

Society Office Move

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*Actin, the Cytoskeleton
and the Nucleus*
November 9–12, 2010
Singapore

**Abstract Deadline
August 6**

**Early Registration
September 1**

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55th Biophysical Society Annual Meeting
March 5–9, 2011
Baltimore, Maryland

**Abstract Submission Deadline
October 3**

For a program listing see page 5.

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Biophysicist in Profile

Patricia Sokolove

Patricia Sokolove is living proof that a career in biophysics is exactly what you make it. It was her father, a civil engineering professor at the University of Illinois, who, along with encouraging her to make the most of math and science opportunities, first instilled this idea in her. “He made it clear that I could undertake any career I wanted,” Sokolove says. The career for which she has ultimately become known? Mentor.

The current Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE) encountered her first science mentor in high school, when her chemistry teacher *Carolyn Conrad*, urged her husband, *Ed Conrad*, a faculty member of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Illinois, to create a summer job for Sokolove in his lab. Sokolove returned to the lab every summer until her graduation from Radcliffe College, where she completed her AB in Biology. “His patience was remarkable!” Sokolove says of Conrad. “He made certain personally that I knew what was expected from each experiment and then gave me the freedom to make it work.”

She completed her PhD dissertation, which dealt with using mutant strains of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* to investigate photosynthetic electron transport, at Harvard University. “I began the project focused on genetics,” she recalls, “but the publication of *Peter Mitchell’s* chemiosmotic hypothesis, which suggested that the high-energy intermediate linking electron transport to phosphorylation was a proton gradient, diverted me into biophysics.” She then took a teaching position at Stanford University, but five years later found herself back in the lab for what she refers to as a “remedial postdoc” at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

By the time she joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine, it “was a hotbed of research in biophysics!” she says. “*Giuseppe Inesi* was Chair of Biochemistry, *Mordecai Blaustein* chaired Physiology, and *Edson Albuquerque* was the chair of my department, Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics.” She started attending Biophysical Society Annual Meetings, which “provided an outstanding opportunity to introduce my graduate students to leading investigators in our area and related disciplines.” One of these investigators was *Casey Kinnally*. “We collaborated on a project that spanned several years about the opening of channels in the mitochondrial inner membrane, i.e., the so-called ‘permeability transition pore,’” Kinnally says. She found Sokolove to be a rewarding collaborator. “Pat’s published many articles and held significant extra-

mural funding for her projects.”

Sokolove’s reputation as a superior mentor was now beginning to blossom. “As a mentor, she was always available, always understanding, and always low key enough for the students to feel comfortable,” says *Robert Bloch*, director of the Training Program in Membrane Biology in the Department of Physiology at the School of Medicine. “She was the person that students would go to for advice before speaking with anyone else.”

Joann Boughman, then Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, must have noticed, for she offered Sokolove a position as Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. It began as a part-time position, but when it became too mentally challenging to allow time for research, Sokolove closed her lab.

“Problem solving, figuring out how a system worked, had always been what attracted me to research,” she says. She effectively carried this concept into her new position. “She was never content with simply managing the graduate school, but continually strived to further improve our programs, and the graduate school as a whole,” says *Asaf Keller* of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology at the School of Medicine, who worked with Sokolove to establish the campus-wide Program in Neuroscience. Sokolove indeed transformed the Graduate School. She implemented career development lectures and workshops and established a Writing Center. And, of course, she excelled at mentoring the graduate students. “Pat was always very warm, intelligent, and truly cared about the needs of graduate students,” says *Robert Mitkus*, an officer in the Graduate Students Association (GSA) at the time. “The students simply loved her!” Keller adds.

In 2002, Boughman left the university, and with her went Sokolove’s position. The heart and soul Sokolove put into improving the Graduate School and mentoring its students, however, will not be forgotten. “The GSA

board so esteemed Pat and her commitment to graduate students,” says Mitkus, “that when we found out that she was leaving the university, we named the Outstanding Mentor Award after her.” Today, recipients of the Dr. Patricia M. Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award look upon the honor as a highlight of their careers.

