PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE

VOTE FOR ONE



Enrique M. De La Cruz William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry Head of Branford College Yale University

Research Interests: I study the molecular mechanisms of biological polymers, motor proteins, and other enzymes. My work uses insights and techniques from biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. This integrated research approach has revealed how regulatory proteins control the length and assembly of actin filaments and how kinetic adaptations among evolutionary-related proteins (e.g., RNA helicases, myosins, G-proteins, and ENNP-family enzymes) provide for their biological functions, and has allowed me and colleagues to develop novel enzyme therapeutics being evaluated in human patient clinical trials.

Education: B.A. Rutgers Univ., Newark, NJ (1991); Ph.D. Biochem., Cellular and Molecular Biology (BCMB), Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine (1997)

Summary of Professional Experience: Life Sciences Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, U. Penn. Med. School (1997-2001); Asst. to Full Prof., and William R. Kenan, Jr., Prof. of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry, Yale Univ. (2001-pres); Visiting Scientist, CNRS; Mayent-Rothschild Fellow, Institut Curie (2015); Visiting Prof., ESPCI Paris Tech (2016); Head, Branford College, Yale Univ. (2017-pres); Chair, Dept. of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale Univ. (2020–2023)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: <u>Grant Review Panels</u>: NIH: MSF-C Study Section (2009; 2010–2014); ZGM1 TWD-3 Special Emphasis Panel (2014) Other NIH Service: National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council (2016–2021); NIGMS Search Comm., BBCB Division Director (2019); Search Comm., Division of Biomedical Research Workforce Director (2022) NSF: Grant Reviewer (2003–2008); Cellular Organization Panel (2009) Other U.S. Agencies: American Heart Assn. (2006–2007).

Advisory Boards and Scientific Panels: Myokardia, Inc. (2012–2020); Co-founder, Inozyme Pharma (2015); Inozyme Pharma (2015–2021); SENA Institute of Technology, Ghana (2016–pres); Coalition for the Life Sciences (2020–pres); NASEM/NASA Decadal Survey (2022); Fox Chase Cancer Center (2022–pres); Vagelos Institute, Columbia Univ. (2023– pres); Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences (2023–pres); National Hispanic Health Research Institute (2025–pres)

Editorial Boards: Biophysical Reviews (2010–pres); Biophysical Journal (2012–15; 2015– 2018); Journal of Biological Chemistry (2016–2019), Associate Editor (2019–2029)

Mentoring: Career Coach and Advisory Board Member, ASBMB MOSAIC Program (2020– pres); Compass Faculty Mentor, Washington Univ in St. Louis School of Medicine (2022– pres); Faculty Advisor, SACNAS Chapter at Yale (2018–pres); Faculty Advisor, Científico Latino (2017–pres); Mentor, National Research Mentoring Network (2015–pres)

Other: National Dean's List (1987–1991); Rutgers Univ Scholars Award (1987–1991); *Beta-Beta-Beta* Biological Honor Society (1991); *Phi Beta Kappa* (1992); NSF Pre-doctoral Fellowship (1993); Commencement Speaker, Johns Hopkins Univ. Med. School (1997); Life Sciences Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (1998); Hellman Family Fellow (2002); NSF CAREER Award (2006); Established Investigator Award, AHA (2009); Rothschild-Yvette-Mayent Fellowship, Institut Curie (2015); Invited Professor, ESPCI Paris Tech (2016); Rutgers Univ 250 Fellow (2017); Cell Press "100 Inspiring Hispanic/Latinx Scientists in America" (2020); Ivy+ Provost Leadership Fellow, FAN (2022–2023); Poorvu Center Inaugural Faculty Fellow (2022–2023); Scientist, *The Atlas of Inspiring Hispanic/Latinx Scientists* (2024) Biophysical Society Activities: Co-Chair, Motility Subgroup (2006-2007); Co-Organizer and Chair of multiple BPS symposia, including Physical Properties of Proteins, Cytoskeletal Motors, and Actin Dynamics (2006-2007, 2011); Chair, Nominating Comm. (2011-2012); Council (2009-2012); Editorial Member, Nominating Comm. (2012-2013); Editorial Board, *Biophysical Journal* (2012–2018); Co-Chair, 59th Annual Meeting (2015); Program Comm., 60th Annual Meeting (2016); Emily Gray Award in Education (2017); Fellow (2025)

Other Society Activities: AAAS: Fellow (2022); Chair, Council Prize Comm. (2024); Chair, Award Review Comm. (2024); Council & Steering Comm., Section on Biological Sciences (2024–2026); Board, Council Prize Comm. (2024–2026) **ASBMB:** Publications Comm. (2012–2016); Co-Organizer, *Catalytic Mechanisms* Thematic Meeting (2013); Co-Organizer, ASBMB Annual Meeting (2014); Meetings Comm. (2013–2016; 2017–2022); Chair, Publications Comm. (2017–2019); Fellow (2021) **ASCB:** Bernfield and Gilula Awards Comm. (2009); Council (2024–2026); Chair, Inclusivity Working Group, Council (2025–pres) **GRC:** Co-Organizer, GRC on Biopolymers (2012)

Candidate Statement: It is an honor to be nominated to serve as President of the Biophysical Society (BPS). For over three decades, the BPS has been a professional home where I've grown from a first-time poster presenter to a professor, department chair, and mentor. As a scientist, educator, and first-generation Cuban-American academic, I understand both the thrill of discovery and the pressing need for a more equitable scientific enterprise. If elected, my priorities will be to sustain the Society's core strengths while expanding its reach, inclusivity, and relevance to today's scientific and public challenges, including advocating for the value of basic research to the scientific community and broader public.

