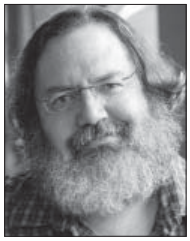
Biophysical Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2009

2009 Election Slate


Richard W. Aldrich


David W. Piston

The Society's 2009 candidates for President-Elect are *Richard W. Aldrich* of the University of Texas, Austin, and *David W. Piston* of Vanderbilt University.

Fourteen candidates are running for the seven open Council positions. They are: *Nancy L. Allbritton*, *Gaudenz Danuser*, *Gail Fanucci*, *Angel E. Garcia*, *Angela Gronenborn*, *Anne Hinderliter*, *Antoinette Killian*, *Tanja Kortemme*, *Mathias Loesche*, *Christoph F. Schmidt*, *Peter So*, *Hector H. Valdivia*, *Michael Wiener*, and *William C. Wimley*. Full biographical information for each candidate is available at www.biophysics.org.

All regular Society members whose 2009 dues have been paid by May 30 will be sent instructions for voting elctronically. Print ballots are available upon request. All votes must be received in the Society office by August 1.


Nancy L. Allbritton


Gaudenz Danuser


Gail Fanucci


Angel E. Garcia


Angela Gronenborn


Anne Hinderliter


Antoinette Killian


Tanja Kortemme


Mathias Loesche


Christoph F. Schmidt


Peter So


Hector H. Valdivia


Michael Wiener


William C. Wimley

Join the BPS on Facebook and LinkedIn!

To make it easier for members to connect online, the Biophysical Society has started a Facebook Group and a LinkedIn group. If you use these online resources, please look for us there! The Society will use these tools to communicate with members, and hopes that members will use these tools to share information and make connections on their own.

Contents

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Message from the President

We have received many questions from librarians regarding the recent changes in subscription costs for *Biophysical Journal (BJ)*. We want to clarify that these changes are separate from our switch to Cell Press as our publisher. Because the Biophysical Society maintains ownership of *BJ*, we have complete control over editorial content, and we set the subscription prices for *BJ*.

The recent price changes resulted from the Biophysical Society Executive Board and Council decision to use a "tiered subscription" price model, without an increase in the total institutional subscription revenue. This meant that while larger institutions saw a price increase, smaller institutions saw a price reduction. We hope that this enables *BJ* to reach a broad constituency of biophysicists who work outside the largest research institutions. This constituency comprises many of our members and annual meeting attendees.

The initial planning for this pricing shift began more than two years ago. We know that the new pricing model arrives during unfortunate financial conditions for many of our institutional customers. However, even at the highest subscription tier, *BJ*, which published 12,000 pages in 2008, remains an excellent scientific value compared with its peer journals.

We have begun the agreement with Cell Press after many years of self-publishing *BJ*, and we look forward to many benefits for the Journal. We expect to see improved efficiencies, including a briefer time between acceptance of the manuscript and its publication. We also expect that Cell Press will bring us new sources of online advertising revenue, which were previously not accessible to us as self-publishers. As we move forward with these innovations, we always strive for cost-effectiveness for our authors, subscribers, and members. We firmly believe that these developments will benefit all of them.

In short, both the new pricing model and the Cell Press agreement will allow the Biophysical Society, via *BJ,* to publish high-quality research efficiently for a broad and appropriate audience.

54th Biophysical Society Annual Meeting

February 20-24, 2010
San Francisco, California

www.biophysics.org

Members in the News

Sandra Schmid of the Scripps Research Institute and Society member since 2008 received the William C. Rose Award given by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Cornelia I. Bargmann of the Rockefeller University and Society member since 2000 r eceived the Richard Lounsbery Award sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences.

Grants and Opportunities

Name: New Directions Grants Request for Proposals Petroleum Research Fund
Objective: To stimulate a new direction of research for established faculty, and to support the careers of their student scientists and engineers.
Who May Apply: Faculty from PhD-granting colleges and universities
Submission Deadline: Aug 3-8, 2009
Web Link: http://portal.acs.org

Name: Doctoral New Investigator Grants Request for Proposals Petroleum Research Fund
Objective: To promote the careers of young faculty, and to enhance the career opportunities of their students, and postdoctoral associates.
Who May Apply: Faculty from PhD-granting departments within the first 3 years of their first academic appointment.
Submission Deadline: August 3-8, 2009
Web Link: http://portal.acs.org/

Chin and Auclair Win Registrations

Sarah Auclair

Harvey Chin

Each year, the BPS holds a drawing for free registration to the next Annual Meeting from among meeting attendees who completed the prior year's Annual Meeting survey.