Instead of reopening her lab, Sokolove turned to the Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program, offered through the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). “It would be impossible to be too enthusiastic about the AAAS program,” she says. As a fellow, Sokolove went to the extramural side of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to work with founding and acting Director *Donna Dean*. “My background in biophysics helped me to feel comfortable with the Institute’s portfolio,” she says.

From the NIBIB, Sokolove moved to the OITE, and for the last five years has been supporting some 6,000 Intramural Research Program trainees at a time, helping them “develop scientific and professional skills that will enable them to become leaders in the biomedical research community.” The OITE offers orientations, career and professional development workshops, a Career Center, a Career Symposium to showcase career options for science PhDs, and a Graduate and Professional School Fair that serves as an active postbaccalaureate-recruiting ground for institutions nationwide. “We believe that the first priority of trainees must be doing good science and getting it published,” Sokolove says. “However, we strongly emphasize the importance of trainees’ looking ahead and taking the initiative to acquire the



Sokolove reading to her granddaughter.

professional skills they will need to succeed at the next level in their careers.

“Assessing your skills and interests and determining what career options might be a good fit makes sense,” Sokolove says. As a mentor at the OITE, she helps trainees find the tools with which to do this. “Pat is a wise, attentive, nurturing, and supportive mentor,” says *Catherine Swanwick*, who as a postdoc worked with Sokolove on FELCOM, the NIH Postdoctoral Fellows’ Committee. “She is genuinely interested in the well-being of trainees.” It was with the trainees in mind that Sokolove applied the same gusto she had lavished on the Graduate School to help OITE Director *Sharon Milgram* transform the OITE into the extraordinary resource it is today.

In the midst of sharing her time and energy with so many students and postdocs, Sokolove raised four children of her own. As Kinnally puts it, “She has successfully juggled having a

career, having a family, and being a wonderful friend.” Sokolove and her husband explore the world through cooking and travel, and she enjoys getting to know her three young grandchildren.

“No matter what career path you decide to pursue, it is important to succeed first as a scientist,” she counsels. “Publishing is just as important for a career in science policy as for a career in academics.” Her own success as a mentor comes from living by what she views as the “core of good mentoring.” Good mentors “listen, remember individuals and their problems, genuinely reach out to assist, are persistently optimistic, and manage to convey even negative input in a supportive way. They think not only outside the box but outside themselves . . . a good lesson.”

For more information about the IRP and the OITE, see the Careers article on page 9.



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September 1, 2010



For More
Information Visit
www.biophysics.org

55th Annual Meeting Program

March 5-9, 2011
Baltimore, Maryland

Symposia

Superresolution in Biology: Applications in Important Biological Problems

Lucille Shapiro, Stanford University, Chair
Joshua Shaevitz, Princeton University
Tomas Kirchhausen, Harvard Medical School
Edward Salmon, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Contributions of Network Theory to Biology

Sergei Maslov, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Chair
Sanjay Jain, University of Delhi, India
Pieter Rein ten Wolde, FOM Institute AMOLF, The Netherlands
Hawoon Jeong, KAIST, South Korea

Noise and Fluctuations in Biology: Where is it Important?

Bill Bialek, Princeton University, Chair
Yuhai Tu, IBM, Watson Research Center
Yorctown Heights
Herbert Levine, University of California, San Diego
Linda Kenney, University of Illinois, Chicago

Systems Biology—Control of Cellular Behaviors, Including Gradients and Feedback

Mustafa Khamash, University of California, Santa Barbara, Chair
Hana El-Samad, University of California, San Francisco
Stanislav Shvartsman, Princeton University
Olivier Cinquin, University of California, Irvine