I am a molecular biophysicist who integrates "wet-lab" experiments with computation and theory. I've served the biophysics community in many capacities: as an Editorial Board member for *Biophys. J.*, a frequent BPS speaker and symposium organizer, and a mentor in national community-minded initiatives. I've held leadership roles within numerous scientific societies. At Yale, I've chaired a major biomedical science department and served as Head of Branford College, overseeing the intellectual and residential life of undergraduates. These experiences have taught me how to build communities that support inquiry and accountability—values I will bring to the BPS presidency.

The Society's annual meeting is a scientific and cultural touchstone, and I will prioritize organizing programs that are intellectually ambitious, broadly inclusive, and trainee-focused. I will promote content that spans traditional and emerging biophysical frontiers, including the increasing convergence of biophysics with physiology and systems-level modeling.

I view mentorship as a critical pillar of our discipline's future. These efforts are in our fabric and duties as scientists and educators, and central to cultivating excellence. As President, I will continue to strengthen vertical mentorship structures, support historically excluded scientists, and build institutional cultures where all BPS members can thrive. I will advocate for a planning framework that balances continuity with innovation, ensuring that Society resources are directed toward sustaining our excellence and launching new initiatives.

The BPS has been a formative and constant presence in my professional life. I've learned at its meetings, published in its journals, and found my scientific community within its membership. If elected President, I will dedicate myself to preserving what makes this Society vital, while working creatively to expand its reach, strengthen its vision, and support the next generation of biophysicists.

VOTE FOR ONE



PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE

Pernilla E. Wittung-Stafshede Professor of Chemistry

Department of Life Sciences Chalmers University of Technology (until July 2025) Department of Chemistry Rice University (from July 2025)

Research Interests: Protein folding and misfolding; metalloprotein biophysics; copper transport mechanisms and roles in cancer; amyloid formation and cross-reactivity in neuro-degenerative diseases

Education: Combined B.S. and M. Sc. Chemical Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology (1992); Ph.D. Physical Chemistry, Chalmers University of Technology (1996)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, California Institute of Technology (1997-1998); Assistant Professor, Chemistry, Tulane University (1999-2002); Associate Professor, Chemistry, Tulane University (2002-2003); Associate Professor, Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Rice University (2004-2008); Professor, Chemistry, Umeå University, Sweden (2008-2015); Professor, Chemical Biology, Life Sciences, Chalmers University of Technology (2015-2025); Division Head, Chemical Biology, Chalmers (2015-2018); Leader, Gender Initiative for Excellence (Genie), Chalmers (2019-2022); Professor, Chemistry, Rice University (2025-)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Camille and Henry Dreyfus New Faculty Award (1998); The National Fresenius Award, ACS (2003); Wallmarkska Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (2009); The Göran Gustafsson's Prize in Chemistry (2009); Wallenberg Scholar (2010-); Arrhenius Medal, Swedish Chemical Society (2016); Member, Royal Swedish Academy of the Sciences (2016-); Member, The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg, (2017-); Member, Academia Europaea (2017-); Board Member, Molecular Frontiers Foundation, non-profit outreach organization (2018-); IUPAC Distinguished Women in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Award (2019); Gustav Dalén Medal (2019); Member, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (2020-); Member, Nobel Prize in Chemistry Committee (2020-); Council Member, The Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings (2021-); Biophysical Society Fellow (2022); Chair, Gordon Research Conference, Protein Folding Dynamics (2022); Chalmers Equality Award (2024); Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, HonFRSC (2024); Member, European Academy of Sciences (EurASc) (2024-); Foreign Member, The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters (2024-)

Biophysical Society Activities: Founder with Margaret Cheung, Biopolymers in vivo (BIV) Subgroup (2010); Chair, BIV Subgroup (2012-2013); Member, Professional Opportunities for Women Committee (CPOW) (2014-2017); Member, BPS Council (2018-2021); Member, Fellows Committee (2022-2025); Member, Committee on Sustainability (2024-present)

Candidate Statement: Excited, humbled and honored - many feelings rushed through my head when I was asked to be your President-Elect candidate. BPS has had superb leadership over the years and all new Presidents will be standing on the shoulders of giants. If elected, I will use all my energy (and I have a lot) to make a difference for you, the Society members, while nurturing the Society's many important activities, where the Annual Meeting is the premier event. The current turmoil around government funding in the US has made it clear that academic freedom and basic research cannot be taken for granted. As President, I will use all available power to support BPS members and oppose attacks on science.

Many of you attended your first Annual Meeting as a student and then continued to come back regularly. To make this possible for more trainees, faculty must be able to bring their students to the meeting. This is rather easy for US faculty, but much harder for international members as the cost goes up. We need to lower the barrier to first-time attendance and showcase our fine community. Biophysics research –what we all do in one way or another– will be an essential component of future discoveries within climate, energy and health that eventually is going to save the planet. We must mentor and inspire the young generation to follow in our footsteps.

