 200 new research grants annually—worth \$500,000 each, payable over five years—to the nation's most outstanding early-career researchers;

3) **Develop, recruit, and retain top students, scientists, and engineers from both the United States and abroad.**

The report suggests scholarships be provided to U.S. citizens enrolled in physical science, life science, engineering, and mathematics programs at U.S. colleges and universities, and that automatic visa extensions be granted to newly minted PhDs from abroad to allow them to remain in the United States and seek employment; and

4) **Ensure that the United States is the premier place in the world for innovation.** This can be accomplished by actions such as modernizing the U.S. patent system, realigning tax policies to encourage innovation, and ensuring affordable broadband Internet access, the report says.

The committee makes additional implementation suggestions that can be found in the full report.

## Bridging the Sciences: Where Are We Now?

The Bridging the Sciences Initiative is approaching its third year of existence, and the impact it has already made is significant. Born from the conviction that increased funding in the physical, mathematical and computational sciences would result in research that could significantly impact biomedical research, the initiative's goals were to determine how

best to fund such research, and then find a way to make that funding source a reality.

In the spring of 2003, six societies agreed to participate in the Bridging the Sciences Coalition. Most of those societies represented the biological sciences. As of October 2005, the Coalition has grown to 16 groups, including 14 professional societies that cover biology, chemistry, instrumentation, computer science, physics, and mathematics. The Coalition now represents over 280,000 research scientists.

Through meetings with members of Congress and their staff, and with officials at the federal agencies, the Coalition's ideas have gained recognition and traction in the science and government communities. In 2004, NIH and NSF held a joint meeting to discuss ways the federal government could facilitate research at the interface of the life and physical sciences. In 2005, draft legislation to reauthorize NIH included a bridging the sciences demonstration program.

In addition, other groups have picked up the ideas expressed by the Coalition and gone to Congress with similar messages. The Council on Competitiveness National Innovation report, released in December 2004, called for the federal government to increase its investment in basic science research in order to keep the United States competitive globally. The October 2005 National Academies study (see page 14) recommends that policymakers increase the federal investment in the physical, computational, and mathematical sciences by 10% per year for the next seven years. The report states that many advances in biomedical research are based on advances made through research in these other fields. Both reports also cite the need for the U.S. to fund more innovative research—not just research that will pay off in two to three

years—which is one of the basic arguments the Coalition has made.

Unfortunately, the federal funding environment we are currently in as Congress works to finish the 2006 budget and starts the 2007 budget, is tougher than it was when we started this initiative. NIH is slated to receive an increase that does not keep pace with inflation, and NSF is slated to receive less than it did in 2004. Some may naturally ask, why pursue a funding stream for the bridging sciences now? Why not focus on protecting the "piece of the pie" we already have?"

While the funding environment has changed, the reality that biomedical research advances depend on advances in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and computational science has not. Despite tighter budgets, biologists still need new and improved tools from these disciplines to make breakthroughs in their own work or to simplify their research methods. The difficulty of finding funding for research at the interface of the biological sciences and the physical, mathematical and computational sciences remains.

The Coalition has made great strides in creating the awareness of and understanding for the need to fund research at this interface. While the funding situation now appears bleak, the federal budget outlook will be brighter in some future years. Now is the time to lay the groundwork to ensure that we will be poised to take advantage of improved fiscal times and make a Bridging the Sciences concept a reality.

## Roundup

*FDA/NCI:* President Bush has named *Andrew von Eschenbach*, Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), acting commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Eschenbach is taking the position of *Lester Crawford*.

*NIBIB:* National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) launched a new website in October. The new website contains more patient-oriented information on technology-based medical procedures and expanded information for prospective and current grantees. One notable change is a searchable funding opportunities database. The website is <http://www.nibib.nih.gov>.

*House of Representatives:* Plans for a National Innovation Summit as called for by Rep. *Frank Wolf* (R-VA) in recent legislation that passed the House have been moved to December 6. The "invitation only" event will take place at the U.S. Department of Commerce, and will bring together CEOs, a few university presidents, and governors according to published reports. House Science Committee staff is preparing a white paper which will reportedly try to focus the Conference's attention upon inadequate federal funding for physical sciences and engineering research budgets.

*Senate:* Senator *Richard Burr* (R-NC) introduced legislation entitled the National Biodefense Act of 2005 in October. The purpose of the bill is to address potential threats such as avian influenza and bioterrorism. Burr is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness. The legislation would, among other things, establish the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency as a single point of authority within the Federal Government for developing medical countermeasures, including drugs and vaccines, in response to bioterrorism and natural outbreaks. The new agency would be part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A hearing to markup the bill was scheduled for late October.

## Upcoming Events\*

March 19 - 23, 2006

*Optical Spectroscopy of Biomolecular Dynamics II*

Eilat, Israel

<http://www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/OSBD/>

March 26 - 30, 2006

*Frontiers in Chemical Biology: Single Molecules*

Churchill College, University of Cambridge, UK

[http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/](http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/SingleMolecules/)

[RSCConferences/SingleMolecules/](http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/SingleMolecules/)

April 9 - 13, 2006

*2nd international Symposium on Calorimetry and Chemical Thermodynamics*

Campinas, Brazil

<http://www.calorimetry.iqm.unicamp.br/>

\*Please visit <http://www.biophysics.org/> for a complete list of upcoming events.

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