This year's winners are *Sarah Auclair* from Wesleyan University and *Harvey Chin* from Yale University. Each has won a free registration to attend the 54th Biophysical Society Annual Meeting in San Francisco, February 20–24, 2010.

Feedback from the survey is used in the planning of future meetings. Be sure to complete the questionnaire in San Francisco to be eligible to win a registration for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Negotiating the Transition: From Student to Postdoc

The most common question that graduate students have when preparing to become a postdoc is "How do I find the right postdoc position?" It is like living in a misty forest where nothing is clear. The Early Careers Committee this year introduced the *Graduate-Student-to-Postdoctoral-Fellow-Transition* panel discussion during the Annual Meeting to help address that question. The panelists were postdoctoral fellows who shared their views and experiences on how to look for a good lab and be a successful postdoc. The session was well-received, with more than 150 attendees and a slew of questions, summarized below.

• **When are you supposed to finish and leave your PhD? How do you negotiate the start-up date?** Most graduate schools have graduation deadlines and dates for spring, summer and fall semesters. Everything is generally well defined in their graduation packets. The start-up date depends entirely upon when you complete your graduation. You can start any time within one year, depending on the new PI's comfort level.

• **How long is the transition time once you become a postdoc to settle into a new lab?** It may take almost 6-8 months to get settled in the lab. Initially, the transition might seem easy, but the balance between different people and work can be hard to negotiate. It will also vary based on the new lab's environment as well as any training that occurs. Don't be surprised if initially it feels like being a PhD student all over again.

• **How to choose a lab?** People, environment, and interaction all play equal roles in the selection process. Talk with the students rather than the advisor about what it is like to be in the lab. Traveling to different conferences to interact with people is good, so check to see if the PI will fund travel. Also check what projects are well-funded. Start looking at least one year in advance and take your time.

• **How straightforward can you be about asking questions about money? Can you take your projects with you?** Contact a number of people who have already worked with the PI of interest to seek their guidance about their experiences in the lab and with the PI. You can talk about money issues once you decide to join the lab, but generally there is less room for negotiation for the salary, although NIH lists a salary minimum. It depends entirely on your graduate PhD advisor whether you can take your projects with you.

• **Are people honest in telling details?** Yes, people are generally honest, and they provide detailed information. Talking one-on-one with people working in the lab is important.

• **What is better, working in small or big labs?** Depends on the type and amount of interaction you want to have with the PI. Also, if you want to work on a well-defined project and do not want to put a great deal of time into them, then you need to choose a lab that does research that could be done on a smaller budget and is not very competitive, otherwise it will be hard for you to keep up with labs that have many graduate students and postdocs working in them.

• **Is it common to apply for fellowships for postdocs? How much is expected in terms of teaching and time goals?** More fellowships are available for the first year of a postdoc than are available for subseqent postdoctral years, so apply to those while you can. Applying for fellowships entirely depends on the PI's expectation and her/his grant availability. It is still good to apply in a well-funded lab. *Teaching* is

not expected, but mentoring undergrads and sometimes graduate students often is. If you are interested in teaching you should try to find a lab where the advisor is okay with you taking time away from research to develop your teaching skills. If one is really interested in teaching then there is outreach school teaching, too. *Time goal:* One paper every 12-18 months is a good goal.

• **How many postdoc positions should we apply to?** Apply to all the ones that fit with your expectations and decide among them later. Identify labs that interest you at different institutions. Contact potential postdoctoral mentors and arrange an interview. Do not focus on a specific position and try to not be too selective in the first round of applications.

• **Research trajectories and expectations in graduate school vs. postdoc lab?** There is no outside pressure or time pressure as there is in graduate school. Publication in 12-18 months in a postdoc is considered good in most labs.

• **How much of an issue is not having a publication when applying for postdoc positions?** Depends to whose lab you are applying. Your graduate advisor's contact helps. When applying to new labs, send the recommendation letters immediately.

• **Postdoc vs. industrial job and salary?** Be certain whether you want to be in academics or in industry. One cannot compare the two. Salaries are always higher in industry, but the types of projects are also different.

