

Biophysical Society

Newsletter

November/December 2008 Issue

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Society Member Roger Y. Tsien Selected for Nobel Prize in Chemistry



The Biophysical Society congratulates Roger Y. Tsien, PhD, on receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Osamu Shimomura, PhD, and Martin Chalfie, PhD, "for the discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein, GFP." Tsien has been a member of the Society since 2002 and has been a featured speaker at several Society annual meetings. He will be National Lecturer at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Commenting on the selection of Tsien, Biophysical Society President Harel Weinstein said that the development of GFP "shows how the seamless integration of knowledge between distant scientific fields, such as in the modern discipline of biophysics, can bring about major tools and make possible major discoveries. Here we see the impact that physics has on biological research—the intersection between highly specialized physical phenomena; such as light-producing electron excitation, and the fundamental processes of living organisms."

Tsien will receive his award in Stockholm on December 10.

Jeremy Berg Recognized for Distinguished Service



The 2009 Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Jeremy M. Berg, Director NIGMS, NIH. Berg will receive the award in recognition of his active and continuous support for biomedical research in general, and biophysics in particular, and the successful and creative leadership he has demonstrated in these activities.

Phil Nelson Named Emily M. Gray Awardee



Philip C. Nelson of the University of Pennsylvania has been named the 2009 Emily M. Gray Awardee for significantly contributing to the teaching of biophysics, developing innovative educational materials, and fostering an environment exceptionally conducive to education in Biological Physics.

Nelson will present a lecture at the Undergraduate Student Symposium at the Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, Sunday, March 1, 2009.

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President's Message

Biophysical Society President Harel Weinstein recently sent an email to the Society membership updating everyone on recent changes to Biophysical Journal. The message is reprinted below.



Harel Weinstein

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with updates about our Society's Journal. In the past year, the *Biophysical Journal* has undergone tremendous growth. By this year's end, the number of printed pages will approach 12,000. Concurrently, *BJ Online* has witnessed an increase in novel features, including embedded links to supplementary material.

The Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board, Publications Committee, and Society governance are all committed to ensuring that BJ continues its growth in quality and prestige, and that the online Journal continues to implement technological features and resources that help reflect and enhance the development of biophysics. We are also committed to addressing the concerns of authors and reviewers, many of whom have asked for online color and shorter turnaround time in reviews and publication. The new developments in this direction are:

- As more supplementary figures and material are placed online, we have developed processes to ensure that the material is carefully reviewed and fully archived.
- In an effort to help authors, the Journal uploads all final published papers to PubMedCentral, ensuring that authors are compliant with recent NIH requirements.
- Starting in January 2009, the publication of color figures in the online Journal will be free of charge and unlimited for all Society members.
- Efforts are continuing to reduce the length of time from a manuscript's acceptance to its publication. While in the past that time has varied from as little as three to as long as six months, we are working to reduce that time to eight weeks. To do so, the length of published papers, which has steadily increased in the last two years, will need to be reduced to a maximum of 10 pages. Shortening papers will also reduce the load on individual reviewers, which includes many of you.

This is an exciting and challenging time for scientific publishing. We will keep on working diligently to ensure that BJ continues to represent and support the field of biophysics and the Society membership in the most outstanding way possible.

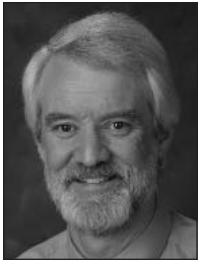
Harel Weinstein
Biophysical Society President

Hurricane Ike Aid

The Biophysical Society has made available \$30,000 to help the scientific community in the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, area affected by Hurricane Ike. The funds will be distributed to Biophysical Society members or those working in the labs of Society members to help offset some of the relocation and replacement costs they have incurred because of the hurricane's devastating impact.

Members Named 2009 Fellows

Five Society members have been selected to join the rank of Society Fellows at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Fellows are members who have demonstrated excellence in science and have contributed to the expansion of the field of biophysics. The awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony in Boston, Massachusetts, on Monday, March 2.



Donald M. Bers

University of California, Davis

For his contributions to the field of cellular and molecular biology of excitation contraction and coupling in the heart, and for longstanding commitment to the Biophysical Society.