Cell and Tissue Mechanics and Modeling—AFM and Rheology, Small to Tissue Scale

Douglas Robinson, Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine, Chair
Roger Kamm, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Suzanne Eaton, Dresden International Graduate School for Biomedicine and Bioengineering, Germany
Valerie Weaver, University of California, San Francisco

Mechanotransduction at the Cellular Level: Detection and Response

Michael Sheetz, Columbia University, Chair
Donald Ingber, Harvard Medical School
Ellen Lumpkin, Baylor College of Medicine
Ching Kung, University of Wisconsin

Interfaces Between Cells and the Outside World: Bioengineering Meets Biophysics

Nancy Allbritton, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chair
Bianxiao Cui, Stanford University
Charles Lieber, Harvard University
Molly Stevens, Imperial College, London, UK

Molecular Motors and the Cytoskeleton: Moving to the Boundaries

David Warshaw, University of Vermont
College of Medicine, Chair
Jennifer Ross, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Michael Welte, Brandeis University
Gijsje Koenderink, FOM Institute AMOLF, The Netherlands

Single Molecule Biophysics of the Central Dogma

Joseph Puglisi, Stanford University School of Medicine, Chair
Vincent Croquette, CNRS
Stefan Grill, Max Planck Institute, Dresden, Germany
Sua Myong, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

What Drives Nucleic Acid Condensation?

Barbara Meyer, University of California,
Berkeley, Chair

Bela Mulder, FOM Institute AMOLF,
The Netherlands

William Gelbart, University of California,
Los Angeles

Robijn Bruinsma, University of California,
Los Angeles

*50 Years of the Chemiosmotic Hypothesis:
Open Questions*

Gerhard Hummer, NIDDK, NIH, Chair

Carola Hunte, University of Freiburg,
Germany

Klaus Gerwert, Ruhr University,
Bochum, Germany

Judy Hirst, Medical Research Council,
Cambridge, UK

Ca²⁺ Regulation of Channels

David Yue, Johns Hopkins University, Chair

Madeline Shea, University of Iowa Carver
College of Medicine

Daniel Cox, Tufts University School of
Medicine

Lily Jan, University of California,
San Francisco

Phospholipid Modulation of Ion Channels

Bertil Hille, University of Washington, Chair

Tamas Balla, NICHD, NIH

Ann Rittenhouse, University of Massachusetts
Medical School

Roger Hardie, University of Cambridge, UK

*Biophysics of Cystic Fibrosis and CFTR, the
Original Channelopathy*

David Dawson, Oregon Health and Science
University, Chair

Laszlo Csanady, Semmelweis University,
Budapest, Hungary

William Balch, The Scripps Research Institute

Philip Thomas, University of Texas,
Southwestern Medicine Center

25 Years of Membrane Protein Structure

Hartmut Michel, Max Planck Institute of
Biophysics, Frankfurt, Germany, Chair

Eric Gouaux, Oregon Health Science
University

Tina Iverson, Vanderbilt University

William Weis, Stanford University School
of Medicine

*The Alternating Access Mechanism in the Era of
Transporter Structures*

Christopher Miller, Brandeis University,
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Chair

H.R. Kaback, University of California,
Los Angeles

Geoff Chang, The Scripps Research Institute

Christine Ziegler, Max Planck Institute of
Biophysics, Frankfurt, Germany

Remodeling the Membrane

Mark Sansom, University of Oxford, UK,
Chair

Klaus Schulten, University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign

Vinzenz Unger, Yale University

Ralf Langen, University of Southern
California

Syma Khalid, University of Southampton,
UK

Allostery and Ligand Control of Function

Vincent Hilser, University of Texas Medical
Branch, Chair

Kevin Gardner, University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center

Dorothy Beckett, University of Maryland,
College Park

David Eliezer, Weill Cornell Medical College

Workshops

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

*X-ray Free Electron Lasers
& Biophysics*

Imaging & Mass Spectrometry

Small Angle X-ray Scattering

Engineering Proteins and Fluorophores for Live Cell Sensors

Protein Folding

Minisymposia

Minisymposia will be held Sunday–Wednesday, running concurrently with platform sessions.