I moved to the US for a postdoc and then stayed as faculty for ten more years. I am thankful to the US academic system for kick-starting my scientific career. As I had two little girls during my early faculty years, I did not go to many conferences. I did not know what I missed because I had not been taught a tradition of attending meetings. Now I know better. Being in a welcoming community of peers is extremely important – in addition to

being fun, it provides scientific development and exchange. After returning to Sweden with somewhat older daughters, I started to go to meetings more regularly. That is when my first interaction with BPS took place, and it was "love at first sight".

My entry to BPS started with a member-organized session in 2010. It was so popular that we immediately petitioned to form a Subgroup, Biopolymers in vivo (BIV). I then led BIV, joined CPOW, and eventually became a member of BPS Council. After being honored as a BPS Fellow in 2022, I joined the Fellows Committee and I am currently on the Committee on Sustainability. I instantly felt at home in BPS. It is hard to get members outside the US, like me, to attend the Annual Meeting every year. For me personally, my roles in committees, and the friends I made through those, kept me coming. If elected, I want to work to increase international participation. BPS is an international organization with a mission to connect biophysicists in all corners of the world.

I am now returning to the US after 17 years in Sweden. My children are growing up and I am excited to take on a new challenge. Every time I have moved between universities, my research has developed in unforeseen ways. My research focus today is what it is because of contributions from many students and colleagues along my path. Even though I spent the last decades in Europe, I am committed to helping to restore trust in science and research in the US. It is important as developments in the US often have global impact. If we do not resolve the current problems soon, we may lose many young (and senior) scientists.

I have a breadth of leadership experience from different academic institutions and organizations, mostly in Europe. I have led strong research environments, pioneered a large gender equality initiative, worked in organizations and academies, organized conferences, and I regularly do outreach all around the world. I have served in many funding bodies and prize committees, including the Nobel Prize Committee for Chemistry.

If elected President, I will focus on the below. In addition, I will promote all the stellar activities BPS is already doing, which extends in so many ways beyond the Annual Meeting. I will welcome input and suggestions from all of you. It is your Society and, as President, I serve You.

- Take a lead together with other science organizations to <u>counter the attacks on science</u> <u>and research</u> ongoing in the US today. As an independent organization we can, and therefore must, do everything in our power to fight this. I want you, the members, to feel that BPS is there for you and acts on your behalf.
- Increase and nurture the <u>international community</u>. Perhaps the Annual Meeting can take place outside the US? I will work to (a) increase interactions and joint events with biophysical organizations around the globe and (b) attract more attendees from abroad (both students and faculty).
- 3. Emphasize how we can contribute to <u>sustainable solutions</u> and run our <u>research labs</u> <u>sustainably</u>. Sustainability also means ensuring we draw talent from the whole population. We need to constantly <u>promote diversity</u>. I know from experience that if you stop efforts in this direction, the system reverts quickly. I will ensure BPS stands firmly by its values regardless of how the wind blows.
- 4. Increase <u>trust in science</u> among the general public and young people. All around the world, facts and science are losing their power. BPS can play a leading role: do more outreach, work with journalists, politicians, and support member engagements. We need to enlighten every citizen about the key role of science for the fate of the world.

To conclude, if you elect me, I will gracefully, but forcefully, lead BPS towards becoming stronger, more relevant, and more united than ever. I will bring energy, enthusiasm, and an international flavor to my leadership. Whatever the pressing issues are during my term as President, trust me - I will tackle them. You should be proud to be biophysicists, and you deserve a strong, supporting Society as your "home".

COUNCIL NOMINEES



Clemens Anklin Vice President for NMR Applications Bruker BioSpin Corporation

Research Interests: NMR spectroscopy; protein dynamics; protein structure determination; nucleic acid structure determination; NMR method development; protein and nucleic acid ligand binding screening methods

Education: Dipl. Chem., Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Z); Ph.D. (Dr. sc. nat.), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Z)

Summary of Professional Experience: NMR Applications Scientist, Bruker-Spectrospin Switzerland (1984-1988); Head of NMR Applications Laboratory and Vice President for NMR Applications Bruker BioSpin Corp, Billerica MA (1988 – present)

Activities: Member, Swiss Chemical Society; Member, American Chemical Society; Member, Ampere Society; Advisory Board, NMR-Box

Biophysical Society Activities: Society Member (2018-present); Member, Intrinsic Disordered Proteins (IDP) Subgroup (2018-present); Member, Membership Committee (2022-present). Exhibitor at Annual Meetings. Organizer of virtual and in-person industry panels.

Candidate Statement: I am very honored to be considered for election to the Council of the Biophysical Society. Having worked in industry all my professional life, I want to be a voice in the Society for all my member colleagues who work in industry and for all the students and postdocs who are considering a career in industry. I will strive to be a representative of the members outside of academia while in the leadership of the Biophysical Society. I consider it very important that the Society hears from their members in industry and works to increase long-term membership for all members. The Biophysical Society can also play a role in preparing and informing their members about careers and life in industry and assist the academic institutions in preparing the students, postdocs and faculty for a potential transition to a position in industry. It is also in the interest of BPS to increase the number of members from industry by making membership more attractive beyond participation at Annual Meetings.

