

Biophysical Society

Newsletter

May/June 2008 Issue

Table of Contents

2008 Slate of Candidates	1
Biophysicist in Profile	2
Public Affairs	4
Open Access	6
Getting Paid and Other	
Negotiation Skills	7
Subgroups	8
Members in the News	9
How the Society Works	10
Upcoming Events	12

Dorothee Kern Named 2009 National Lecturer



Dorothee Kern

See article on page 9.

President-Elect Candidates



Peter Moore



David Warshaw

Treasurer



Linda Kenney

2008 Slate of Candidates

The Society's 2008 candidates for President-Elect are *Peter Moore* of Yale University and *David Warshaw* of the University of Vermont College of Medicine. The candidate for Treasurer, running unopposed, is *Linda Kenney* of the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Twelve candidates are running for the seven open Council positions (see below).

Full biographical information for each candidate is available at www.biophysics.org. Eligible Society members with current email addresses were sent instructions for voting electronically. Print ballots are available upon request. All votes must be received in the Society office by August 1.

Council Candidates



Ivet Bahar



Patricia Clark



Alberto Diaspro



Jose Casas-Finet



Marco Colombini



Enrique de la Cruz



Robert Gennis



Gilad Haran



Vasanthi Jayaraman



David Millar



Michael Regnier



Petra Schuille

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland
Phone: 301-634-7114
Fax: 301-634-7133

Email: society@biophysics.org

<http://www.biophysics.org>

Biophysical Society

Officers

President

Harel Weinstein

President-Elect

Henry Lester

Past-President

Joseph Falke

Secretary

Dorothy Beckett

Treasurer

Mordecai P. Blaustein

Council

Olaf S. Andersen

Michael D. Cahalan

Valerie Daggett

David Dawson

Nynke Dekker

Sharyn Endow

Laura Finzi

Susan P. Gilbert

Ana Maria Gomez

Enrico Gratton

Steven Gross

Donald W. Hilgemann

Dorothee Kern

Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz

David Piston

Rajini Rao

Lynne Regan

Gregory Reinhart

Steven Rosenfeld

Catherine Royer

Frances Separovic

Toshio Yanagida

Biophysical Journal

Editor-in-Chief

Edward Egelman

Executive Officer

Ro Kampman

Newsletter Production

Alisha Yocum

Profiles

Lee Miller & Nadia Ramlagan

Public Affairs

Ellen Weiss & Nadia Ramlagan

The Biophysical Society Newsletter (ISSN 0006-3495) is published six times per year January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December by the Biophysical Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998. Distributed to USA members and other countries at no cost. Canadian GST No. 898477062. Postmaster: Send address changes to Biophysical Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998.

Copyright © 2008 by the Biophysical Society. Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

Biophysicist in Profile



Kathleen Hall

“I didn’t always like science,” says Kathleen Hall, director of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics graduate program at Washington University School of Medicine. In fact, originally she saw herself as a journalist, and later, while a pipe organ player and opera singer, young Hall saw herself primarily as a musician.

Hall was born in 1953 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her mother (now deceased) was an accountant, and her father, who is now 90, built golf courses. Hall has one brother Dennis, younger by a mere 13 months, who is a lawyer and now a judge.

While others describe Kathleen as having been a spirited, curious, and lively child, she paints a less euphemistic picture. “As a child I was obnoxious,” she explains, “very verbal, very impatient, and usually had my nose in a book—the kind of book I wasn’t supposed to be reading.”

As a teenager, she channeled her energy into activism. In an era of radical politics sustained by the Vietnam War, Hall was an active member of several student organizations and political groups, most notably Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

After high school, Hall matriculated into a private university on a National Merit scholarship, but soon left. “I didn’t like it because it was too small,” Hall remembers. She transferred into her state school, the University of Minnesota, where she initially focused on music.

Deciding that playing the pipe organ and singing might be “a hard way to earn a living,” Hall turned to science. Immersing herself in the biological sciences, she graduated in three years with a BS in Microbiology and Immunology. She didn’t completely abandon her interest in the pipe organ and singing, however, and earned enough credits to obtain a minor in music.

After a short stint in graduate school, Hall dropped out and headed west to Berkeley, California. At the time, she lacked focus and simply, didn’t want to study anymore for awhile,” she explains. “I wanted to do other things.” For the next five years, Hall did plenty, including working in industry, as a singer with the San Francisco symphony, and at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBL). Feeling the urge to do her own research again, Hall ultimately made a decision to return to graduate school. “I really wanted to do science at a level that I couldn’t do before.”

While Hall was working at LBL, her colleague *Marcos Maestre* convinced *Ignacio Tinoco* at the University of California, Berkeley, to be her graduate advisor. Hall began her graduate studies at UC Berkeley, and acknowledges that Tinoco heavily influenced her career. She credits Maestre for his foresight. “If it hadn’t been for Marcos, who knows what I’d be doing,” she laughs.