Apoptosis: The Killer Issue

Nonchannel Functions of Ion Channels

The Diversity of Motors

*Nonequilibrium Statistical Mechanics:
Theory & Experiment*

Subgroups

Subgroup sessions will be held on Saturday, March 5.

Bioenergetics

Lawrence Prochaska, Wright State University,
Subgroup Chair

Morning Symposium

Calcium Signaling and Mitochondria

Gyorgy Hajnoczky, Thomas Jefferson University, and *Shey-Shing Sheu*, University of Rochester, Co-Chair

David Clapham, Harvard University
Israel Sekler, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel
Heping (Peace) Cheng, Peking University, China

Gyorgy Szabadkai, University College, London, UK

John LeMasters, Medical College of South Carolina

Afternoon Symposium

Molecular System Bioenergetics: Combined Theoretical-Computational Approaches to the Analysis of Integrated Energetic-Signaling Networks

Miguel Aon, Johns Hopkins University, Co-Chair and *Uwe Schlattner*, University of Grenoble, France, Co-Chairs

Sonia Cortassa, Johns Hopkins University
Ravi Lyengar, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Boris Kholodenko, University College, Dublin

Valdur Saks, University of Grenoble, France
Jeffrey J. Saucerman, University of Virginia

Biological Fluorescence

Don Lamb, Ludwig Maximillians University, Germany, Subgroup Chair
Speakers to be announced

Biopolymer Biophysics

Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede, Umeå University, and *Margaret Cheung*, University of Houston, Co-Chairs

Business Meeting and program to be announced

Exocytosis & Endocytosis

Joshua Zimmerberg, NICHD, LCMB,
NIH, Subgroup Chair
Speakers to be announced

Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

David Eliezer, Weill Cornell Medical College,
Subgroup Chair

IDPs: Function and Dysfunction

Speakers to be announced

Membrane Biophysics

Stephen Tucker, University of Oxford, UK,
Subgroup Chair

*Single Molecule Approaches to Ion Channel
Structure & Function*

Speakers to be announced

Membrane Structure & Assembly

Paulo Almeida, University of North Carolina
Wilmington, Subgroup Chair

*Interactions in Membranes: What, Exactly, Do
We Know?*

Derek Marsh, Max Planck Institute for
Biophysical Chemistry, Germany

Steven Regen, Lehigh University

Thomas Heimburg, Niels Bohr
Institute, Denmark

Jean-Luc Popot, Institut de Biologie
Physico-Chimique, France

Alexey Ladokhin, University of Kansas

Paula Booth, University of Bristol, UK

Molecular Biophysics

Olav Schieman, University St. Andrews,
UK, Subgroup Chair

*Oligonucleotides: Structure, Dynamics and
Complex Formation*

Speakers to be announced

Motility

Jennifer L. Ross, University of Massachusetts,
Subgroup and *Christoph F. Schmidt*, Georg
August University, Göttingen, Subgroup
Co-Chairs

Speakers to be announced

Nanoscale

Sanford Leuba, University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine, Chair

Business Meeting and program to be
announced

Interested in Forming
a Subgroup?

Visit the Subgroup page at www.biophysics.org
for more information.

Careers

We talked with *Patricia Sokolove*, Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE) and this month's Biophysicist in Profile, to learn more about the training programs at the NIH offered through the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP). "The goal of the OITE is to help trainees in the IRP develop scientific and professional skills that will enable them to become leaders in the biomedical research community," Sokolove says. She shared with us just how Society members can benefit from these programs.