Although I am not a biophysicist by education, I have become deeply involved with the biophysical community through my work with the applications of NMR spectroscopy in biophysics, structural biology, molecular biology and biochemistry. I do believe that I can bring new ideas into BPS leadership with my experience in industry, my international background and my membership in other societies. Should I be elected, I will try to promote the Society as a home for biophysicists and other scientists working in related fields from all areas of occupation and from diverse backgrounds including gender, origin and other traditionally underserved groups. I do believe that biophysicists, as any other scientists, now more than ever, have the duty to be advocates for science through outreach beyond the limits of their own community to inform the general public of the importance of science.



Timothy D. Craggs

VOTE FOR ONE INDUSTRY CANDIDATE

CEO and Founder Exciting Instruments Ltd. Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) University of Sheffield

Research Interests: Single-molecule biophysics; structural and mechanistic characterization of protein–DNA interactions; FRET and FCS instrumentation and methodology development

Education: MSci in Natural Sciences (Chemistry), Cambridge (2002); PhD in Biophysics, Cambridge (2007)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellowships at St Andrews (2007-2010), Yale (2010-2011), Oxford (2011-2015) and Bristol (2015-2016); Asst Professor Sheffield (2016-2021); Director, Centre for Single-Molecule Biology (2017-2024); Dept Director of Research (2021-2024); Assoc Professor, Sheffield (2021-pres); Founder and CEO, Exciting Instruments Ltd (2021-pres)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Lindemann Trust Fellow (2010-2011); BBSRC New Investigator (2017); Member, American Chemical Society (2017 – pres); Member, Biochemical Society (2017-pres); Committee, Royal Society of Chemistry Nucleic Acids Group; Committee, International FRET Community (2022); The Inaugural Open Research Award, Sheffield (2021); Insider's Most Exciting Companies (2023); The Bessemer Society Entrepreneur of the Year (2024); Private Investment Fundraise, Exciting Instruments Seed Round (£4M, 2024)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member, BPS (2014-pres); Presenter, Annual Meeting (me and lab members): Posters (2014, 2020 x3, 2021, 2022 x3, 2023, 2025 x2), Platform Talks (2016 - Session Chair, 2018, 2023); Industrial Exhibitor, Exciting Instruments (2021-2025); Invited Speaker, Biological Fluorescence Subgroup (2022); Speaker, Industry Talk (2022); Judge, Undergraduate Poster Contest (2022); Sponsor, Biological Fluorescence Subgroup (2022, 2024, 2025); Sponsor, IDP Subgroup (2023)

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the Biophysical Society Council. My journey in biophysics has been shaped by a dual passion: uncovering structural and mechanistic details of biomolecules (particularly nucleic acids and proteins that interact with them) and ensuring that the tools to do so are accessible and sustainable for scientists everywhere.

As CEO and Founder of Exciting Instruments - a spinout from my Univ lab in Sheffield - I lead multidisciplinary teams delivering innovative, commercially distributed single-molecule instrumentation. Our mission is to democratize high-precision biophysical methods that have traditionally been the preserve of elite labs. Drawing on both academic innovation and practical deployment, we empower a more inclusive global research community, bringing the power of single-molecule detection to the widest possible user base.

BPS has been my scientific home since my first postdoc. I have been an active member since first presenting at the Annual Meeting in 2014, through mentoring PhD students (many of whom received outstanding feedback on their posters and talks), and now leading a company that proudly exhibits at the BPS Annual Meeting and sponsors several Subgroup events. This long-term, multi-faceted engagement has given me deep appreciation for BPS's role in nurturing scientific careers, building community through collaboration, and driving field-wide excellence.

I bring an international perspective as a UK-based academic and entrepreneur with strong networks across Europe and beyond. BPS is uniquely positioned to be a bridge across continents, and I will work to further its global visibility, partnerships, and accessibility for researchers around the world.

If elected to Council, I will contribute:

- A business-informed perspective on strategic growth, innovation, and sustainability
- Advocacy for open science and technology dissemination models
- Support for academic–industry collaborations and translational funding pathways
 Guidance and mentorship for early-career researchers navigating both academic and entrepreneurial career pathways

The Biophysical Society has supported me at every stage of my career, from trainee to group leader to founder. Through my Council membership, I look forward to paying this forward, in serving the next generation of biophysicists. I would be proud to contribute to the Society's leadership, helping it remain bold, inclusive, and forward-looking in a changing scientific and societal landscape.