Betty Gaffney

Florida State University

For being in the investigative forefront of spin labeling technology and electron paramagnetic resonance, the structure and dynamics of biological membranes, and the mechanisms of lipoxygenase function, and for her continuous membership in the Biophysical Society.



Robert Jernigan

Iowa State University

For his distinguished research and leadership in coarse-grained studies of proteins and their interactions, and for his contributions to the Biophysical Society.



Mark T. Nelson

University of Vermont

For his important contributions to explaining complex physiological processes in smooth muscle function, and for his devotion and service to the Biophysical Society.



Diane Papazian

David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

For her contributions to the physiology and biophysics of ion channels and how mutation in such channels are linked to diseases, and for her continued involvement in the Biophysical Society.

Biophysicist in Profile



Nikolai Soldatov

At the recent Discussions meeting, which he organized, Nikolai Soldatov was congratulated for his efforts in organizing the event, but more importantly for his substantive contributions throughout the meeting. There was no session in which he did not raise important and thought-provoking questions. It is that effort and creative thought that is at the root of Soldatov's successful scientific career.

Born, raised, and educated in Russia, Soldatov is now an investigator at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Baltimore, Maryland. Here, he has developed some of the most sophisticated technologies in his field, a far cry from what he had as a doctoral student in Russia. There, he had to rely on his mind and his passion for chemistry to conduct creative research.

"It was not easy to carry on research in the absence of mechanisms like those developed in the West to support young scientists," explains Soldatov. "It was very

difficult to start a big project on my own, and even more difficult to pursue it for many years, but it shaped my character and presented me probably with the best years of my life." Challenges like these propelled Soldatov to "create himself."

The bioorganic chemist earned his PhD in 1981 from the Shemyakin Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow, where he also did postdoctoral work. In 1986, he joined the Institute of Medical Biotechnology, also in Russia. In 1990, he joined the Laboratory of Cell Biology of Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the Rockefeller University, under the direction of Gunter Blobel, currently the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Professor and Investigator, HHMI Laboratory of Cell Biology.

Soldatov describes this time in his career as the most memorable. Blobel's laboratory was "full of fantas-

complex structures at that time, practically alone." Soldatov explains that the project was a difficult one because "molecular kits were not designed yet, and we relied mostly on self-made molecular tools." Under Blobel, Soldatov learned "dedication and an uncompromised readiness to take the most challenging pass and win."

In 1993, he headed to Switzerland, working as an assistant in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Bern. Here, he joined the Chair of the Department, Harald Reuter, with whom he collaborated on a project to construct a "representative panel of human calcium channel splice variants and investigated. ... their pharmacological and electrophysiological properties." In 1996, he returned to the States as an assistant professor at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC. In 1999, he joined the NIA.

Under Blobel, Soldatov learned "dedication and an uncompromised readiness to take the most challenging pass and win."

tically gifted researchers." And, although Soldatov's own work was "far away from the mainstream research on protein targeting and nucleopore transport, for which Blobel was awarded the 1999 Nobel Prize," it was here that Soldatov "was able to clone the human calcium channel and its gene, one of the most

Soldatov's resume—and love of science—began at an early age. Born in Chelyabinsk, Russia in 1952 into a family with an atomic power station engineer father and an artist mother, Soldatov was inquisitive about science by the fifth grade. He could be seen "reading serious chemistry books and

“I remember fascinating experiments on co-crystallization, diffusion through membranes (that we made from fish swim bladder!). . . .”

carrying out quite sophisticated experiments” with an equally inquisitive friend. “I remember fascinating experiments on co-crystallization, diffusion through membranes (that we made from fish swim bladder!), and many other exotic experiments,” reminisces Soldatov.

Soldatov is still conducting fascinating experiments today at the NIA. His current research centers on quantitative biology applications to live cells in real time using wavelet transform analysis and FRET microscopy combined with patch clamp. He is also developing a program for new and effective approaches to treat major diseases, such as atherosclerosis, cardiac arrhythmia and heart failure. “It is possible now to isolate cells of interest directly from live tissue and identify what genes among the most relevant cell signaling genes are altered by the disease.” This, said Soldatov, “is the most captivating” work he is doing right now.