“I thought I was done and gone after I decided to drop out of graduate school, but that’s the great thing about the American system. You are able to reinvent yourself and go back and correct mistakes, change paths, change directions,” Hall reflects.

Back in academia, Hall worked on her graduate research with intense concentration and determination. “She [Hall] was very rigorous in her design of experiments. She always did all the controls so there was never any question about her results. Her careful experimentation set the tone for the rest of the group,” says Tinoco.

Tinoco remembers that her presence in the lab never went unnoticed. “She stands out in any gathering because of her laugh,” he says. “With an opera-trained voice her laugh is heard throughout any room.”

Hall decided to work on RNA, a choice which in those days (the late 1970s), brought bewildered looks and “odd man out” status from fellow researchers. “When I first started studying RNA it was thought to be pretty boring—you also couldn’t make it because it had to be made chemically, and it was an incredible pain. And everybody thought I was

Resonance (NMR) with *Alfred Redfield*. “Alfred is pretty spectacular,” she explains. “He let me do whatever I wanted to do. He never questioned where I was or what I was doing, and he always seemed to find me whenever he had magnet time. He let me be very independent.”

As a postdoc, Hall received a Lucille P. Markey scholarship, which

inspired in a way that is infectious,” admires James Kranz, one of Hall’s first graduate students, who is now a Senior Scientist at Johnson and Johnson.

With an innate mentoring instinct, Hall has the ability to foster independent thinking while expressing genuine interest in the work of her graduate students. “She has a way of nurturing “crazy ideas” that I’ve not come across very often. These are thoughts about the next experiment that are pieced together from bits of unrelated mental chatter. Of course

many of them aren’t worth doing, but 1 in 10 are worth pursuing. What she taught me during these brainstorming sessions was the ability to think through a project from conception to endpoint, extrapolating what we’d learn and how we’d learn it,” says Kranz.

Her influence also extends to colleagues. “She’s extremely smart and quick, and doesn’t tolerate nonsense, especially time-wasting nonsense,” says Sean Eddy, now a group leader at HHMI, Janelia Farms and a former colleague of Hall’s at Washington University.

“I met Kathleen when I was being recruited to Washington University in 1994 or so. I asked to meet her because of her work on RNA. My department seemed scared of having

“Her breadth of knowledge is enviable, as is her ability to do very challenging quantitative work, both experimental and theoretical.”

nuts because, once you made it, it would degrade. And why would you make it anyway because it didn’t do anything? Everybody said to do DNA,” Hall remembers. Always interested in the new and different, or “because I’m stubborn,” Hall wryly notes, she was undeterred.

In Tinoco’s lab—one of the few labs at the time that worked on RNA—Hall discovered that RNA, which normally forms a right-handed A-form double helix, could be induced to form a left-handed Z-form helix. “Left-handed Z-form DNA had been discovered earlier, but a distinguished crystallographer had concluded that it was impossible for RNA to form an equivalent structure,” explains Tinoco. “Kathi [Kathleen] made the experiment succeed. The results were published in *Nature* and garnered some press recognition.”

It was during her stint in Tinoco’s lab that Hall first joined the Biophysical Society in 1983. His lab members always attended the Annual Meeting as a group, and everyone she met was a BPS member. “The comments were, “Why aren’t you a member?” So it was a sort of natural progression,” says Hall.

After obtaining her PhD in biophysics in three years, Hall moved to Brandeis University to do postdoctoral research on Nuclear Magnetic

supported her for her first five years as a faculty member at the Washington University, a position she still holds. In addition to teaching, Hall’s research is currently focused on NMR dynamics, studying RNA and RNA: protein interactions. “It’s interesting to understand how dynamics influences and is important for function. This understanding won’t come overnight, but incrementally,” she explains.

“Hall is never satisfied with applying a single method or experiment to a problem when she can corroborate her data by applying two or more. Her insistence on having self consistent data from diverse sources strengthens the conclusions she draws in her research,” says former lab

“After the meeting, someone from Genetics was sent to recover my remains, but to his surprise, Kathleen and I got along great—and we’ve been friends ever since...”

member Scott Showalter, now Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Penn State.

Hall’s success as a scientist has made her a source of inspiration for students. “She [Hall] is a physicist, turned biochemist, turned biologist. Her breadth of knowledge is enviable, as is her ability to do very challenging quantitative work, both experimental and theoretical. Beyond excelling technically and intellectually, she always seems

me meet her. She has a fierce reputation, and was thought to be especially fierce towards computational/theoretical biologists like me. After the meeting, someone from Genetics was sent to recover my remains, but to his surprise, Kathleen and I got along great—and we’ve been friends ever since,” says Eddy.

Hall’s active involvement in the Society stems from her belief that biophysics will become increasingly more collaborative, “Biophysics has changed a lot. It’s much more com

(Continued on page 8.)