VOTE FOR THREE



Robert B. Best

Computational Biophysics Section Laboratory of Chemical Physics NIDDK, NIH

Research Interests: Intrinsically disordered proteins, protein phase separation, protein evolution and design, protein folding and misfolding mechanisms, optimization of force fields for molecular simulation, co-translational folding

Education: M.Sc. in Chemistry, University of Cape Town (2000), Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of Cambridge (2003)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Cambridge (2003-2004); Visiting Fellow, Laboratory of Chemical Physics, National Institutes of Health (2004-2007); Royal Society University Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, UK (2007-2012); College Lecturer in Chemistry, Emmanuel College Cambridge (2008-2012); Tenure Track Investigator, Laboratory of Chemical Physics, National Institutes of Health (2012-2015); Senior Investigator, Chief of Laboratory of Computational Biophysics, Laboratory of Chemical Physics, National Institutes of Health (2016-present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Mandela Scholarship (2000-2003); NIDDK Scientific Director's Fellowship Award (2006); Royal Society of Chemistry Marlow Award (2012); Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics (2020); NIH Director's Award (2023); Co-Organizer CECAM meeting on Single Molecule Pulling Experiments (2006); Co-Organizer, CECAM Protein Folding meeting (2012); Co-Organizer, CECAM meeting on Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (2013, 2015); Co-Organizer, Experimental and Theoretical Approaches for Enzyme Catalysis related to Energy Generation (2013); Co-Organizer of CECAM meeting on Intrinsically Disordered Protein Complexes (2022); Co-Chair, Gordon Research Conference on Protein Folding Dynamics, Galveston TX (2024)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2014. Program Chair, BPS IDP Subgroup (2018, 2021); Editorial Board Member, *Biophysical Journal* (2021-2022); Judge, BPS SRAA Award (2022-2024); Chair, BPS Biopolymers in vivo Subgroup (2024)

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated to be a member of the BPS Council. I always enjoy participating in the Society's Annual Meetings, which conveniently bring together the latest research in my own areas of interest, and which have facilitated many interesting discussions and collaborations. I have always admired the support that the Society gives to early career scientists and those at the start of their independent careers, and the fact that senior scientists are happy to be presenting their work in the poster session. I have supported the Society over the years through leadership roles (i.e., Chair, Program Chair) in the Intrinsically Disordered Proteins and Biopolymers in vivo Subgroups, regularly assisting in evaluating SRAA entries, and as an Editor of *Biophysical Journal*. If elected, I would work to continue the scientific excellence that has characterized the Annual Meetings, as well as programs that support early career researchers. I would also support the continuation and enhancement of opportunities for networking between scientists at different career stages and different disciplines. Finally, I would also work to ensure that the Annual Meeting remains the leading international event in biophysics, including by emphasizing international participation in Subgroup and other leadership positions and via travel awards.



Philip C. Biggin

Department of Biochemistry University of Oxford

Research Interests: Membrane protein biophysics; channels, transporters and receptors; development and application of physical and AI-based computational methods

Education: BSc in Computer-aided Chemistry, University of Surrey (1994); DPhil in Ion Channel Biophysics, University of Oxford (1997)

Summary of Professional Experience: Wellcome Trust International Prize Fellowship, Salk Institute, San Diego (1998-2000); Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellow, Oxford (2001-2005); Lecturer in Biochemistry, Christ Church, Oxford (2001-2005); Senior Research Associate, University of Oxford (2005-2007); RCUK Fellow in Structural Bioinformatics, University of Oxford (2007-2012); Lecturer in Biochemistry at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (2005-2012); Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow, University of Oxford and Lady Margaret Hall (2012-2016); Professor of Computational Biochemistry and Tutorial Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall (2016-present)

Awards, Honors and Activities: Associateship of the University of Surrey (1993); Science and Engineering Ambassador (2008); Member, British Biophysical Society (2010-present); Editorial Board, *Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine* (2010-2013); Chartered Chemist (2010); Section Editor, *BMC Pharmacology* (2012-2018); Fellow, Royal Society of Chemistry (2013); Organizing Committee, CompChemKitchen (2017-present); Winner, Jeffry D. Madura Memorial Graphics Prize (2018); Panel Member, UK REF2021 Assessment (sub-panel 5 – biological sciences) for UK government (2019-2021); Chair, Molecular Graphics and Modelling Society (2014-2023); Director, Computational Discovery PhD Programme (2020-present); Theme Advisory Panel Chair (AI), Rosalind Franklin Institute (2022-present)

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 1996; Platform Chair (2014) and Subgroup Invited Speaker (2023) at the BPS Annual Meeting; Member, Channels and Transporters Subgroup; Editorial Board Member (Channels and Transporters), *Biophysical Journal* (2019-2024)

Candidate Statement: I can still remember, as a PhD student, my first BPS Annual Meeting in New Orleans in 1997. That was something that inspired me to stay in academic science and where I met many colleagues and friends. It would be a huge honor to serve on the Biophysical Society Council and I believe I am now at a career point when I can contribute most effectively in terms of ensuring BPS remains at the forefront of biophysics, whilst maintaining its rigorous standards of mentorship and inclusivity.

If elected to Council, I would advocate for a number of things. Firstly, I would push open-science initiatives and champion data-sharing practices to help accelerate scientific progress. Secondly, I would prioritize early-career support in terms of mentorship and funding particularly for those at interdisciplinary boundaries. Thirdly, I would look to strengthen international partnerships. These aspects become particularly important in the context of the current environment.