In addition to his work in the laboratory, Soldatov is actively traveling around the world with lectures. He has mentored over 30 postdoctoral and post baccalaureate fellows, some of whom have later reached a rank of full Professor. Soldatov is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He also

serves on the advisory board of US National Science Foundation, the UK Wellcome Trust, and the Human Frontier Science Program and on a number of NIH study sections.

This year, Soldatov chaired the Organizing Committee for the Biophysical Society Discussions. The meeting, which ran from October 30

Soldatov has been a member of the Biophysical Society since 1997. He credits the Society as “an outlet for new ideas.” Most important to Soldatov, however, is the Society membership’s professional diversity. “The Society manages to have the best of the best, but at the same time, has its own face,” he explains. And the Annual Meeting is the place for biophysicists to “fill up” on new ideas each year.

Away from the laboratory, Soldatov enjoys hiking and traveling



Nikolai Soldatov and wife, Lyudmila, hiking near the Upper Falls of the Grand Canyon at Yellowstone National Park.

to November 1, celebrated 10 years of research in calmodulin modulation of ion channels. The meeting also honored Professor Harald Reuter’s major contributions to the field, including the discovery of the calcium channel and its modulation by calmodulin.

with his wife, Lyudmila, who also holds a PhD in bioorganic chemistry. The couple, whose son Pavel recently graduated from UNC with a BA in psychology, also share a love of classical music, ballet and opera.

Public Affairs

Federal Agencies Operate at 2008 Funding Levels

Hoping for better luck with a new Presidential Administration, Congress put off passing year long spending bills and instead approved a Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the federal government through March 6, 2009. The Resolution freezes funding for most federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and NASA, at their Fiscal Year 2008 levels. The bill does increase funding for Department of Defense basic research 12.7% over 2008 levels. President Bush signed the bill on September 30; the federal government's 2009 Fiscal Year began on October 1.

In response to the CR, the NIH issued a policy on October 2 for funding non-competing grant awards (i.e., continuing grants) under the FY09 CR. The notice says that until the final FY09 appropriation is enacted, the agency will issue non-competing awards at "generally up to 90 percent of the previously committed level." This policy is in line with how the agency has handled continuing resolutions in recent years.

The Department of Energy Office of Science had not announced how they intended to handle the flat budget. Prior to the passage of an emergency supplemental bill in June 2008 that provided the Office with an additional \$62 million, several national labs had furloughed employees and scaled back operations at the labs due to lack of funding. The CR does not

include the dollars provided by the emergency bill. Thus, the labs may find themselves again facing difficult choices regarding staff and operations.

The Biophysical Society, along with the greater science community, had advocated for additional money for the NIH, NSF, and Department of Energy in the Continuing Resolution. With concerns over the financial markets taking center stage, the likelihood of that additional funding became very bleak.

Biophysical Society Joins Call for a National Basic Energy Research Initiative

The Biophysical Society joined with more than 70 other business, higher education, and scientific organizations, in releasing a petition on September 17 that was delivered to both Presidential campaigns calling on the next President to propose and implement a comprehensive basic energy research initiative to help lead the country toward long-term energy security.

Spearheaded by the Energy Sciences Coalition and The Science Coalition, the petition was signed by a diverse group that in addition to the Biophysical Society included the American Chemical Society, Microsoft Corporation, and more than 40 major research universities.

Noting that both presidential campaigns focused on immediate steps to address the nation's current energy crisis, the petition asserts that those measures alone are unlikely to produce energy sources that will meet the nation's and the world's long-term demand for abundant, environmentally friendly energy. A major investment in basic research is needed, the

petition says, to produce the technological advances and train the next generation of scientists and technicians that will meet the long-term energy challenge.

"The need for abundant sources of environmentally friendly and affordable energy far exceeds the capacity of currently available technologies," the petition states. "Successfully developing and deploying a diverse and sustainable portfolio of new cutting-edge energy solutions will require basic research that produces scientific advances that leapfrog current technologies." Such breakthroughs, the petition notes, will depend upon government support for basic research and a coordinated strategy across all federal research agencies.