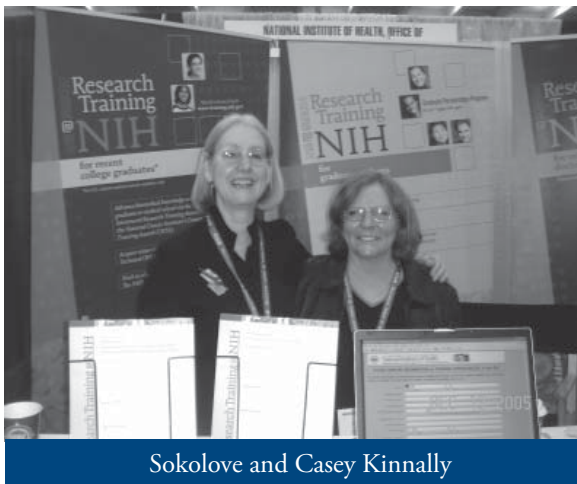
Programs for all levels. The IRP offers programs for young scientists at various stages of their careers.

- The Summer Internship program hosts approximately 1,200 students a year—high school, college, graduate, and professional school students alike—for 8-10 weeks as they conduct research alongside NIH mentors.
- Postbaccalaureate programs are available for about 700 recent college graduates (16 are members of the NIH Academy, a postbac program focused on domestic health disparities) looking to experience full-time research for a year or two while they apply to graduate or professional school. "The postbac experience is highly valued by graduate and professional schools," says Sokolove, "and our postbacs are getting into terrific programs. They take with them insights into how research works and their own career goals that should help them succeed in their studies."
- About 500 graduate students are accepted to the Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP). They conduct their dissertation research at NIH and receive degrees from their home campuses.

- Approximately 3,800 individuals (60% from outside the United States) with fewer than five years of relevant research experience since the receipt of their doctoral degrees are conducting postdoctoral research in basic, translational, and clinical disciplines in the IRP.

Extra assistance for postdocs. "The 2003 Sigma Xi postdoc survey 'Doctors without Orders' found that postdoc success, measured by numbers of publications and absence of postdoctoral conflict, was correlated with only two factors," says Sokolove, "a structured postdoctoral program and taking advantage of career/professional development programming." The OITE has created the Office of Postdoctoral Services, which recommends completion of Individual Development Plans for each trainee. "Our postdocs are finding positions, even in the tight economy, as science writers, policy analysts, faculty members in universities in the U.S. and overseas, and government employees," she says.

Professional development. The OITE also hosts a plethora of career development programs to support IRP trainees. Orientations and professional development workshops covering language skills for foreign fellows, leadership and management skills, teaching, grant



Sokolove and Casey Kinnally

writing, science writing, and job search strategies help trainees get the most out of their NIH experience. The Career Services Center offers advice for recent grads on getting into graduate and professional school, and assistance with the job search for postdocs. The Office of Post-doctoral Services in the OITE, in collaboration



with the NIH Fellows Committee organizes a Career Symposium, which “encourages our trainees to explore all the options available to science PhDs,” says Sokolove. “A Graduate & Professional School Fair ... enables institutions from across the U.S. to recruit our postbacs and summer interns.”

Biophysicists can look to the NIH for much more than its extramural program. “The NIH interprets the term ‘biomedical research’ broadly,” Sokolove says. “The NIH brings biologists together with physicists, mathematical modelers, computational biologists, chemists, engineers and behavioral scientists to move its agenda forward.” This big-picture view underpins one of the NIH’s lofty goals: using basic knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce disease and disability. “Biophysicists with links to other countries should also understand that

the NIH interprets this goal globally,” says Sokolove.

Biophysicists interested in translational or clinically-related research are especially encouraged to consider the NIH. The new Clinical Research Center was built with labs adjacent to patient care areas. “Clinical concerns are part of everyday life in the NIH IRP,” says Sokolove. “Our *Demystifying Medicine* course will help you master the vocabulary you need to communicate with clinical investigators.”