As we all know, there is currently an unprecedented threat to scientific enterprise, particularly in the US. As a non-US citizen, I can provide a voice and view from outside that may offer a different, but valuable line of support in these difficult times. It is essential, not least for maintaining trust from the public, that scientific endeavours remain independent of political interference. I will actively support Society-led initiatives that publicly oppose censorship and intimidation of researchers. The effect of funding uncertainty and political hostility on the next generation of scientists is, in particular, the most pressing problem. We will need strong mentorship, career development and novel funding routes to ensure that talented scientists are not driven away from biophysics forever. We will also need to engage other societies and organizations to build strong coalitions and amplify the key role that biophysics and science, in general, play in society.

It would be a privilege to serve the membership in advancing these objectives and I will do my best to help ensure that the Biophysical Society remains steadfast at the helm for scientific freedom, inclusion and excellence.

COUNCIL NOMINEES



Ashley R. Carter Professor Department of Physics and Astronomy Amherst College



Kandice Levental

Associate Professor of Research Research Discipline Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics University of Virginia

VOTE FOR THREE

Research Interests: Single-molecule biophysics; DNA folding; chromatin; intrinsically disordered proteins; optical microscopy; atomic force microscopy

Education: BS in Physics, BSE in Engineering Physics, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor (2002); PhD in Physics, Optical Science and Engineering Program, University of Colorado – Boulder (2008)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University (2009-2010); Visiting Assistant Professor (2010-2011), Assistant Professor (2011-2017), Associate Professor (2017-2024), Professor (2024-present), Chair (2024-present), Amherst College

Awards, Honors, and Activities: NSF-IGERT Optical Science and Engineering Program (2002-2007); National Physical Science Consortium Fellowship (2002-2008); Physik Instrumente NanoInnovation Grant (2006); Biophysical Society Student Travel Award (2008); Milton L. Shifman Endowed Scholarship, Marine Biological Laboratory, Neurobiology Course (2009); Chapter Vice President, Sigma Xi, Amherst College (2012-present); Faculty Advisor, Association of Women in Science (AWIS) (2014-2022); Cottrell Scholar (2015); Board of Directors, Advanced Laboratory Physics Association (ALPhA) (2016-2017); Advisory Board Member, NSF Advance Project on eAlliances (2016-2022); New England Regional Director, ALPhA (2017-2018); Selection Committee, APS Reichert Award (2017-2018, 2020-2021); NSF CAREER (2017-2022); Secretary, ALPhA (2018-2022); Program Committee, APFA (2018-present); Virtual Beyond First Year Lab Conference Organizer, ALPhA (2021); Clare Boothe Luce Grant (2021-2023); Secretary/Treasurer, American Physical Society (APS) Education Forum (2023-present); Organizer, CU*iP Conference (2024-present)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2004; Education Committee (2015-2021); Judge, Undergraduate Poster Competition (2015-2024); Founding Member and Co-Lead, PUI Network (2020-2025); Faculty Mentor, Amherst College's Biophysical Society Student Chapter (2020-present); Membership Committee (2021-present); Mentor, Annual Meeting (2022, 2024-present); Organizer, Speed Networking event at the Annual Meeting; Co-author, "Suggested Guidelines for Starting an Undergraduate Physics Program"; Helped start the Biophysical Society's Student Chapters and was the lead on the committee until 2021; Developed lesson plans for Biophysics Week for the "Experiments" portion of the Biophysical Society's website; Reviewer and Author for *Biophysical Journal* and *The Biophysicist*.

Candidate Statement: The job of the Council is to fulfill the scientific and business obligations of the Society. This means reviewing the programming for the Annual Meeting, approving the budget, ensuring effective organizational planning, reviewing Subgroup and committee reports, engaging in strategic planning, and much more. For these duties, you want someone who is dedicated to the Society. I have been involved in BPS since 2004 when I presented my graduate work on using a precision optical trap to measure movement of individual helicases. That meeting solidified my love of biophysics and now, twenty years later, the Biophysical Society is more than a place to publish papers or give talks – it is my scientific home. I am fully committed to the Society and have served in different ways—on committees, as advisor to a Student Chapter, and as the leader of the Primarily Undergraduate Institution Network. I am ready to serve in this capacity.

In addition, the Council needs to represent the voices in the Society. I have a different perspective that might be useful. I am at a small institution that is incredibly student focused. Right now, about a third of the BPS membership is students. One of my goals is to think strategically about how to serve and engage this part of the membership.

Finally, in the US, this moment in time is very different from other moments. There are questions about government jobs, federal funding, visas, and inclusion. I think we need to elect people to Council that will uphold our global Society values of (i) scientific excellence, (ii) integrity and transparency, (iii) diversity, equity, and inclusion, and (iv) community building. We need people that will speak up, will have time to work on these issues, will organize our efforts, and will reach out to collaborate with other societies. I have cleared my schedule. **Research Interests:** Membrane structure, dynamics, and function; advanced microscopy; cellular biophysics; phase separation. The goal of our research is to understand the mechanistic connections between the lipid composition, lateral and transverse organization, physical properties, and physiology of cellular membranes, and how these are influenced by dietary and genetic perturbations.