Public Affairs

Evolution Hits the Big Screen

Released in April, *Ben Stein's* film *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* has elicited much public dispute, receiving fierce backlash from the scientific community while garnering approval from many intelligent design supporters.

The movie is framed around Stein's interviews with advocates of intelligent design who claim they have been ostracized within the academic community and that their careers have suffered. He also interviews prominent evolutionary biologists *Paul Zachary (P.Z.) Myers* and *Richard Dawkins* and uses Dawkins' self-identified atheism to link the theory of evolution to atheism, immorality, eugenics and the rise of the Nazi Holocaust, communism, and abortion. Stein, a comedian, actor, and game show host, co-wrote and co-produced the film with movie producer and media consultant *Mark Mathis*. The film's production company, Premise Media, also produced *The Passion of the Christ*.

A point of contention for many critics is that *Expelled* never actually defines intelligent design or evolution, nor does Stein interview people who both believe in God and accept evolution. The film has amassed many negative reviews, due its propagandist style and questionable assertions. *Expelled* has also stirred up controversy regarding the tactics used to interview Myers and Dawkins, as well the validity of the claims of persecution made by intelligent design supporters.

P.Z. Myers was barred from attending a March screening of *Expelled* in Minneapolis; Richard Dawkins was admitted only after being recognized by screening officials. Dawkins and Myers assert that they agreed to appear in the film under the pretense that it was

an "examination of religion and science," and not a promotion of intelligent design.

The editors of *Scientific American* have published a series of articles entitled *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed—Scientific American's Take*. *John Rennie*, *Scientific American's* editor-in-chief has also co-written *Six Things Ben Stein Doesn't Want You to Know*.

The film is entangled in several legal conflicts. *Expelled* is accused of copyright infringement over the use of the song *Imagine* written by *John Lennon*. *Yoko Ono*, who owns the copyright to the song, claims producers did not have her permission to use it in the film. In addition, the anima-

Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Energy Office of Science. The statements espouse the necessity of leadership in federal commitment to scientific research to US competitiveness. Specifically, the statements ask the Congress to fund the NSF and DOE Office of Science at the level requested in the President's FY 2009 Budget request, and to increase the NIH budget by 6.6% over the President's FY 2009 Budget Request. In his budget request to Congress, the President requested \$6.85 billion for the NSF, \$4.7 billion for the DOE Office of Science, and \$29.2 billion for the NIH. Placing emphasis on America's current economic state and quality of life, the

...the statements ask the Congress to fund the NSF and DOE Office of Science at the level requested in the President's FY 2009 Budget request.

tion company that produced the short educational video *The Inner Life of the Cell*, a segment of which is shown in the film, has also charged *Expelled* producers with copyright infringement.

The National Center for Science Education (NCSE) launched *Expelled Exposed* after the release of the film. *Expelled Exposed* refutes claims made by Stein in the film with NCSE facts and explanations about evolution and intelligent design. The site also attempts to place some of the film commentary in context, by providing background information on featured pro-intelligent design educators and academics who argue that they were persecuted for speaking out.

Biophysical Society Submits Congressional Testimony Supporting Research Funding

The Biophysical Society submitted three statements to Congress in March on behalf of the National

statements cite that a budget increases for major funding organizations like the NIH, NSF, and DOE Office of Science will create jobs and reduce future healthcare costs, improving America's current economic state and quality of life.

New Protein Portal: Easy Access to Structures

Housing a surfeit of information about proteins, the PSI Structural Genomics Knowledgebase (PSI SGKB) is a new web portal that enables scientists from a wide range of biomedical disciplines to easily access information on protein sequences, corresponding structures, details on function, and reports on how particular structures were generated. A glossary of terms and acronyms helps to translate the information.

Launched by the Protein Structure Initiative (PSI), an effort supported by the National Institutes of Health

(NIH), the PSI Structural Genomics Knowledgebase was designed for use by a broad research community, with the goal of speeding up protein discovery and development of structure determination techniques.

Containing information on 2,800 protein structures to date, the portal is designed for scientists who may want to know more about a particular protein related to their research, learn how to make a protein of interest, or find out about tools they could use in their labs. Resources related to potential collaborators and latest developments in a particular area of structural biology are also available.

Visit the PSI SGKB at <http://kb.psi-structuralgenomics.org/KB>.

Background information about the PSI is available on the NIGMS Web site at <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Initiatives/PSI/>.

NSF Report Shows More Scientists and Engineers Are Finding Jobs

Three recently published reports by the National Science Foundation (NSF) contradict recent concerns about science and engineering workforce availability in the United States. The reports indicate that the numbers of US scientists and engineers are growing, and that there is a strong labor market to encompass them. According to the data, unemployment for individuals working in science and engineering (S&E) occupations dropped to 2.5% in 2006, the lowest unemployment rate since the early 1990s, while the number of individuals working in science and engineering occupations increased by 4.3%. The NSF surveys and collects data on scientists and engineers every two years and compiles the results into three separate national reports.