If you are a student/trainee outside the NIH, you can also look to the OITE for career development assistance. The OITE website, www.training.nih.gov, is full of video- and podcast-accessible workshops, links to a long list of resources (including all of the OITE’s publications), and an insightful careers blog. “By far the most rewarding aspect of the work we do in OITE is seeing our trainees succeed,” Sokolove says; career success for trainees both inside and outside the NIH begins at the OITE website.

The OITE is able to offer a variety of career and professional development services because it has the full support of the NIH behind it. “The NIH administration is firmly committed to the training mission of the NIH,” Sokolove says. “The OITE has been able to expand its staff, boost outreach to minority scientists and the community college population, and provide new services to the extramural community.

“Many biophysicists have already found a home at the NIH,” says Sokolove. For more information, visit the OITE website at www.training.nih.gov.

Looking for a Job?

Check out the Society Job Board for the latest jobs in biophysics!

www.biophysics.org

Biophysical Journal

BJ Announces New Board Members



Les Loew

On July 1, 2010, new members were added to the *Biophysical Journal* Editorial Board, replacing members whose terms ended on June 30.

Les Loew of the University of Connecticut Health Science Center will begin a three-year term as Associate Editor of Section V: Biological Systems, Cellular Processes, Multicellular Dynamics, replacing outgoing Associate Editor Herbert Levine of the University of California, San Diego.

The following new Editorial Board members will serve a three-year term ending in 2013: *Daniel Mueller*, University of Technology, Dresden; *Lois Pollack*, Cornell University; *Cynthia Czajkowski*, University of Wisconsin, Madison; *Carmen Domene*, Oxford University; *David Yue*, Johns Hopkins University; *Giselle Koenderink*, FOM Institute AMOL; *Susan Pierce*, NIH, NIAID; *Paul Wiseman*, McGill University; *David Wolf*, Radiation Monitoring Devices; *Paulo Almeida*, University of North Carolina Wilmington; *Scott Feller*, Wabash College; *Klaus Gawrisch*, NIH; *Heiko Heerklotz*, University of Toronto; *Anne Kenworthy*, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; *Ka Yee Lee*, University of Chicago; *Claudia Steinem*, Georg-August University; *Leah Edelstein-Keshet*, University of British Columbia; *Andrew McCulloch*, University of California, San Diego; *Charles Wolgemuth*, University of Connecticut Health Center; *Jim Sellers*, NIH.

To view the entire Editorial Board along with a listing of areas of expertise please visit www.biophysj.org

BJ Ranks Fifth in Science Direct



In the first quarter of 2010, the *Biophysical Journal* saw a significant rise in website usage on Science Direct. For the month of March alone, *Biophysical Journal* had 417,129 downloads, ranking it the fifth most used of all titles listed. *Cell* led the group with 827, 238 downloads.

To view articles or find out more information about submitting to the Journal visit www.biophysj.org.

Grants & Opportunities

Name: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Predoctoral Fellows in PharmD/PhD Programs (F31)

Submission Deadline: August 8, December 8, 2010

Objective: To provide support for promising students enrolled in a PharmD/PhD degree program who will be performing dissertation research and training in areas relevant to the missions of NIGMS, NICHD, and the Office of Dietary Supplements.

Who May Apply: Applicants must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the US, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree and must be enrolled in a formally combined PharmD/PhD program. Applicants must be at the dissertation research stage of their doctoral training.

Weblink: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-178.html>

Name: Glaucoma Foundation Grants Program

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2010

Objective: The Glaucoma Foundation offers grants to doctors and scientists striving to improve the lives of glaucoma patients through research. TGF's three areas of particular focus for grant-in-aid funding are Optic Nerve Rescue and Restoration, Molecular Genetics, and Nanotechnology.

Amount: One-year period is for up to \$40,000; a grantee is permitted to apply for a grant renewal of up to \$50,000.

Who May Apply: Full time faculty or equivalent

Web Link: http://www.glaucomafoundation.org/Grant_Application.htm

Name: Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Awards at the Scientific Interface

Objective: These awards, designed to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the first three years of faculty service, are intended to foster the early career development of researchers with backgrounds in the physical/mathematical/computational sciences and engineers whose work addresses biological questions.