Education: BS in Chemical Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin (2003); PhD in Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania (2008)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Bergmann Center of Biomaterials Dresden, Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research, Dresden, Germany (2008-2012); Research Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, University of Texas Health Science Center (2012-2020); Director, Center for Advanced Microscopy, University of Texas Health Science Center (2014-2019); Research Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics, Center for Membrane and Cell Physiology, University of Virginia (2020-present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Institute for Medicine and Engineering Cardiovascular Bioengineering Training Grant (2004-2006); National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention (2005); Visiting Scholar, Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen, Germany (2018); *ad hoc* reviewer for Vienna Science and Technology Fund, Austrian Science Fund FWF, Special Research Program, Czech Science Foundation GACR, Dutch Research Council NOW Talent Programme, SciLifeLab PULSE postdoctoral fellowship; Biophysical Society Avanti Award in Lipids (2024); Organizing Committee, Lipid Research Division seminar series, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, (2023-2025); Organizing Committee, Complexity in the Chemistry and Physics of Lipid Membranes meeting, Telluride Science Research Center (2024-2025)

Biophysical Society Activities: Society Member (2018-present); Member, Membrane Structure and Function Subgroup (2018-present); Secretary-Treasurer, Biophysical Society Membrane Structure and Function Subgroup (2021-2023); Judge, Biophysical Society Art of Science Image Contest (2025); Judge, Membrane Structure and Function Student Research Achievement Award (2025); Member, Dissertation Award Committee (2024-present)

Candidate Statement: I am humbled and honored to be nominated for the Biophysical Society Council. The Biophysical Society has felt like a scientific home since my first meeting in 2014. At the time, I was relatively new to biophysics and nervous attending a meeting full of so many brilliant scientists. My experience with other societies gave the impression that they were competitive and cagey, to the point of being cut-throat. In contrast, my experience with BPS is that it is an egalitarian and collegial group, eager to teach, learn, and push science forward. At the Annual Meeting, I found a vigorous, thriving community of people that shared my passion for quantitative, mechanistic, and rigorous biology. I felt invited, welcome, and in the best place to learn more about the fascinating field of membrane biophysics. I have attended every Annual Meeting since 2018, each year looking forward to it as a place to see colleagues that are like distant family members...a place for vibrant discussions, learning new techniques, and diving deep into the intricacies of interesting topics. One of the characteristics of BPS that I appreciate most is the diversity of the members, both in their scientific interdisciplinarity and their personal and national backgrounds. Having worked and studied in cancer cell biology, biomechanics, tissue engineering, and membrane biophysics in both the U.S. and Europe, I appreciate that the combination of individuals' backgrounds in BPS synergizes to strengthen the Society and our science. I'd like to be a member of Council because I want to give back to the Society and community that has shaped me into the scientist I am today. I want to continue to encourage diverse perspectives and open dialog among scientists from all backgrounds and career stages.

COUNCIL NOMINEES



Tanja Mittag Faculty Department of Structural Biology

Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Research Interests: Biophysics of phase separation; structure–function relationships of intrinsically disordered proteins

Education: Diploma in Biochemistry (2001), and Ph.D. in Biophysics (2004), Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada (2004 – 2010); Assistant Member (2010–2016), Associate Member (2016–2021) and Full Member (2021–present) in the Department of Structural Biology, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Fellowship (1999–2000) and Graduate Fellowship (2001–2004), German National Academic Foundation; Post Ph.D. Research Fellowship, National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC) and Terry Fox Foundation (2005–2008); Postdoctoral Research Award IDP Subgroup of the Biophysical Society (2009); V Foundation Scholar Award (2011); Kate and Michael Bárány Award, Biophysical Society (2021); Top 1% Highly Cited Researchers, Clarivate (2023, 2024); Fellow, Biophysical Society (2025); Co-Organizer EMBO/EMBL Symposium "Cellular mechanisms driven by liquid phase separation" (2018, 2022); Co-Organizer, Forbeck Symposium "Phase separation and cancer" (2022); Co-Chair, Intrinsically Disordered Proteins Gordon Research Conference (2024); Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (2017–2019); Editorial Board Member, *Molecular Cell* (2020–present); ad hoc service on various NIH panels; Standing Member, NIH MRAB Panel (2021–2024)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2009; Co-Chair, Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDP) Subgroup Symposium (2012); Co-Organizer and Co-Chair of Symposium "Liquid Protein Assemblies in Spatial Organization and Ultrasensitive Signaling in Cells", Annual Meeting (2014); Secretary/Treasurer, IDP Subgroup (2014); Co-Chair, Biopolymers in vivo (BIV) Subgroup Symposium (2017); Chair-Elect/Chair of the IDP Subgroup (2017, 2018); Awards Committee Member (2021–2025); service as Poster Judge and Career Mentor

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for a Council position. I consider the Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society my home meeting. I come every year, meet with colleagues and early career scientists, and learn about new developments in broad biophysics areas as well as detailed developments in my own field. While many may find the Annual Meeting overwhelmingly large, its size enables biophysiciss of all types to come together to share scholarship and learn from each other. At my first Annual Meeting, I had the opportunity to speak with and learn from scientists who I only knew from their publications. I made connections that led to collaborations, friendships and a job. To enable similarly enriching experiences for attendees from all over the world every year requires lots of work. I would welcome the opportunity to devote my time and effort to this community to continue the tradition of high-quality, broad meetings, and foster the active involvement of young scientists Meetings, publications, networking events and other BPS initiatives.