The first report conveys data on the overall number of individuals working in science and engineering occupations since 2003, while the second report highlights new graduates entry into the S&E workforce. In 2006, there were 1.9 million new science, engineering and health graduates with degrees earned in academic years 2003 to 2005 in the US, 50% of these new graduates were women, while numbers varied by field. The third report on U.S. doctorates shows that of individuals who earned a doctoral degree in a science, engineering or health field from a U.S. university, 45% held a postdoctoral position at some time in their careers.

“The NSF data tell one side of the

“...the current S&E labor force is expanding, new graduates are coming out, and people are able to find employment, or are continuing their education.”

story—the supply side—and do not reflect information about the future or current demand for scientists and engineers,” says *Nimmi Kannankutty*, NSF program manager responsible for compiling the data. “On the supply side, we can say that the current S&E labor force is expanding, new graduates are coming out, and people are able to find employment, or are continuing their education.”

The NSF Reports can be viewed at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf08305/nsf08305.pdf>

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf08304/nsf08304.pdf>

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf08306/pdf/nsf08306.pdf>

Cech Stepping Down as HHMI President

Thomas Cech has announced that he is stepping down as President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in spring 2009. He has been president since 2000. He plans to return to research and teaching at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was on the faculty of the chemistry department since 1978. Cech has maintained a ten-person lab at UC-Boulder during his tenure at HHMI. The lab studies telomerase.

Congress Increases FY 2009 Federal Spending Plan

On Tuesday, May 20, negotiators from the US House of Representatives and the US Senate signed off on a conference agreement on the FY 2009 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 90). The budget resolution provides a blueprint for Congress to use as it makes budget decisions for individual programs and agencies. The resolution gives both an overall spending target as well as breakdowns for each of the appropriations subcommittees.

The conference agreement for the 2009 budget includes approximately \$21 billion more for non-defense discretionary spending than the President requested, an increase of about 2 %.

Within that total, programs that fall within the “health category” received \$59.7 billion, which is \$5.2 billion higher than the President's budget. The Biophysical Society had requested that Congress provide \$58.556 billion for these health programs.

It was expected that both the House and Senate would approve the conference agreement. The budget resolution is an internal guide Congress, and therefore does not require the President's approval.

Open Access Mandate: What You Need to Know

In late December 2007, the President signed an omnibus spending bill containing a provision requiring the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to mandate open access for articles arising from full or partial NIH funding. Beginning April, 2008, the open-access policy mandates that NIH grantees submit their accepted peer-reviewed manuscripts into PubMed Central (PMC), NIH's database of funded research. The full text of the article is made publicly available no later than 12 months after publication. In addition, as of May 25, 2008, authors must cite their NIH-funded articles in NIH applications, proposals or progress reports, by including the PMC reference number for each article. Along with the new mandate comes a slew of open access jargon and technicalities. Here's what you need to know.

<p>NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH(NIH) FUNDED AUTHORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that your publication or copyright transfer agreement allows you to deposit your article in PMC. Alternatively, add language to the publication agreement stating that you retain the right to deposit the final peer-reviewed version of your manuscript into PMC. • Submit a copy of the final peer-reviewed version of your manuscript into the NIH manuscript submission system at http://www.nihms.nih.gov/. • Submission is not required for articles based on grants awarded before April 7, 2008. • In cases where there are multiple authors, the article only needs to be submitted once. • If the journal is depositing a copy of your final peer-reviewed manuscript (not the published version) you will still have to review and approve release of the article by signing on to the NIH manuscript system. You will be notified via email when these actions are required. • Non-compliance may delay or prevent awarding of future NIH funds. <p>You must submit your article even if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are publishing in an open access journal. • Your article is already listed in PubMed, but not PMC. • Your article is available on the publisher's web site, but is not submitted to PMC. • The journal deposits final published article into PMC but delays its release to the public for more than 12 months after publication.
<p>BIOPHYSICAL JOURNAL (BJ) AUTHORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actions are required of BJ authors to fulfill the PMC submission requirement: BJ deposits, and has been depositing, all final published articles into PMC for authors and makes them available 12 months after publication. • Authors have the option to pay \$1000 in addition to page charges to have their manuscript marked as 'Open Access' on the BJ and PubMed websites. This makes the published version of the manuscript available immediately to the public (rather than 12 months after publication). This also fulfills all HHMI and Wellcome Trust requirements.

