PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE **VOTE FOR ONE**

Vasanthi Jayaraman

Professor and Chair
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
McGovern Medical School, UTHealth Houston

Research Interests: My research integrates approaches from biology, physics, and chemistry to understand how protein structure and conformational dynamics govern signaling in membrane proteins. By combining spectroscopic, single-molecule, and functional methods, my work defines the dynamic conformational landscapes of ion channels, providing mechanistic insight into their structure–function relationships and allosteric regulation.

Education: B.S., Madras University, India (1988); M.S., Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India (1990); Ph.D., Princeton University (1995); Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell University (1995–1997)

Summary of Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, Marquette University (1997–2002); Assistant/Associate Professor, UTHealth Houston (2002–2012); Co-Director (2009–2010), Director (2010–2013), Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Program; Professor, UTHealth Houston (2012–present); Vice Chair for Research (2023–2025); Chair Ad-Interim (2025–2026); ELAM Fellow (2025–2026)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Hugh Scott Taylor Fellowship, Princeton University (1992–1994); Miles Pickering Distinguished Teaching Award, Princeton University (1993); Dean's Teaching Excellence Awards (2016–2024); Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas System (2017); Women Faculty Excellence in Research Award (2018); AAAS Fellow (2022); UT System STAR Award (2022); Paul E. Darlington Mentoring Award (2024); Biophysical Society Fellow (2025); President's Scholar Award, UTHealth Houston (2025); Esteemed Educator Award, UTHealth (2025); ELAM Fellow, Drexel University (2025–2026); Casey Chair Professorship (2025–present)

Grant Review Panels and Service: NSF Panel Reviewer (2002-2018); American Heart Association review panels (Chair and Associate Chair) (2006-2009); NIH study sections (BPNS and multiple Special Emphasis Panels including MIRA, RM1, and fellowship panels) (2008-present); NIH CSR nominee evaluator (2024-2025)

Editorial Boards: Editor-in-Chief, *Biophysical Journal* (2022–2026); Associate Editor, *Biophysical Journal* (2019–2022); Editorial Board, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (2014-2019); Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of General Physiology* (2015-2019)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 1996; Council Member/Executive Board Member (2011–2012); Chair, 2016 Annual Meeting; Program Committee (2015–2017); Membership Committee (2011–2014; 2014-2017); Public Affairs Committee (2013–2016); Committee on Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW) (2008–2011); organizer of symposia, workshops, and career development programs; contributor to initiatives supporting trainees and early-career scientists.

Candidate Statement: It is an honor to be nominated to serve as President of the Biophysical Society. For over two decades, BPS has been a central part of my scientific journey, as a place where I have presented my work, built collaborations, mentored trainees, and contributed to shaping our field. From my early days as a young investigator to my role as Editor-in-Chief of the *Biophysical Journal* and Department Chair in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Texas Health Science Center, the Society has been a constant intellectual home and community.

I am a biophysicist trained at the interface of physical chemistry and ion channel physiology, and my research has focused on understanding how protein structure and dynamics govern function, particularly in ionotropic glutamate receptors. My laboratory has pioneered and applied advanced spectroscopic and single-molecule approaches to uncover the conformational landscapes of membrane proteins, linking molecular mechanisms to physiological function and disease. By integrating approaches across disciplines, our work has helped bridge static structural views with dynamic functional mechanisms, contributing to a deeper understanding of how these systems operate in native environments. More broadly, my work reflects a commitment to advancing biophysics as a framework that connects molecular mechanisms to cellular and physiological function.

Equally important to me has been service to the scientific community. I have had the privilege of serving BPS in multiple roles, including Council member, Executive Board member, and Chair of the 2016 Annual Meeting, as well as through long-standing committee service. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation of the Society's strengths and the opportunities ahead. As Editor-in-Chief of *Biophysical Journal*, I have worked to strengthen the journal's scientific impact, expand its reach into emerging areas such as computational and integrative biophysics, and develop initiatives that support early-career scientists and broaden participation in publishing and peer review. These efforts have reinforced my belief that strong scientific communities require both excellence and intentional cultivation of the next generation.

If elected, my vision for the Biophysical Society is to build on its strong foundation while positioning the Society for the future of science. I will focus on strengthening scientific excellence and innovation by ensuring that our meetings and publications continue to highlight both foundational advances and emerging frontiers, including the increasing integration of experiment, computation, and data-driven approaches. I believe the Biophysical Society can play a leading role in fostering these connections and in shaping the future directions of our field.

A central priority will be mentorship and community building. Supporting trainees and early-career scientists—through access, visibility, and sustained engagement—is essential for the long-term vitality of biophysics. I will work to strengthen pathways that support their success and ensure that the Biophysical Society remains a welcoming and supportive environment at all career stages.