To read the full petition, go to: http://www.sciencecoalition.org/images/assets/ESCPetition_09-16.pdf.

NIH Director Steps Down, Leadership Changes Expected Across Federal Government

NIH Director *Elias A. Zerhouni*, MD, announced on September 24 that he would step down at the end of October 2008. Zerhouni served as NIH director since May 2002. In a statement, Zerhouni said that he planned to pursue several writing projects as well as other opportunities. He indicated that he hoped the timing of his departure would encourage the next President to make appointing a new NIH Director a priority. Raynard Kington will serve as Interim Director until a permanent appointment is made.

The National Institutes of Health are unique in the federal government.

Beyond Elias Zerhouni, the only other NIH leader that is a political appointee is *John Niederhuber*, MD, the Director of the National Cancer Institute. The NIH deputy directors and other Institute and Center leaders are not political positions, and therefore, the individuals holding those positions will remain in place through the transition to a new administration.

At other agencies, there will be more changes at the top. The Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House will have all new Directors and Deputy Directors. At the National Science Foundation, the Director and Deputy Director positions are appointed by the President. At the Department of Energy, the Secretary, Under Secretary of Science, Under Secretary for Energy and Environment, Assistant Secretary for

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration are all political appointments that will change over with a new administration. Within the Department of Defense, the head of The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will change, as will the Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

According to a prepublication copy of the National Academies Report, *Science and Technology for America's Progress: Ensuring the Best Presidential Appointments in the New Administration*, the last three Presidential administrations have

taken over eight months to make these appointments. This delay can lead to uncertainty in the research community and a lack of sound science and technology input on decisions during that period. The National Academies report suggests that the next administration name a science advisor as soon as possible after the election. After the inauguration, this person can serve as an Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and be nominated to be the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Having a high level science advisor in place should speed up the process of identifying candidates and filling these important jobs. The National Academies' Report also suggests that societies do more to help the administration find potential candidates.



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The George Washington University
New Energy Professorship
Basic Energy Science and Technology Institute
The Gus Weiss Professor of Theoretical Physics

The Department of Physics at The George Washington University invites applications for a **senior tenured position** within a growing program of interdisciplinary energy-related research at the University. The University is establishing an Institute for Basic Energy Science and Technology at our Virginia campus to be anchored by senior faculty in Physics, Chemistry, and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Successful candidates are expected to advance the vision of the University and the Department as a leader in energy-related research and maintain an active, externally funded, research program. Preference will be given to individuals whose research complements existing strengths and strategic priorities at the University and in the Physics Department, particularly in the area of modeling energy production and energy usage in biological networks and systems and generally in such areas as computational modeling and programs utilizing national facilities. Significant opportunities exist for substantial collaborations with other departments in our Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering and Applied Science, and School of Medicine, as well as with many private and federal laboratories in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Basic Qualifications: Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree and relevant experience as well as a distinguished record of funded research. **Application Procedure:** Applications should include a curriculum vita and a letter of intent, describing research, teaching, and overall goals. Names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of at least three references should also be included. Applications should be sent to Professor B.L. Berman, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Physics, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052. Questions may be directed via email to berman@gwu.edu or via phone to 202-994-7192. Applications will be reviewed as they are received until the position is filled. Only complete applications will be considered. Applications from women and underrepresented minorities are especially encouraged. *The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

2008 Summer Course in Biophysics

The 2008 Summer Course in Biophysics: Case Studies in the Physics of Life ended in August and was a resounding success!

Ten undergraduate students were selected for this intense 11-week course, held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The course consisted of mentored lab research experience, lectures seminars, and career counseling. Students came away feeling challenged and invigorated. As one summer course student stated "... [it was] tough, fun and interesting... all at the same time."

Thirty five UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members and invited speakers from across the country presented talks

and provided mentoring advice. Students worked closely with graduate and PhD students, learning firsthand the demands of and obtaining exposure to the rigors of graduate school. The course also contained team-building outings to other university labs and recreational activities to offer a balanced program.