Getting Paid and Other Negotiation Skills

The art of negotiation, a staple of the business world, seems to elude most biophysicists. Yet, knowing how to negotiate is key to success whether you are starting a new position or are a veteran at your institution. The most important part of the negotiation is having a plan. Identify your objectives and priorities and know when you will walk away. This is one of the skills biophysicists learned at the CPOW-sponsored panel discussion on *Getting Paid and Other Negotiation Skills* at the 52nd Annual Biophysical Society Meeting in Long Beach.

The panelists, all distinguished members of the Biophysical Society, were *Mary Barkley* (Moderator), Case Western Reserve University; *Ken Dill*, University of California, San Francisco; *Ronald Kaback*, University of California Los Angeles; and *Gregory Kaczorowski*, Merck Research Laboratories. Below, is an expanded report on insights from the panelists and discussions with the audience.

Establish a Context

When it comes to negotiation strategies, books, literature and websites abound, and people from the business world take advantage of these resources. This is what attendees learned from *Mary Barkley's* opening remarks on preparing for a successful negotiation. The first step is to establish a context. Know what you are going after and why. Know how your objectives fit in with the group or department and stay focused on the objective. Showing how you can benefit the department allows you to negotiate from a position of strength.

Identify Needs and Wants

It is important to identify your needs and wants. Needs should be rational and justifiable. Wants are improvements on your needs. If you are starting a first faculty position, a start-up package might include salary for one or two postdoctoral fellows, a computer and equipment essential for your research. When it comes to academic salary, reasonable requests would be within ~30% of equivalent positions in the department. In industry, salary structures are defined and handled by human resources; equipment and space are items that can be negotiated with the department head. In industry and academia, resource needs should be more than reasonable, not just enough to get by. Plan for resources you will need three to five years in advance to ensure your success.

Know When to Fold and When to Hold

If you are negotiating from within the department, it is important to understand what will happen if you don't reach an agreement. Brainstorming for alternative solutions can help both parties find new and creative solutions. Whether you are a veteran or interviewing for a new position it is important to develop a rapport during the negotiation process. The people involved in the negotiation are likely to be your colleagues for some time. It is easier to negotiate with people who you know and trust. If you are interviewing at a new institution, build a network; talk to people outside of the department; find out if your department chair really comes through. Finally, be clear on where you won't compromise and when you will get up and leave. Usually these are illegal or unethical behaviors, but sometimes there are compromises that adversely impact your job satisfac-

tion. You should think about these before you enter the negotiation, and make sure you can live with your ultimatum.

First Interviews

Many attendees were Biophysicists in early stages of their career seeking advice about the "first" faculty position. If you are on a first interview, you are already in a position of strength because the department is interested in hiring you. Go into the interview with confidence. Capitalize on your strengths—let them know how you can help the department with NIH research and publications. Raise important issues on the first interview. The two-body problem is a major issue in academia. Some institutions have a spousal hiring policy. Let the prospective department chair know your spouse also needs a faculty or other professional position at the institution. In any interview at a new institution, it is important to be cautious. Network to find out the history of the department, whether their mission matches your goals and whether the department chair is dependable. If you have other offers, it is reasonable to discuss the basic parameters of these offers on the interview. But don't hide your passion for the institution that you are visiting, let them know you would prefer to join their department.

Dos and Don'ts of Negotiation:

1. Have a Plan. Know your objectives and how they fit in with the department.
2. Identify needs and wants. Anticipate your needs three to five years in advance to ensure your success.
3. Negotiate from a position of strength, never from a position of weakness. Go in with confidence. Show how you or your request can benefit the department.

4. Determine the zone of possible agreement. Quickly establish needs and wants that both you and the chairperson can agree on. It is important to bring up spousal hiring early in the interview process.

5. Build a network. Establish a rapport with the persons involved in negotiation and recognize the importance of staff. If things go well you will be working with this group for some time.

6. Be cautious. Talk to people outside the department; know the history of the department and chairperson. Get it in writing. Know when you will get up and leave.

7. Offer solutions. Anticipate what happens if you don't reach an agreement and come up with creative alternatives.

If you want to learn more about negotiation strategies read *Everyday Negotiation: Navigating the Hidden Agendas in Bargaining* by *Deborah Kolb*.

—*Kathy Giangiacomo*, Chair CPOW

Subgroups

Membrane Biophysics

What's new?

Annual Symposium: The Membrane Biophysics Subgroup organizes an annual symposium to highlight an area of membrane biophysics. The symposium is held on the Saturday afternoon before the start of the annual Biophysical Society meeting. This year's chair and symposium organizer is *Criss Hartzell*, Emory University. The theme for the 2009 Membrane Biophysics symposium will be *Ion Channels with Borderline Personalities*. Speakers will include: *Tom DeCoursey*, *Fred Lamb*, *Joe Mindell*, *Ann-Marie Surprenant*, *Criss Hartzell*, and others.