I will also prioritize global engagement. Biophysics is an inherently international discipline, and the Biophysical Society must continue to broaden participation across geographic regions, institutional types, and scientific backgrounds. Expanding global connections and lowering barriers to participation will strengthen both the Society and the science we do.

In addition, I see an important opportunity for the Biophysical Society to further strengthen connections across disciplines and communities. As biophysics continues to intersect with areas such as data science, engineering, and medicine, the Society can play a key role in fostering collaborations that transcend traditional boundaries. Supporting these interactions, through meetings, publications, and targeted initiatives, will help ensure that the Biophysical Society remains at the forefront of scientific innovation. I also believe we can do more to highlight the impact of biophysics on pressing challenges in human health and disease, strengthening both the visibility and relevance of our field.

Finally, I believe strongly in the importance of advocating for science. At a time when public trust and support for basic research face significant challenges, the Biophysical Society has a critical role to play in communicating the value of our work and supporting its members. The Society has been a formative and constant presence in my career, and I am committed to giving back to this community. If elected, I will work collaboratively to ensure that the Biophysical Society remains a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking home for biophysicists.

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE **VOTE FOR ONE**

Anna Moroni

Professor of Physiology
Department of Biosciences
University of Milan, Italy

Research Interests: My research focuses on the biophysics of ion channels, integrating functional, structural, and computational approaches. This multifaceted strategy has allowed me to uncover how ion channels dynamically respond to intra- and extracellular stimuli to modulate their gating and signal transmission. By gaining a precise understanding of these gating mechanisms, I am now able to design synthetic protein channels from scratch—innovations with the potential for transformative clinical applications.

Education: B.A., University of Milan, Italy (1986); Ph.D. Cellular and Molecular Biology (BCMB), University of Milan, Italy (1993)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, Cardio Physiology, Dario DiFrancesco's lab, University of Milan, Italy (1993–1999); Researcher, University of Milan, Italy (1999–2005); Associate Professor, University of Milan, Italy (2006–2011); Full Professor of Plant Physiology, University of Milan, Italy (2011–2023); Visiting Scientist, Department of Physiology & Cellular Biophysics, Columbia University in the City of New York (2016–2017); Full Professor of Physiology, University of Milan, Italy (2023–present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Baccarini Melandri Award, Italian Society of Plant Physiology (2006); Women in Science, IUPAB, International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (2013); Schaefer Award for Excellence in Human Physiology Research, Columbia University in the City of New York (2016); Recipient, ERC-Advanced Grant (2016); Author file - Nature Methods https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-018-0192-y (2018); Elected Member, Academia Europaea (2022); Elected Member Istituto Lombardo (2023); Aspen Institute Award for scientific research and collaboration Italy-USA (2023); Recipient, ERC Synergy Grant (2023); Premio Nazionale "Milano Cultura 2023" (2023); Elected Member, EMBO (2024)

Commission of Trust: Council Member, Italian Society of Plant Physiology (2008–2012); Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (2010–2015); Council Member, Italian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics (2010–2016); HHMI-Janelia Research Campus Graduate Research Review Panel (2015); Editorial Board Member, *Journal of General Physiology* (2018–present); Editorial Board Member, *Journal of General Physiology* (2018–present); Committee Member, National Scientific Qualification (ASN) (2018–2021); Scientific Advisory Board, Evaluation of the National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana (2022, 2026); ERC Evaluation Panel, Consolidator Grant (ERC-CoG) (2023–present)

Organization of Scientific Meetings: Co-Organizer, First International Symposium on Viral Ion Channels, Gargnano, Italy (2002); Co-Organizer, Second International Symposium on Viral Ion Channels, Gargnano, Italy (2005); Scientific Board, Symposium on Viral Membrane Proteins, DFG/NSC Bilateral Symposium, Heidelberg (2008); Co-Organizer (with Greg Voth), Ion Channel Design Using Experimental and Computational Inputs, Gargnano del Garda, Italy (2018); Co-Organizer (with Stephan Pless and Alessio Accardi) FEBS/EMBO Workshop on Ion Channels and Transporters: from Atoms to Cellular Context (2026)

Collaboration with Industry: ELEMENTS srl, Italian microelectronics company that designs and produces instrumentation for pico- and nano-scale measurements in the electrochemistry field. ELEMENTS is sponsoring a senior post-doc position in the Moroni lab since 2018 to develop new software and hardware for ion channel recording.