Barry R. Lentz, Summer Course Director, organized the program. *Liz Russell-McKenzi*, Course Evaluator from Temple University College of Education, interviewed students

before, during, and after the course to monitor their progress, thoughts, and reactions about the curriculum. *Jenn Cable*, *Jon Edwards*, and *Ron Jacak*, PhD candidates in the Program in Molecular and Cellular Biophysics at UNC, were instrumental in helping and supporting the students throughout the course. *Lisa Phillippie*,



The 2008 Summer Course participants (left to right). Melissa Wiemken, Stephani Page, "T" Gebre-Egzi, "Ko Ko" Mwimba, Maria Colorado, Yadilette Rivera-Colon, AJ Brown, Giovanni Cruz, Cheryl Lay, and Ron Jacak (Teaching Assistant).

Faculty Position Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, NY

The School of Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is seeking exceptionally qualified scientists to work in an exciting, interdisciplinary environment as full-time tenure-track or tenured faculty position at any rank (assistant, associate, or full professor) in the Department of Biology. The Department of Biology is in a period of rapid expansion with many new faculty appointments anticipated in the next five years. We are seeking candidates in a wide spectrum of areas in the biological sciences. The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, postdoctoral experience, and will be expected to establish an extramurally funded research program, train graduate students, and participate in undergraduate education. Applicants should email a single PDF document containing curriculum vitae, a three-page statement of research accomplishments and goals, and a brief description of teaching interests to biology-chair@rpi.edu. In addition, applicants should arrange to have at least three letters of recommendation forwarded by email. Consideration of candidates will begin upon receipt of applications and will continue until the positions are filled.

We welcome candidates who will bring diverse, intellectual, geographical, gender and ethnic perspectives to Rensselaer's work and campus communities.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.



Giovanni Cruz worked with Gary Glish in the Chemistry Department to investigate electron detachment dissociation as a means of characterizing peptides and proteins by mass spectrometry.

Administrator for the Program in Molecular and Cellular Biophysics at UNC, provided the onsite logistical support for the program, and Julianna Wittig, BPS Governance and Committee Administrator oversaw the process from start to finish.

Applications for the 2009 Summer Course are being accepted. For information and application forms, see ad on page 9 and visit www.biophysics.org.



Biophysical Society
Biophysical Society
Summer Course in Biophysics:
Case Studies In the Physics of Life

May 19 – August 9, 2009

If you are a minority undergraduate student interested in learning about graduate level programs, biophysics, & working with top scientists in the field, you should apply!

“...tough, fun, and interesting...all at the same time.”

-2008 Summer Course Student

Intense 11-week course includes:

- Lectures & seminars
- Discussion sessions
- Mentored research experience
- Team-building activities & field trips
- College credits toward undergraduate degree

Prerequisites:

- Studying quantitative science: chemistry, physics, biochemistry, computer science
- 2 semesters of calculus-level physics
- 3.0 cumulative or higher GPA in science courses
- Minority undergraduate student residing permanently in the U.S. or citizen of U.S.



Students are given a thorough introduction to course and lab experience.

Participants receive:

- Paid tuition
- Paid room & board
- Text books
- Travel grant
- Stipend for living expenses

Gain exposure & knowledge of:

- Graduate school curriculum & demands
- Working in a university research lab
- Working 1 on 1 with biophysics postdoctoral & graduate students & senior scientists



Students enjoy group picnic & rafting trip.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



May 19 – August 9, 2009

FOR INFORMATION & TO APPLY, GO TO: <http://www.biophysics.org/tabid/88/Default.aspx>

Biophysical Society / 9650 Rockville Pike Bethesda, Maryland / 20814 / Email: jwittig@biophysics.org / Phone: (301) 634-7114 / Fax: (301) 634-7133

Application Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2009

Society Donors

The Society gratefully acknowledges the 2008 members who made donations to the Society programs. The names of all the donors are listed below. Donations allow for the growth each year in Student and International Travel Grants, Public Affairs, Awards and other outreach activities that could not otherwise be undertaken.