• **Technicalities in applying for jobs and what do you talk about in the cover letter**? Personal interaction with the potential PIs during the meeting helps. Send cover letter and CV by email and in hard copy. In the cover letter tell the potential postdoctoral mentor why you are interested in her/his work and what expertise you have developed as a grad student. Describe what you have done so far, your skills and interests in learning. It is important to mention your expertise and what you would bring to the lab. Read papers on the projects in the lab in which you are interested. Extracting information from their publications helps at the time of interview with the PI and the lab. Personalizing the cover letter also helps.

• **Applying to the not-tenured PI?** Make sure that the funding is available for next 2-3 years at least. Check the previous publications of the PI, it gives you an idea how good the PI is and what are his/her chances of getting tenured.

• **How to approach to an advertised position?** Look whether you fit the job description or not. Fifty percent of the time the jobs advertised are already taken so one has to keep that into consideration. If you fit the job description in part, and you think that you can still apply, then a well-written cover letter mentioning how you can be beneficial to the project with your skills may help.

• **Other questions that one must keep in mind at the time of interviewing are:** Would the PI help pay for my moving expenses? What are the benefits and environment for postdocs in the department and the institution? How is the life in the city/town where the institution is located? Also, be sure to make good connections with people in the lab — these are the people you may be working with in the future, and they have firsthand knowledge about what it's really like to work with this advisor. Pay close attention to the attitude people in the lab have toward the PI.

• Remember to follow up with a thank you note or email after returning from the interview.

This article was written by Pooja Gupta (pgupta16@gmail.com). Gupta is a final year Graduate Student at the University of Wyoming in Jordanka Zlatanova's lab and is a member of Early Careers Committee of the Biophysical Society.

Biophysicist in Profile

Watt Webb

Professor of Applied Physics and the S.B. Eckert Professor in Engineering at Cornell University, Watt W. Webb approaches his 82nd birthday with few signs of decelerating. He and his wife did reluctantly stop yacht racing recently, but he's still determined to follow through with research projects that he thinks will make a positive impact on people's lives.

A late start to formal education due to illness did little to slow him down. At three years of age, Webb developed empyema, a pleural cavity inflammation. By the time he was well enough to start school, he was nine—but motivated. Not only did he make up for lost time, he entered MIT at age sixteen in Business and Engineering Administration since his father wanted him to run the family's "country bank," where he had worked through high school.

Webb's banking experience exempted many business courses. Instead, he focused on science, engineering and philosophy and joined MIT's successful sailing and rifle teams. He merged these interests and completed his BS in 1947. He then joined Union Carbide Corp to engineer the metallurgy of automatic submerged arc welding processes. "I learned more about engineering science there than at MIT," Webb admits. The most stimulating project was to measure the plasma temperature of the submerged arc: he applied his interest in astrophysics to measure the plasma temperature (~ 6500°K) by its atomic emission spectra, just as is applied for stars. This motivated graduate school!

After returning to MIT in 1952 for his ScD in metallurgy with minors in physics and mathematics, Webb returned in 1955 to Union Carbide for fundamental research group, and later research administration. His research in solid-state and chemical physics stimulated his future interdisciplinary academic research at Cornell University as an Associate Professor of Engineering Physics in 1961.

"I've changed my directions in science many times," Webb says. "Gliding from one challenge to another, they all seem to flow from each other. Each discovery raised another question. Frequently, being the only experimentalist with theorists all around was exciting!" Quantum superconductivity led to analysis of quantum fluctuations measurements as well as engineering and construction of the first stable superconducting magnet of the type still used for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

New theoretical challenges—coupled with practical experience and opportunities for collaboration with other disciplines—ultimately led to a variety of discoveries and inventions. In 1969, Webb and Elliot Elson, now professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics at Washington University, conceived Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy (FCS). Joined by Douglas Magde, now an experimental physical chemist at UC San Diego, they published their findings in 1972. The motivating challenge was exploring partition of the DNA double helix of Watson and Crick for its transcription. That focused Webb on biophysical dynamics and ultimately to imaging transcription processes in living cells with John Lis, professor of molecular biology and genetics at Cornell, and to the conception of Zero-Mode Waveguides for efficient DNA sequencing.