Dues increase: Membrane Biophysics dues will increase to \$10 with the 2009 dues invoices. (Student dues will remain free.) Dues have been \$6 for many years. We are no longer even

covering the symposium costs with dues at this level. There will be another small dues increase in 2010 to bring us to the dues level of the other subgroups. We do have some funds in reserve, but we have been (very) actively spending those and need to slow the spending rate. (Thanks to our last two Chairs for soliciting funds to cover the snack at the symposium.) Dues are used to cover symposium costs, Cole Award, Cole Dinner costs, and student dinners. \$10 is still less than lunch in a convention center! Don't forget to renew your membership.

Advantages of membership: Being a member of the Membrane Biophysics subgroup means you:

- are supporting the purposes of the subgroup;
- will receive subgroup information via the group's listserv;
- are eligible to nominate investigators for the Kenneth S. Cole Award; and
- will have the earliest opportunity to reserve a place at the Cole Award dinner (we have been selling out each year for past few years and are not always able to accommodate last minute people).

Call for Nominations for the Kenneth S. Cole Award: The Membrane Biophysics subgroup solicits nominations for the Kenneth S. Cole Award. This is an annual award, given to an investigator who has made a substantial contribution to the understanding of membrane biophysics. The award will be presented at the subgroup dinner following the Saturday afternoon symposium at the Annual Meeting. Any member of the Membrane Biophysics subgroup may be a nominator. The recipient will be selected by the Subgroup Chair and the Advisory Committee. Nominations should contain a brief statement summarizing the qualifications of the nominee. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2008.

Nominations should be sent to the Chair (*Criss Hartzell*), the

Advisory Committee (*Eitan Reuveny*, *Nael A. McCarty*, *David T. Yue*, or *Dan Minor*), or subgroup Secretary/Treasurer (*Carol L. Beck*).

Please note the earlier deadline this year. We would like to make the selection earlier in order to meet newsletter deadlines for publicizing the awardee.

Subgroup Email List: The subgroup has an email distribution list. Members may contact *Carol Beck* (carol.beck@jefferson.edu) for information about sending out email announcements of conferences or meetings.

—*Carol Beck*, Secretary/Treasurer

Profile (Continued from page 3.)

putational, much more interdisciplinary. It's always been interdisciplinary, but now much more so. The problems require much more expertise, so I see a lot more collaborations. And increased demands on anyone who does it [biophysics] to know more than one discipline," she says.

The Biophysical Society remains a place where Hall feels at ease. "I think it provides a home to a lot of people, an intellectual home. In that sense, it's reassuring that there are other people out there who care about the same things. It's a very healthy Society," she says. "I think it's a question of being able to give back. As a home for biophysics, BPS is like any other home, it needs caring for and participation, and that's part of being a scientist and public service. All scientific societies rely on a lot of volunteers." Hall is currently on the Public Affairs Committee, serves as an Associate Editor of *Biophysical Journal*, and just recently completed a term on the Society Council.

When not doing science, Hall enjoys spending time with her three cats and her boyfriend Noel, a sculptor who lives in New Mexico. Harkening back to her dreams of journalism and love of reading, she laughingly notes that she "still likes to read—although lately it's been journals and manuscripts!"

Dorothee Kern, 2009 National Lecturer

The Biophysical Society is pleased to announce that *Dorothee Kern*, Professor of Biochemistry at Brandeis University and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, has been named the 2009 National Lecturer. She will present the National Lecture on Monday, March 2, 2009, during the Society's Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. Kern was also the recipient of the Biophysical Society's 2004 Margaret Oakley Dayhoff Award and the Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry from American Chemical Society.

Dorothee Kern's past and current work has utilized biophysical analytical tools such as nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy in novel ways that provide new insight into the dynamic processes of enzymes and signaling proteins.

Her research has focused on the correlation between enzyme kinetics and protein structure and function, the structural basis of activation of response regulators in signal transduction triggered by phosphorylation, and the mechanism of Thiamin diphosphate (ThDP)-mediated enzyme reactions.

In order to analyze the kinetics of reversible enzyme reactions, Kern has developed a new technique using

NMR that has enabled her to successfully measure the high-speed motions of enzymes as they attach to substrate molecules, catalyze their chemical reactions, and release final products. By continuing to apply untraditional NMR methods, she has solved the first structure of a receiver domain of a two-component regulatory system involving a histidine kinase and a response regulator, and unraveled the mechanism of activation of thiamin diphosphate (ThDP) in enzymes.

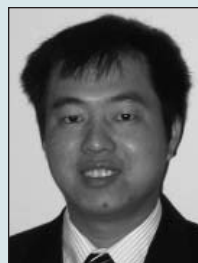
Kern obtained her BS, MS, and PhD from Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Members in the News



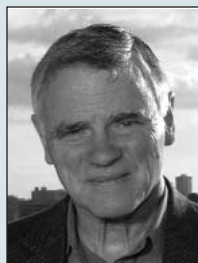
Sanford A. Asher

Sanford A. Asher of the University of Pittsburgh and Society member since 1980, was the recipient of the 2008 Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award.