\$500-\$1500

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\$100-\$499

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Forman-Kay, Julie D.
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Fox, Jeffrey J.
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 Lopez-Lopez, Jose R.
 Lorigan, Gary A.
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 Zanenlo, Laura P.
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 Zhukovsky, Mikhail A.
 Zima, Aleksey V.
 Zimbrick, John D.
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Subgroups

Motility

Annual Meeting Symposium

The Motility Subgroup annual symposium will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009. The theme *Flexibility in Motor Function*, reflects the fact that molecular motors are not binary machines that click between states, but rather are soft matter subject to thermal fluctuation. The selected speakers have a wide range of expertise on dynein, myosin, and kinesin motors, as well as larger-scale motile systems such as dividing cells. Their range of techniques and expertise is also impressive.

We are delighted to have [Kazuo Sutoh](#), University of Tokyo, as our Evening Speaker on the subject of *Dynein: the Old but still Mysterious Motor Protein*.

Other speakers and their talks are: [Chris Berger](#), University of Vermont, *Rigid or flexible coupling of the myosin actin-binding cleft and active site?*; [Stan Burgess](#), University of Leeds, *Structure and powerstroke of dynein*; [Mike Diehl](#), Rice University, *Collective stepping mechanics and force production of two coupled kinesin-1 motors*; [Stefan Diez](#), Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, *On the cooperativity of kinesin motors during cargo transport and directional microtubule sliding*; [Arne Gennerich](#), University of California, San Francisco, *Force-dependent stepping and tension-sensing by cytoplasmic dynein*; [Holly Goodson](#), University of Notre Dame, *Microtubule dynamics*; and [Raúl Padrón](#), Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC), Caracas, *How myosin filaments are activated*.

The Motility Subgroup focuses on the structure, function, and regulation of the motor protein families

(myosin, kinesin and dynein) and on the protein tracks along which they move (actin filaments, microtubules) to generate muscle contraction, cell motility, and intracellular movement. We encourage all interested investigators, postdocs, and students working in these fields to join the subgroup.

—[Peter Knight](#) and [Sarah Rice](#),
Co-Chairs

Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

2009 Elections

The IDP Subgroup has several open positions for officers and council members. Elections will be held at the Subgroup's Business Meeting, which will be at 10:00AM on Saturday February 28, 2009, immediately preceding the Subgroup Symposium. We encourage members to nominate appropriate people or themselves. Each candidate/nominator should send an email to [Trevor Creamer](#) (Trevor.Creamer@uky.edu) indicating his/her interest and qualifications, and provide a statement of the candidates' intentions and goals. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted. We hope that all nominees will attend the Boston meeting to stand for election in person.

The open positions are:

Chair-Elect (one-year term as chair-elect, followed by one-year term as chair, and a third year as immediate past chair).

Secretary/Treasurer (two-year term).

Program Co-Chairs: two open positions (one-year term).

Council: one open position (three-year term).

Subgroup Symposium

The 3rd Annual IDP Subgroup Symposium will be held at 1:00PM Saturday, February 28 in Boston. [Yuan Chen](#) and [Peter Tompa](#), the

Symposium Co-Chairs, have assembled an exciting program, *The Ever Expanding Roles of IDPs in Biological Systems*. There are three Plenary speakers: [Rick Morimoto](#), [Susan Lindquist](#), and [Lewis Kay](#). The Symposium will also feature two short talks presented by the two winners of the first IDP Subgroup Postdoctoral Research Awards.

IDP-related Session

Symposium 1: Protein Modularity and Flexibility in Signal Transduction, chaired by Subgroup members, will be held during the Biophysical Society Meeting in Boston. The symposium will be held Sunday, March 1, 8:15AM-10:15AM.

Papers of Interest

Visit the IDP's webpage at www.biophysics.org for a listing of recently published papers related to IDP.

—[Trevor Creamer](#),
Secretary/Treasurer

Biological Fluorescence

Annual Symposium

This year's Biological Fluorescence subgroup meeting will focus on fluorescence microscopy. The meeting will begin with [David Piston](#), Vanderbilt University, providing an overview of the history of fluorescence microscopy with a talk entitled *A brief history of fluorescence microscopy: from pond scum to single molecules*. This overview will be followed by talks from investigators who apply state-of-the-art fluorescence microscopic methods to different biological systems. [Peter So](#), MIT, [Céline Gales](#), Toulouse INSERM, and [Richard Benninger](#), Vanderbilt University, will highlight how fluorescence methods

can be applied to in vitro and cellular systems to view understand protein function. Additionally, the subgroup session will include two short talks by graduate students or postdoctoral fellows selected from the meeting abstracts. Please consider joining the Biological Fluorescence Subgroup and be part of an increasing number of scientists that use fluorescence in their own research.