Webb is best known for co-creating, with Winfried Denk, Multiphoton Microscopy (MPM) in 1990. Denk is now a professor and researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research at the University of Heidelberg.

"How did we arrive at MPM?" Webb reflects, "All of the tools we needed for first experiments happened to exist." Computers and

scanning microscopy had become standard, and faculty colleague Frank Wise had built a colliding pulse mode-locked laser. With MPM, cellular DNA could be imaged with 3D resolution for long times, while conventional confocal imaging destroyed the cells in seconds.

Webb sees beneficial prospects for future medical applications of MPM. For example, by capitalizing on the body's natural fluorescence, MPM excitation can provide diagnostic images in living tissue *in situ* in real time without dyes. Resulting MPM images, comparable with pathologists' delayed fixed and stained biopsy images, can help surgeons recognize cancerous tissue while operating. The ability to observe bio-molecules *in vivo*—including observation of gene transduction—brings researchers much closer to solving the "impossible biological problems" that keep Webb from taking life at a more relaxed pace.

"Obviously, he has had a long and highly productive career," observes Webb's collaborator Lis**.** "What may be less clear is the high level of energy and love of science that he brings to collaborations and his willingness to tackle both new technologies and new areas in biology as he helps open new vistas of research. He continues to be a treasure for Cornell and the broader scientific community."

About a year ago, Webb parted with his beloved "Wavetrain," the last of his sailboats of that name. Last summer he and his wife, Page, who has sailed and raced with him since they met, cruised in Alaska. Interesting, he acknowledges, yet not an exciting substitute for racing. They also enjoy bird watching, and Page is an avid painter.

The Webbs have three sons. Watt Webb III is senior director of portfolio management for The Bank of New York Mellon and father of grandson Watt IV—who is called Wiley. Bucknell Webb is a researcher for IBM, working on micro- and nano-electronics. His twin, Spahr Webb, is an oceanography research scientist at Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory.

Watt Webb continues to have a sense of purpose: "There are still numerous challenges for biophysical science. We need to recognize the challenges whose resolutions maximize human benefits." Collaborator Bradley Hyman, Professor of Neurology at Harvard University, said: "He has the unique ability to see the big picture at the same time he sorts out the details of the details. And he is fearless in terms of tackling difficult, even impossible, problems and relentless once he thinks he sees a way to tackle them."

(Above) Webb in the driver's seat of his boat. Yacht racing is one of his favorite hobbies.

(Right) Webb's "Wavetrain," one of the last of his sailboats bearing that name.

This motivation now focuses Webb on developing Medical Multiphoton Microscopic Endoscopy. He also watches the commercial development at Pacific Biosciences, Inc., of the "Zero-Mode Waveguide" based DNA sequencing that he and his students and collaborators developed for Genomic Sequencing, hoping to realize the "$1,000 Genome" in a few years.

Subgroups

Bioenergetics

There are many scientific meetings being held this summer that are relevant for bioenergeticists. The Gordon Research conferences are intimate meetings held at school sites on well-focused topics. Meeting titles include *Molecular and Cellular Bioenergetics*, June 7-12; *Photosynthesis*, June 28-July 3; and *Mechanisms of Membrane Transport*, June 14-19. The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation will hold its *Mitochondrial Medicine 2009: Capitol Hill* meeting on June 24-27 in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Finally, the Mitochondrial Physiology Society will hold a School on June 17–July 2 at Louisiana State University.

Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

Recent Papers of Interest

A systematic computational analysis of protein-protein complexes revealed that intrinsic disorder is rather common in protein complexes and that disorder-to-order transitions occur upon complex formation, being often localized to binding interfaces. The analysis revealed a fascinating diversity among the biological processes that make use of intrinsic disorder in protein complexes (Fong JH, Shoemaker BA, Garbuzynskiy SO, Lobanov MY, Galzitskaya OV, Panchenko AR. Intrinsic disorder in protein interactions: insights from a comprehensive structural analysis. *PLoS Comput Biol*. 2009 5(3):e1000316. PMID: 19282967).