Gary J. Pielak

Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry & Biophysics University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Research Interests: Protein biophysics in cells and under crowded conditions *in vitro*; biophysics of dry proteins

Education: BA in Chemistry, Bradley University, Peoria, IL (1977); Ph.D. Biochemistry, Washington State University, Pullman, WA (1983)

Summary of Professional Experience: National Institutes of Health Ruth Kirschstein Health National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (1983-1986); Postdoctoral Fellow, Oxford University, Oxford, England, United Kingdom (1986-1988); Assistant, Associate, and Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1989- Present); Program Director, Molecular Biophysics, United States National Science Foundation (2013-2014)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award (2006); Kenan Distinguished Professorship (2015); Carl Brändén Award from the Protein Society (2016); University Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement (2017); Bradley University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award (2018); UNC-CH Excellence in Basic Science Mentoring Award (2019); UNC Johnston Teaching Excellence Award (2023); UNC Faculty Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring (2023); Fellow of the Biophysical Society (2024)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 1990; Founding Member, Intrinsically-Disordered Proteins and Biopolymers in vivo (BIV) Subgroups; Member at Large, BIV (2011-2015); Chair-Elect, BIV (2015); Chair, (2016) BIV; Secretary-Treasurer, BIV (2025). Presented invited talks in both Subgroups.

Candidate Statement: Since joining the Society in 1989, I have seen easy times and hard times, but nothing like these times. It is an honor to be nominated for a position, especially now. The Council benefits from having a few established biophysicists who can speak without worrying about their tenure or promotion.

The Annual Meeting has had a major effect on my research, from seeing outstanding formal talks to shooting the breeze with fellow biophysicists. Here is but one example: My most important collaboration so far--from which has blossomed a new way of thinking about the effects of macromolecular crowding---, resulted from running into Daniel Harries at an Annual Meeting in New Orleans where we decided to combine my lab's expertise in measurement with Daniel's lab's knowledge of equilibrium thermodynamic theory.

The less formal nature of Subgroups makes them the leading edge of the Society. We must continue to support them. Having helped form two--Intrinsically-Disordered Proteins and Biopolymers in vivo (BIV)-- I understand their key role. In addition, I have chaired and currently serve as Secretary Treasurer of BIV. Having trained students from 10 countries, I also understand the importance of keeping this a truly international Society.

I have sent more than 20 students, both graduates and undergraduates, to the Annual Meeting and will continue to do so. For many of my students, this was their first big meeting and first poster presentation or talk. Furthermore, their attendance is often possible only because of a travel award. One of my goals, whether or not elected, is to increase the number of travel awards by beating the bushes for donors.

VOTE FOR THREE

COUNCIL NOMINEES



Neelanjana Sengupta

Department of Biological Sciences Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata

Research Interests: We probe biological complexity originating at the molecular level and manifestations at the genetic, composite, structural, and functional levels. Our methods bridge physics-based methods with modern computational tools. The "computational nanoscope" is used to unravel phenomena that include protein self-assembly; enzymatic function and evolution; membrane-protein interactions; and biological responses to extreme thermodynamic conditions. Machine Learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) protocols are developed to probe thermo-kinetic transitions in complex biomolecular energy landscapes and topological changes associated with biophysical phenomena.

Education: M.Sc in Physics (University of Burdwan, India, 2000); MS in Chemistry (Chemical and Materials Physics, University of California, Irvine, 2007); Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of California, Irvine (2008)

Summary of Professional Experience: Scientist, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, India (2008-2016); Raman Research Fellow, University of Cambridge (2015); Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata (2016-2019); Associate Professor, IISER Kolkata (2019-2025); Experienced Professor, IISER Kolkata (2025-)

Awards, Honors and Activities: CSIR-Raman Research Fellowship Awardee (2015); Executive Council Member, Indian Biophysical Society (2019-present); Alexander von Humboldt Experienced Researcher Fellowship (2021-2023); Outstanding Reviewer Recognition by Chemical Science, Wiley (2022); Secretary, Indian Biophysical Society (2023-present); Bronze Medal Awardee, Chemical Research Society of India (2024)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member (2005-present); Faculty Mentor, "Gangeya" Student Chapter; Early Careers Member of the Biophysical Society (2008-2013); Indian Ambassador to the Biophysical Society (2023-2025)

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the Biophysical Society's Council election. Over three quarters of a century, the Biophysical Society has served as an intersecting platform for techniques and theories probing the underpinnings of life's machineries. Individual methods have learned from the intersections, pushing the frontiers and making unprecedented discoveries. Importantly, the Society has fostered talent from all over the world, cutting across the boundaries of nationality, age and discipline. I have myself benefitted tremendously from my association with the Society, beginning with my graduate school days, and presently as an independent investigator. My goal as a Council member would be to foster this legacy and maximize its benefit to science and its practitioners. I would ensure the participation of younger scientists, especially from emergent locations in the global south. I would like to enable seamless connections between sub-disciplines so that biophysics contributes appropriately in the rapidly altering landscape of modern knowledge. In particular, the advent of artificial intelligence is influencing our toolkit of biophysics in ways unanticipated until a decade ago. Experimental efforts must not just gain but contribute to the development of such methods. If elected, I would like to leverage my Council membership towards these goals.

VOTE FOR THREE