Who May Apply: US and Canadian citizens or permanent residents and US temporary residents.

Amount: \$500,000

Deadlines: Proposals due September 1, 2010

Weblink: www.bwfund.org

Name: Biomedical Engineering (BME)

Submission Deadline: September 23, 2010

Objective: The Biomedical Engineering (BME) program supports projects in the following BME themes: Neural engineering (brain science, computational neuroscience, brain-computer interface, neurotech, cognitive engineering) Cellular biomechanics (motion, deformation, and forces in biological systems; how mechanical forces alter cell growth, differentiation, movement, signal transduction, transport, cell adhesion, cell cytoskeleton dynamics, cell-cell and cell-ECM interactions; genetically engineered stem cell differentiation with long-term impact in tissue repair and regenerative medicine).

Weblink: <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/>

Members in the News



Mostafa A. El-Sayed of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Society member since 1996 was named an Honorary Fellow of the Chinese Chemical Society.



Melissa J. Kemp (top) of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Society member since 2001, and *Christine K. Payne* (bottom) of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Society member since 2004 each received a 2009 National Institutes of Health Director's Young Innovator Award.



Lila M. Gierasch of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Society member since 1996 received the 2010 Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin Award.



Charalampos Kalodimos of Rutgers University and Society member since 2004 received the 2010 Irving Sigal Young Investigator Award.



Mark Leake of Oxford University and Society member since 2006 received the 2010 Young Investigator Award from the British Biophysical Society.



Peter E. Wright of the Scripps Research Institute and Society member since 1996 received the 2010 Stein and Moore Award.

Have you or someone you know recently received an award? Send an email to society@biophysics.org



The Biophysical Society is a proud partner of Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science (DBIS), a syndicated science news service that features 90-second science news stories covering all areas of science.

Have an idea for a story? DBIS is always looking for science-based stories highlighting new research findings. BPS Members can submit story ideas and also view past stories at www.biophysics.org.

Subgroups

Motility

Now that we are in the lazy, hazy days of summer, we want to take a moment and once again thank our sponsors for their support of our February 20, 2010, Motility Subgroup Meeting as well as many of our previous subgroup meetings. It is through their generosity that we are able to support our speakers and provide the coffee break. Please thank your representative at each of the companies below.

Chroma Technology Corp.
Carl Zeiss Microimaging, Inc.
Cytoskeleton Inc.
FEI Company
KinTek Corporation
Nikon Inc.

At this time, we would like to remind you that the 2011 Co-Chairs are *Jenny Ross* and *Christoph Schmidt*. See you in Baltimore, Saturday, March 5, 2011!

—*Kenneth A. Taylor* and *Susan P. Gilbert*,
2010 Co-Chairs

Subgroup Awards

The Society's Subgroups recognize scientists at all levels for their accomplishments and contributions to specific areas of biophysics. Below is a list of the Subgroup awards and deadlines. Subgroup awardees are honored during the subgroup meetings held on the Saturday before the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting. For specific information on each award and to submit nominations, go to the subgroup page at www.biophysics.org

Bioenergetics

The *Young Bioenergeticist Award* is given based on a track record of accomplishments by the candidate as well as the abstract that will be presented at the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting.

Biological Fluorescence

The *Gregorio Weber Award for Excellence in Fluorescence Theory and Applications*, sponsored by ISS, Inc., is intended to recognize and honor distinguished investigators who give significant and original contributions to the advancement and applications of fluorescence techniques.

The *Young Fluorescence Investigator Award* is given to an outstanding researcher at the beginning of her or his career for significant advancements and/or contributions in or in the use of fluorescence methodologies.

Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

The *IDP Postdoctoral Research Awards* are given to postdoctoral scholars/fellows for outstanding research in the field of intrinsically disordered proteins.