It is proposed that long disordered regions be considered a distinct class of functional protein domain. These long disordered regions represent functional, evolutionary, and structural units, whose functions are distinct from functions of short motifs and ordered domains (Tompa P, Fuxreiter M, Oldfield CJ, Simon I, Dunker AK, Uversky VN. Close encounters of the third kind: disordered domains and the interactions of proteins. *Bioessays*. 2009 31(3):328-35. PMID: 19260013)

Single-molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer and correlation methods were utilized to analyze the coupled binding and folding of alpha-synuclein induced by interaction with small molecules or membranes. An intricate energy landscape partitioning into two main folding minima was uncovered, suggesting that two differently folded structures are encoded by the amino acid sequence of this natively unfolded protein (Ferreon AC, Gambin Y, Lemke EA, Deniz AA. Interplay of {alpha}-synuclein binding and conformational switching probed by single-molecule fluorescence. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 2009 [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 19293380).

Conformational preferences of the cyclin-dependent-kinase inhibitor (Cki) Sic1 from Saccharomyces cerevisiae were analyzed by a set of experimental and computational tools. Although the protein can be classified as IDP, its disorderedness is unevenly distributed within the sequence, with the C-terminal fragment that includes part of the inhibitory domain and the casein-kinase-2 (CK2) phosphorylation target S201 being noticeably more ordered than the N-terminal and middle regions of Sic1 (Brocca S, Samalíková M, Uversky VN, Lotti M, Vanoni M, Alberghina L, Grandori R. Order propensity of an intrinsically disordered protein, the cyclin-dependent-kinase inhibitor Sic1. *Proteins*. 2009 [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 19280601)

The conformational behavior of three 14-residues AGQ repeat-based peptides, $C(AGQ)_4W$, $C(AGE)_3AGQW$, and $C(AQE)_3AQQW$, was analyzed in aqueous and denaturant solutions using quenching of the triplet state of tryptophan by cysteine in conjunction with Förster

resonance energy transfer between tryptophan and dinitrophenyl (DNP) maleimide reacted with cysteine, to analyze effects inducing chain swelling in unstructured peptides such as electrostatic repulsion, reduced glycine content, and volume excluded by bulky side chains and by denaturant binding. In aqueous solutions of highly charged peptide $C(AGE)_3AGQW$, a mild chain swelling and a significant speed-up of the intrachain dynamics were detected. The substitution of glycines with glutamates in $C(AQE)_3AQQW$ resulted in dramatic increase in the chain volume and a dramatic slowing down of the intrachain dynamics. In denaturants a pronounced swelling of all the chains was evident, with urea and guanidinium chloride producing noticeably different effects (Soranno A, Longhi R, Bellini T, Buscaglia M. Kinetics of contact formation and end-to-end distance distributions of swollen disordered peptides. *Biophys J*. 2009 96(4):1515-28. PMID: 19217868)

—*Sonia Longhi* and *Vladimir Uversky*, Subgroup Council Members

Membrane Biophysics

Annual Symposium

The Membrane Biophysics Subgroup organizes an annual symposium to highlight an area of membrane biophysics. The theme for the 2010 Symposium, to be held February 20, 2010, will be *Ion Channel Chemical Biology*. Scheduled speakers include: *Dan Minor*, UCSF; *Ming Zhou*, Columbia; *Anne Carlson*, University of Washington; *Min Li*, Johns Hopkins; *Li Niu*, SUNY Albany; *Vasanthi Jayaraman*, UT Health Sciences Center, Houston; *Peter Roy*, Toronto; and *David Julius*, UCSF.

Dues Increase

Membrane Biophysics dues will increase to $15, from $10, with the 2010 dues invoices. Student dues will remain free. We do not anticipate another dues increase in the foreseeable future. Dues are used to cover symposium costs, the Cole Award, the Cole Dinner costs, and student dinners. $15 is still a bargain—where else can you hang out with fellow membrane biophysicists, hear about the most cutting-edge research, and get snacks for that rate? 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 the 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. For a listing of previous winners see *http://www.biophysics.org/Subgroups/MembraneBiophysics/tabid/513/Default.aspx*. The award will be pre-

sented at the subgroup dinner following the Saturday afternoon symposium at the Annual Meeting on February 20, 2010. 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. Please send nominations to *Mike White* at mwhite@drexelmed.edu.

The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2009. This deadline is necessary so that we can announce the winner in the November/December issue of this newsletter.

Subgroup Email List

The subgroup has an email distribution list. Members may contact Mike White (mwhite@drexelmed.edu) for information about sending out email announcements of conferences or meetings.