— *Suzanne Scarlata*, Chair

Exocytosis and Endocytosis

The Exocytosis and Endocytosis Subgroup's 7th Meeting will be held in Boston on February 28, chaired by *Ruth Heidelberg*, University of Texas Medical School at Houston. The other members of the council and organizing committee for the symposium are: *Ronald W. Holz* (Chair-elect), University of Michigan, *Guillermo Alvarez de Toledo* (Past Chair), University of Seville, Spain, *Henrique von Gersdorff*, the Voluum Institute, OHSU, and *Joshua Zimmerberg*, NIH.

Leonid Chernomordik, NIH/NICHD, will kick off the symposium with the talk, *Fusion pore expansion in cell-to-cell fusion: a job for intracellular curvature-generating proteins?* The other speakers and their talks are: *Harvey McMahon*, MRC, Cambridge, UK, *Molecular mechanisms underlying calcium dependent vesicle fusion*; *Christian Rosenmund*, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas, *The role of complexin in regulating neurotransmitter release*; and *Christine Petit*, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France *Petit* will present recent findings from her laboratory on human genetic hearing disorders and hair cell ribbon synapses.

After a break, the *Sir Bernard Katz Award for Excellence in Research in Exocytosis and Endocytosis* will be presented, followed by the Katz Award

lecture. The recipient of this year's Award is *Gary Matthews*, Stony Brook University, New York. Matthews is being honored for his pioneering studies on synaptic vesicle dynamics in single synaptic terminals and his seminal contributions to our understanding of ribbon synapses. The title of his Award Lecture is *Synaptic vesicle exocytosis and endocytosis at ribbon synapses*.

A Gala dinner will follow the meeting (location is to be announced). If you wish to attend the dinner and have not prepaid with subgroup registration, you may order tickets by e-mail from the current Chair-Elect and Treasurer Ron Holz (holz@umich.edu). All are welcome to attend the meeting and sign-up for the Gala dinner.

The committee gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors.

—*Ruth Heidelberg*, Chair

Membrane Biophysics

Annual Symposium

The 2009 Membrane Biophysics Symposium will be on Saturday afternoon at the Annual Meeting in Boston. The theme of the symposium is *Ion Channels with Borderline Personalities*. Speakers include *Cris Hartzell* (Chair), *Tom DeCoursey*, *Fred Lamb*, *Joseph Mindell*, *Uhtaek Oh*, and *Annmarie Surprenant*.

Elections

The subgroup will have a brief business meeting during the refreshment break to select a Chair-elect. This individual will serve as Chair-elect at the 2010 Annual Meeting and will be the Subgroup Chair for the 2011 Annual Meeting. The Chair is responsible for selecting the theme and inviting speakers for the symposium at the annual meeting and working with the Secretary-Treasurer on newsletter and

budget preparation. There are additional minor responsibilities at the Society level for both the Chair-elect and Chair. The individual elected should plan to attend the Annual Meetings during his/her year as Chair-elect and as Chair. Those interested in being considered for Chair-elect should have a symposium topic in mind and be prepared to give a brief summary at the meeting. We will also be electing a new Secretary-Treasurer to take over from *Carol Beck* after the 2009 meeting. Nominations for both positions will be accepted prior to as well as during the business meeting. Nominations prior to the meeting are encouraged and can be sent to the current Chair or Secretary-Treasurer.

Cole Award Dinner

The 2008 Cole Award Dinner will be held on Saturday evening, February 28, 2009 (location to be announced) following the subgroup symposium. *The Kenneth S. Cole Award* is presented annually to an investigator who has made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of membrane biophysics.

If you want to attend the dinner, but did not pre-pay with your dues, you can reserve a ticket by contacting the Secretary-Treasurer (see below). To encourage student participation, the subgroup is once again offering a free ticket to the Cole Award dinner for any student member of the Biophysical Society who enters the student poster competition in the membrane biophysics category. Additional free tickets will be available on a lottery basis to student members who do not enter the poster competition. To sign up for the free tickets or the lottery, send an email to *Carol Beck* by January 31, 2009.

