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Biophysical Society

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Student Travel Awards Announced

Bethesda, MD— The Biophysical Society has announced the winners of its student travel award to attend the 49th annual meeting of the society in Long Beach, CA, February 12-16, 2005. The recipients of this competitive award are selected based on scientific merit, with priority given to those who will present a paper at the conference. Each awardee receives a travel grant and will be recognized at an award ceremony on Saturday, February 12, 2005.

Student Award Recipients:

Aashiish Agnihotr, Pennsylvania State University, for “Spreading Kinetics of Fibrinogen Adsorbed to Model Surfaces Measured by Atomic Force Microscopy”

Bradley Akitake, University of Maryland, College Park, for “The ‘dashpot’ mechanism of stretch-dependent gating in MscS”

Ali Alaouie, North Carolina State University, for "Effects of Nanoscale Confinement on Thermodynamics and the Mechanism of Phase Transitions in Substrate-Supported Lipid Nanotube Bilayers"

Gregory Bokinsky, Harvard University, for “Protein-assisted RNA folding occurs through multiple pathways with highly dynamic intermediate states”

Cedric Bouzigues, ECOLE Normale Supieure, for “Membrane dynamics of GABA receptors in the axonal growth cone studied by single quantum dots tracking”

Audrey Chang, University of Miami, for “Functional Effects of α-Tropomyosin FHC and DCM Mutations”

Neetu Chhabra, University of Toronto, for "A Combined FT-IR Spectroscopy-Scanning Probe Microscopy Platform For Studying Protein-Membrane Interactions"

Abigail Doura, Johns Hopkins University, for “Complex interactions at the helix-helix interface stabilize the glycophorin A transmembrane dimmer”

Fabio Fernandes, Instituto Superior Tecnico (I.S.T), for “Interaction of the Indole Class of V-ATPase inhibitors with lipid bilayers”

Pabhashi Fernando, University of Cambridge, for “Three Dimensional Structure Of Type 1 Inositol 1,4,5-Trisphosphate (IP3) Receptor Bound To IP3”

Julia Forman, University of Cambridge, for “The Remarkable Mechanical Strength of Polycystin-1 Suggests a Novel Mechanism for Mechanotransduction”

Gaurav Girdhar, Washington University, for “Direct Observation and Quantification of Simultaneous Tether Extraction from the Neutrophil and Endothelium”

Xing Gong, Oklahoma State University, for "The Role of An Extra Fragment of Cytochrome b (Residues 309-326) in the Cytochrome b*c1* Complex from *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*"

Sanjeewa Goonsekera, University of Rochester, for “Molecular Reconstitution of Cardiac EC Coupling: Novel Insights into Regulation by Calstabin2”

Suzie Hight, Purdue University, for “Biophysical Analysis of the Stoichiometry of the Cdc14/Net1 Complex”

Sebastien Huet, CNRS UPR, for “Secretory vesicle motions studied by total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy”

Johan Hurtig, Chalmers University of Technology, for “Lipid Nanotube-Vesicle Networks on Topographically Patterned Substrates”

Chiaki Ishii, Stanford University, for “Laterally Mobile Tethered Vesicle and Proteoliposome Arrays for Studies of Intermembrane Interactions”

Maxine Jonas, Massachusettes Institute of Technology, for “Fast Fluorescence Microrheometry For Quantitative Studies Of Cytoskeletal Mechanotransduction”

Pallop Karnchanaphanurach, Harvard University, for "Dynamics of the Complement Regulatory Protein Decay-Accelerating Factor (DAF) in the Red Blood Cell Membrane"

Alexander Komarov, University of Maryland, College Park, for “New insights into the mechanism of permeation through large channels”

Taeho Kim, University of Toronto, for “Molecular Dynamics Simulations: Force Mapping of a Membrane Protein”

Yosef Kuttner, Weizmann Institute of Science, for “Does diffusion of proteins in cell-like media obey the Stoke-Einstein relation?”

Yuan Liu, National Taiwan University, for “Optical Biopsy of Liver Fibrosis using Multiphoton Microscopy”

Steven Mansoor, Oregon Health & Science University, for "Exploring New Methods for Mapping Short- and Long- Range Distances within Proteins using Site-Directed Fluorescence Spectroscopy"

Sundara Baalaji Narayanan, Madurai Kamaraj University, for "Structure, Function and Folding Studies on Enterobacterial osmoporin, OmpC, from S.typhi and E.coli: Insights from X-ray Crystallography, Liposome swelling Assay and Membrane Insertion into Lipid Vesicles"

Afua Nyarko, Oregon State University, for “NMR studies of domains of Cytoplasmic Dynein Intermediate Chain, IC74”

Sterling Paramore, University of Utah, for "Investigating the Molecular Origin of the Material Properties of Spectrin Using Nonequilibrium Molecular Dynamics Simulations"

Sean Pin Ng, University of Cambridge, for “Single molecule studies of protein folding by atomic force microscopy(AFM)”

Richard Pomerantz, Suny Downstate Medical Center, for “RNA Polymerase: A Highly Regulated Nanomoter”

Sripad Ram, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center for "A novel approach to characterize the fundamental performance limits in quantitative optical microscopy:applications to single molecule fluorescence experiments"

Maria Ratajczak, University of Chicago, for “Evidence of Ordering in Lipid/Cholesterol Mixtures”

Karen Thickman, Johns Hopkins University, for "Protein-Protein Interactions Among pre-mRNA Splicing Factors Characterized by Isothermal Titration Calorimetry and Intrinsic Tryptophan Fluorescence"

The Biophysical Society, founded in 1956, is a professional, scientific society established to encourage development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics. The Society promotes growth in this expanding field through its annual meeting, monthly journal, and committee and outreach activities. Its members are located throughout the U.S. and the world, where they teach and conduct research in colleges, universities, laboratories, government agencies, and indu