—*Mike White*, Secretary/Treasurer

Binational Science Foundation

Call for Workshop Proposals

Submission Deadline
May 27, 2009
bsf@bsf.org.il

Workshops should be focused on bringing together Israeli, American and Palestinian scientists for the purpose of facilitating the development of partnership research projects.

Public Affairs

2010 Budget Process Underway

The flurry of Congressional activity on the federal budget continues, but emphasis has moved to the 2010 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2009. Specifically, the House and Senate have been working on the annual Budget Resolution, which provides the framework and top line number for the budget. Prior to recessing for the spring holidays, the House and Senate each passed a Budget Resolution. The two bodies were expected to meet during the spring recess and hoped to pass a final compromise bill by May 15.

The House Budget Resolution (H Con Res 85) for 2010 assumes an overall spending level of $3.45 trillion, including $533 billion in non-emergency, non-defense spending, an almost 9% increase over fiscal year 2009 funding levels (not including funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). The bill passed by a nearly party line vote of 233-196. The House version of the Budget Resolution includes a statement expressing a "Sense of the House on Promoting American Innovation and Economic Competitiveness" indicating that the "resolution builds on significant funding provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for scientific research," through funds provided under the "Health" function and other functions of the budget resolution."

The Senate Budget Resolution (S Con Res 13) provides an overall spending level of $3.5 trillion, including $525 billion in non-emergency, non-defense spending. This is a 7% increase over fiscal year 2009 funding levels, not including stimulus funding. The bill passed 55-43. The Senate document also mentions the funding provided for the National Insti-

tutes of Health (NIH) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, noting that the Senate "continues to support funding for NIH in 2010 including support for cancer research."

BPS Sponsors Capitol Hill Science Exhibition

On March 24, scientists, engineers and mathematicians gathered on Capitol Hill to showcase work funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) at the Coalition for National Science Funding's (CNSF) 15th Annual Exhibition & Reception. The Biophysical Society was a cosponsor of the event, which featured 34 exhibits on topics ranging from education to climate.

Over 285 people, including six Members of Congress and many Congressional staff members, attended the Exhibition. The Coalition was very fortunate to have Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) attend, along with Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN), Representative Vern Ehlers (R-MI), Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ), Representative Bob Filner (D-CA), Representative Bill Foster (D-IL), and NSF Director Arden Bement. Pelosi thanked the science community for its advocacy in support of NSF, noting CNSF's efforts to make the case to Congress for substantial new investments in science, which are critical to spurring innovation and new jobs. Pelosi also reaffirmed her overall commitment to the scientific enterprise, "If you want to know the agenda for this Congress, think of four words: science, science, science, science."

The Coalition for National Science Funding is an alliance of more than 120 organizations united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, technology, engineering and mathematics research enterprise as well as science and technology education. The Biophysical Society is a long-standing member of the Coalition.

DOE Labs and Researchers Receive Recovery Act Funds

On March 23, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced that the Department of Energy Office of Science would receive $1.2 billion of the $1.6 billion provided in the economic recovery act. In his announcement he said, "Leadership in science remains vital to America's economic prosperity, energy security, and global competitiveness." Some of the funds will be used to support both existing and new research projects performed at the ten National Laboratories. In addition to national laboratory-based researchers receiving funding, the Office of Science will support university laboratory-based researchers who have been awarded grants and conducting research on our nation's highest priority issues. Recipients are required to be transparent and responsible with the stimulus funding. $371 million remains to be released and will be available upon approval of the plan.

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Upcoming Events

June 28–July 03, 2009
ESF-EMBO Symposia—Biological surfaces and interfaces
Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain
http://www.embo.org/about_embo/calendar.php

July 1–4, 2009
RADAM 2009—Radiation Damage in Biomolecular Systems
Frankfurt am Main, Germany
http://fias.uni-frankfurt.de/radam2009/

July 11–15, 2009
EBSA 2009 Meeting
Genoa, Italy
http://www.ebsa2009.org

August 10-14 2009
Hands-On Workshop on Computational Biophysics
Champaign, IL, United States
http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Training/Workshop/Champaign09A/

August 20–22 2009
BEBI'09—2nd WSEAS Int. Conf. on Biomedical Electronics and Biomedical Informatics
Moscow, Russia
http://www.wseas.org/index.html#upcoming

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