Hanning Chen

Hanning Chen of the University of Utah and Society member since 2005, was one of the recipients of the 2008 Chemical Computing Group Graduate Student Excellence Award.



Leroy E. Hood

Leroy E. Hood of the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, Washington and Society member since 2002, was awarded the 2008 Pittcon Heritage Foundation Award.

2008 Discussions Organizing Committee

The Discussions Committee listed in the March/April newsletter was incorrect. Below is the corrected list.

Nikolai M. Soldatov, NIA, NIH, Chair
Mark E. Anderson, University of Iowa
David L. Armstrong, NIEHS, NIH
Lutz Birnbaumer, NIEHS, NIH
William A. Catterall, Washington University
Susan L. Hamilton, Baylor College of Medicine
Geoffrey S. Pitt, Duke University
Joerg Striessnig, University of Innsbruck
Richard W. Tsien, Stanford University
David T. Yue, Johns Hopkins University

2009 Annual Meeting

February 28 - March 4, 2009
Boston, Massachusetts

Abstract Deadline: October 5, 2008

For more information visit www.biophysics.org

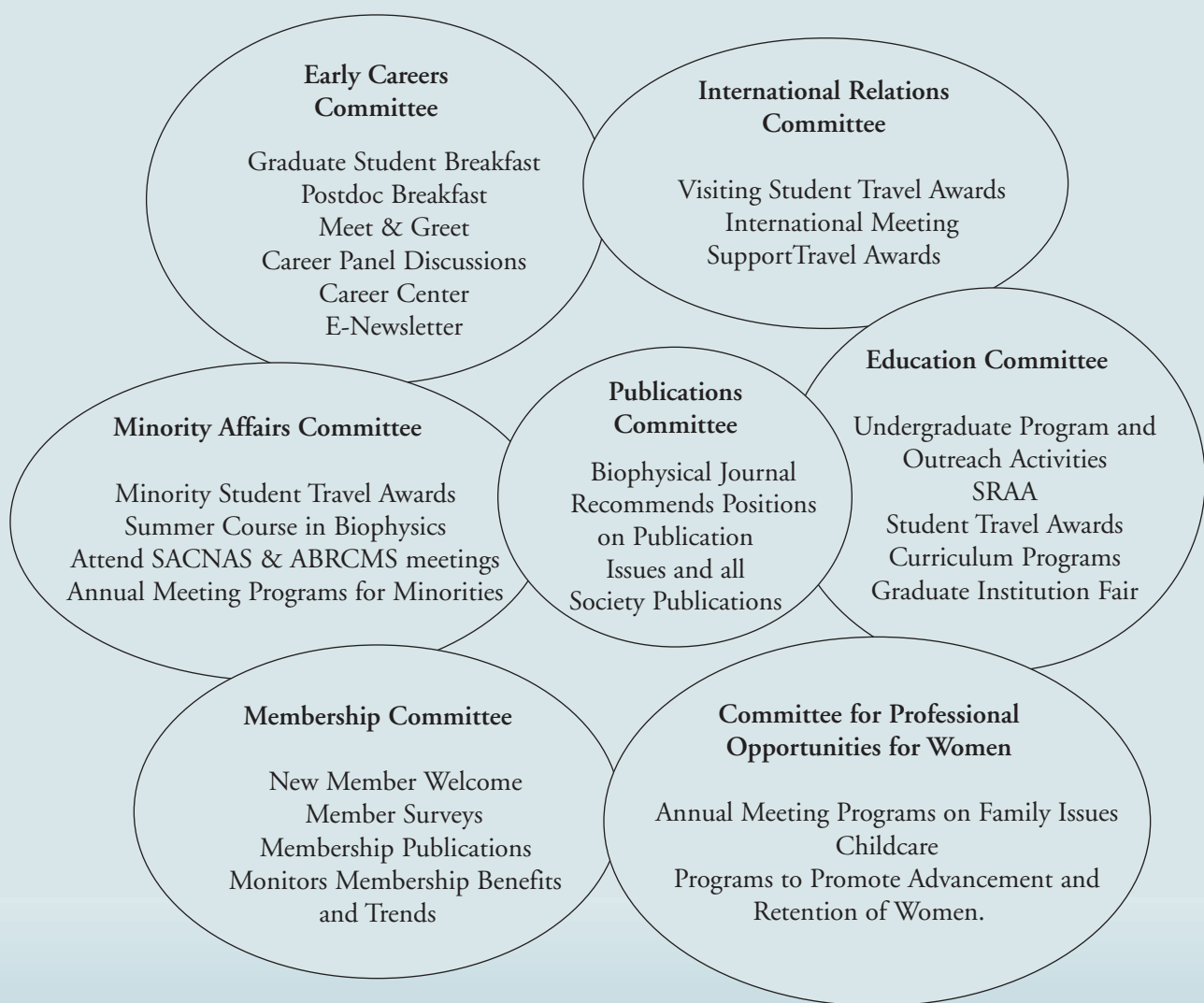
How the Society Works

Biophysical Society Committees at Work

The Biophysical Society conducts its work through the efforts of its member-driven committees. Each committee has a distinct charge and all conduct activities that support the overall mission of the Society, to encourage development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics. Below are some of the programs that each committee oversees.

