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Biophysical Society Member Roger Y. Tsien Recognized with Nobel **Prize in Chemistry**

Bethesda, MD-The Biophysical Society congratulates Roger Y. Tsien, Ph.D., on his selection to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Osamu Shimomura, Ph.D, and Martin Chalfie, Ph.D, "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 past Biophysical Society Annual Meetings.

Commenting on the selection of Dr. 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.'

"The bioluminescence these scientists studied evolved to support life." adaptation and communication of the animals in which it was first identified. Scientists have been able to harness it, transform it with physicochemical methods and use it through methods of DNA manipulation to, literally, shed light into the smallest quarters of the cell to help us understand functional processes that would otherwise have remained obscure. Yet it is precisely these processes, revealed with the use of the approaches recognized by this award, that are responsible for the function of the brain and the development of diseases such as cancer. Therefore, their biophysical discoveries are continuing to be used and developed for ground breaking biomedical research."

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 industry.

For further information or to be put in contact with an expert in the field, contact Ellen R. Weiss.

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