Membrane Biophysics

The *Kenneth S. Cole Award* is given to an investigator who has made a substantial contribution to the understanding of membrane biophysics.

Exocytosis & Endocytosis

The *Sir Bernard Katz Award for Excellence in Research on Exocytosis and Endocytosis* is named after the investigator who established the exocytotic nature of synaptic transmission and discovered the ligand-gated channel basis for the post-synaptic response. He is one of the founding fathers of biophysics and neuroscience.

Public Affairs

Suresh Tapped to Lead NSF

President *Obama* has selected *Subra Suresh*, Dean of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to be the next director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Suresh, if confirmed by the Senate, will replace *Arden Bement Jr.*, who stepped down June 1.

Suresh came to MIT in 1993 and chaired the department of materials science and engineering before becoming dean in 2007. Suresh is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and leads a research group in nanobiomechanics. His appointment is unique compared to past NSF appointments in that he has no government experience. His appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

Varmus Tapped to Lead NCI

In May, President Obama announced his intent to appoint *Harold Varmus* to serve as Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Varmus served as director of NIH from 1993 to 1999, during which time current NIH Director *Francis Collins* was the Director of the Institute for Human Genomics. Now the roles will be reversed.

In an e-mail to the NCI staff, Collins said that Varmus “brings unmatched expertise at all levels — not only in cutting edge scientific research, but also as a leader in the development of strategies for improving patient care, in scientific education and training, and in the design of novel public-private partnerships.”

Most recently, Varmus served as the President of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City since January 2000 and as co-chair of the President’s Council of Advisors

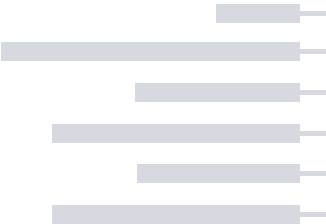
on Science and Technology. He received the 1989 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for studies of the genetic basis of cancer.

Biomedical Research Funding Outlook Bleak

While Congress has yet to pass a budget for the 2011 fiscal year that begins October 1, 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the federal agencies are already working on the 2012 budget. In early June, agencies such as NIH and NSF received two memos offering guidance as they put together their 2012 budget proposals. The first memo from OMB Director *Peter Orszag*, directs agencies to submit a budget request that is 5% below the discretionary total for the agency in the president’s FY11 budget. The memo instructs that agencies should “restructure their operations strategically,” as opposed to proposing an across-the-board cut.

The second memo, signed by both Orszag and White House Chief of Staff *Rahm Emanuel*, directs agencies to identify “programs and subprograms that have the lowest impact on your agency’s mission and constitute at least 5% of your agency’s discretionary budget.” The list should be included with the agency’s budget submission for FY12, “but is a separate exercise from the budget reductions necessary to meet the target for your agency’s FY 2012 discretionary budget request.”

These memos suggest that it will be a very difficult climate for funding. In the coming year, it will be more important than ever for scientists to make sure they let their Congressmen know how important funding is for their labs and research projects. The Biophysical Society will continue to advocate for biomedical research funding and provide resources to members to do the same.





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Biophysical Society Newsletter—August 2010

Upcoming Events

October 10–13, 2010

New Horizons in Calcium Signaling

Beijing, China

www.biophysics.org/2010china

October 20–22, 2010

8th RNase Congress

Naples, Italy

www.8thrnasemeeting.com

October 25–27, 2010

BIT's 1st Annual World Congress of Nanomedicine 2010

Shanghai, China

www.bitlifesciences.com

November 9–12, 2010

Actin, the Cytoskeleton and Nucleus

Singapore

www.biophysics.org/2010singapore

January 5–7, 2011

*Annual Symposium: Recent Advances in Membrane
Biochemistry*

Cambridge, United Kingdom

www.biochemistry.org

January 16–21, 2011

Physical Virology

Ventura, CA

www.grc.org

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