Members of these committees serve three-year terms, renewable once. Appointments to committees are made by the President each year, and approved by Council when it meets during the Annual Meeting. All terms begin on July 1.

Members are encouraged to volunteer to serve committees. If you are interested, complete the BPS Biographical Volunteer Sketch found at <http://www.biophysics.org/volunteer.pdf> and submit it to the Society Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814.



Frontiers in Cell Migration

from Mechanism to Disease

September 16-18, 2008
Natcher Conference Center,
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

Conference Chairs

Rick Horwitz (University of Virginia)
Tom Parsons (University of Virginia)

Keynote Lectures

John Condeelis (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)
Mark Ginsberg (University of California - San Diego)
Doug Lauffenburger (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Scientific Sessions and Speakers

Adhesions at the Edge

Anna Huttenlocher (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
Rick Horwitz (University of Virginia)
Stefan Linder (University of Munich, Germany)

Integrin Activation and Interactions

Iain Campbell (University of Oxford, England)
Robert Liddington (Burnham Institute for Medical Research)
David Critchley (University of Leicester, England)
Kenneth Taylor (Florida State University)

Organization of the Protrusion

Dorit Hanein (Burnham Institute for Medical Research)
Alex Mogilner (University of California - Davis)
Laura Machesky (Beatson Research Institute, Scotland)
Kenneth Jacobson (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)
Tatyana Svitkina (University of Pennsylvania)

Regulation of Migration

Richard Klemke (University of California - San Diego)
Tony Pawson (Samuel Lunenfeld Research Inst., Canada)
Tom Parsons (University of Virginia)
Margaret Frame (Beatson Research Institute, Scotland)

Rho GTPases – a Regulatory Hub

Martin Schwartz (University of Virginia)
Klaus Hahn (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)
Gaudenz Danuser (Scripps Research Institute)

Polarizing the Cell

Peter Devreotes (Johns Hopkins Medical School)
Irina Kaverina (Vanderbilt University)
Jason Haugh (North Carolina State University)
Diane Barber (University of California - San Francisco)

Cells in 3-Dimensions

Kenneth Yamada (National Institutes of Health/NIDCR)
Yu-Li Wang (University of Massachusetts)
Valerie Weaver (University of California - San Francisco)

Migration and Cancer

Joan Brugge (Harvard Medical School)
Peter Friedl (Radboud University, Netherlands)
Patricia Keely (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

Migration in Regeneration and Immune Surveillance

Paul Martin (University of Bristol, England)
Fiona Watt (Cambridge Research Institute, England)
Linda Griffith (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Ronen Alon (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel)

Migration in Development

Jean Schwarzbauer (Princeton University)
Denise Montell (Johns Hopkins Medical School)
Scott Fraser (California Institute of Technology)

Looking Forward

Barbara Imperiali (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Don Hunt (University of Virginia)
Benjamin Geiger (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel)
Leslie M Loew (University of Connecticut Health Center)

Poster Sessions

For additional information
and registration, visit
www.cellmigration2008.org

Sponsored by

Cell Migration Consortium (www.cellmigration.org) and National Institute of General Medical Sciences (www.nigms.nih.gov)



9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bethesda, MD
Permit No. 5460

Biophysical Society Newsletter—May/June Issue

Upcoming Events

Biophysical Society

August 24-28, 2008
XXIIIrd ICMRBS — International Conferences on Magnetic Resonance in Biological Systems
San Diego, California
<http://www.icmrbs.org/>

September 8-9, 2008
6th International NCCR Symposium on New Trends in Structural Biology
Zurich, Switzerland
<http://www.structuralbiology.uzh.ch/symposium2008.asp>

September 9-10, 2008
MEDi 2008
Hartford, Connecticut
<http://www.medi2008.com>

September 15-17, 2008
Colloidal Nanoparticles - From Synthesis to Biological Applications
Marburg, Germany
<http://www.physik.unimaburg.de/de/forschung/biophotonik/events/conference-159-179-2008.html>

September 16-18, 2008
Frontiers in Cell Migration from Mechanism to Disease
Bethesda, Maryland
www.cellmigration2008.org

October 12-17, 2008
13th International Biotechnology Symposium
Dalian, China
<http://www.iupac.org/symposia/2008.html#121009>