—*Cris Hartzell*, Chair
criss.hartzell@emory.edu

—*Carol L. Beck*, Secretary-Treasurer
carol.beck@jefferson.edu

Members in the News



Christy Haynes



Yuriy Kirichok



Sanjay Kumar



Mordecai Blaustein

Three Society members were recipients of NIH's 2008 New Innovator Awards. They are *Christy Haynes* of the University of Minnesota and Society member since 2006; *Yuriy Kirichok* of the University of California, San Francisco, and Society member since 2002; and *Sanjay Kumar* of the University of California, Berkeley, and Society member since 1999.

Mordecai Blaustein of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Society member since 1963 received the Novartis Award for Hypertension Research from the American Heart Association Council on High Blood Pressure Research.

University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

Faculty Position in Nanoscale Biophysics

The Department of Physics invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in nanoscale biophysics to begin in the Fall of 2009. We seek candidates who will establish a vigorous, externally funded research program and will collaborate with the existing nanoscale research groups within the Department as well as contribute to an NIH supported campus initiative to foster interaction between the physical and biological sciences. The position is open to both theorists and experimentalists. Our current research programs are active in nonlinear optical properties of organic and inorganic materials, surface science, and atomic layer deposition. We are especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the areas of molecular electronics, nano-biophysics, nano-biotechnology, and nanophotonics. In exceptional cases, the appointment may be made at a higher rank. A Ph.D. in Physics, Biophysics or in a closely related field and the ability to effectively teach across the undergraduate and graduate physics curriculum are required. The Department of Physics plans to create a biologically motivated introductory physics sequence for life science majors; candidates for this position are expected to contribute to this effort. Postdoctoral experience is desirable and competitive start-up funds are available. The department currently consists of 21 tenure-track and 25 research faculty, about 50 graduate students and 120 undergraduate majors, and offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Applied Physics and in Atmospheric Physics. Research expenditures currently exceed \$7M per year. (For more information see: <http://physics.umbc.edu>).

Please submit an application letter, a resume, a research plan, a teaching plan, and the names and addresses of at least three references to Prof. Laszlo Takacs, Chair of the Search Committee, Department of Physics, UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore MD 21250, Email: takacs@umbc.edu. Review of the applications will begin on December 1, 2008 and continue until the position is filled. The department is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through research, teaching and service. UMBC is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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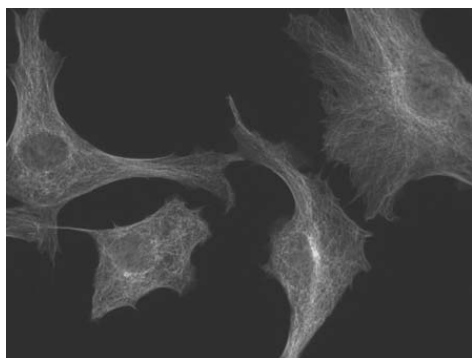
See you at Biophysical Society's 53rd Annual Meeting, February 28th – March 4th in Boston!
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Biophysical Society Newsletter—November/December Issue

Upcoming Events

Biophysical Society

January 21-24, 2009
Nanobiophysics & Chemistry Conference 2009
Antigua and Barbuda
<http://www.zingconferences.com/index.cfm?page=conference&intConferenceID=44>

January 24-29, 2009
BiOS 2009 — Biomedical Optics
San Jose, California
<http://www.spie.org>

February 7-11, 2009
XXXI Winter Institute of Medical Physics
Frisco, Colorado
<http://www.gowimp.org/index.html>

February 11-13, 2009
ICMPRR-2k9 — International Conference on Medical Physics, Radiation Protection and Radiobiology
<http://www.sfp.m.fr>

February 20-22, 2009
AIMBE's 17th Annual Event: The Global Impact of Medical and Biological Engineering
Washington D.C.
<http://www.aimbe.org/annualevent>

February 28-March 4, 2009
53rd Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society
Boston, Massachusetts
www.biophysics.org