Membership in Scientific Societies: Biophysical Society (2002–present); European Biophysical Societies' Association (EBSA) (2010–present); Italian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics (2010–present)

Biophysical Society Activities: Speaker at multiple BPS Symposia and Subgroups (2013–present); Co-Organizer of and Speaker at several Biophysics Week events at the University of Milano, CNR-Trento (2016–present); Council Member (2017–2022); Member, Nominating Committee (2022); Member, Program Committee (2022); Mentor, BPS Student Chapter at University of Milan (2022–present)

Candidate Statement: It is an honor to be nominated as candidate for President of the Biophysical Society (BPS). For me, the BPS has always been more than a professional organization; it is a place where I have consistently felt welcome and included. Having reached a point in my career where I can dedicate the time necessary to make a greater contribution, I would consider it a profound privilege to serve a society that champions the values I believe in most: excellence in science, meritocracy, and transparency.

My previous experience as a member of the Society's Council provided me with a deep understanding of our governance. I saw firsthand how the Council, working alongside strong management, is responsible for the strategic direction of the Society while ensuring that every action conforms to our bylaws. I am also acutely aware that diversity, equity, and inclusion are not just goals, but core values of the BPS. I have long admired how our Society has been ahead of its time in embracing these concepts, and I am committed to upholding this legacy.

As we look toward the future, the next President will face transformative challenges. Specifically, we must address the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence into our professional lives and the operations of the Society. This transition is already occurring, and we need to lead the conversation on establishing rules and frameworks to incorporate AI for the better of our discipline.

Furthermore, we must nurture our identity as a truly global community. While our internationality is one of our greatest strengths, it requires renewed attention in today's shifting global landscape. I bring the perspective of an international scientist who is deeply aware of the unique challenges—and the immense potential—of our members working outside the United States. Global integration means ensuring that every member feels fully represented and supported, regardless of geography, so that the Society remains a true home for every biophysicist.

My commitment to the future of our Society is also rooted in education and mentorship. As a biologist, I believe it is crucial to introduce quantitative thinking into biology at every level. To this end, I strongly advocated for the master's degree course in Quantitative Biology at the University of Milan, which is now successfully training a new generation of biologists capable of collaborating across disciplines with physicists, chemists, and engineers. This dedication to the next generation is a value I share deeply with the BPS. In my experience mentoring the BPS Student Chapter at the University of Milan since 2022, I have seen that the Society's support for younger members is not just a promise, but a reality. Our students have developed remarkable leadership, organizing seminars and events for Biophysics Week that showcase the incredible potential of our community.

Fostering this leadership in and commitment to the next generation is, for me, the most effective way to ensure the Society remains a true home for every biophysicist. It would be a privilege to serve the Biophysical Society, and I would be honored to have your support.

SECRETARY NOMINEE

VOTE FOR ONE

Harpreet Singh

Professor
Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Program
The Ohio State University

Research Interests: My research focuses on the biophysics of intracellular ion channels, cardiac physiology, and cellular bioenergetics. My laboratory investigates how ion-channel functions at the organellar and cellular levels and governs cardiac health, stress responses, and disease progression.

Education: B.Sc., Chemistry, Microbiology & Zoology, St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, India (2001); M.Sc., Biotechnology, Bangalore University, India (2003); Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (2007); Postdoctoral Fellowship, UCLA, USA (2007-2011)

Summary of Professional Experience: Research Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology, UCLA (2011–2013); Assistant Professor, Pharmacology & Physiology, Drexel University College of Medicine (2013–2017); Associate Professor, Pharmacology & Physiology, Drexel Univ. College of Medicine (2017–2018); Associate Professor, Physiology & Cell Biology, The Ohio State University College of Medicine (2018–2024); Professor, Physiology & Cell Biology, The Ohio State University College of Medicine (2024–present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Fellow, American Heart Association (FAHA) (2018); Fellow, Cardiovascular Section, American Physiological Society (FCVS) (2021); Co-Chair, Gordon Research Conference on Organellar Ion Channels and Transporters (2019-2023); Co-Chair, Bioenergetics, Metabolism, and Mitochondria Subgroup (2024 - 2025); Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (2025); Recipient, Promega Young Biochemist of the Year Award and the Pfizer Prize (2006); Overseas Research Studentship Award Scheme (ORSAS), UK (2003-2006); Faculty of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Fellowship, University of Edinburgh UK (2003-2006); Service on national and international study sections (USA, UK, Italy, Poland, South Africa, India, Qatar, Canada) (2013-present)

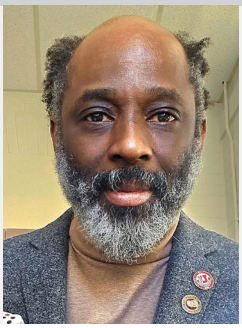
Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2005. I have regularly attended BPS Annual Meetings. Early Career Committee (2018-2024); Publications Committee (2025-2028). My service includes organizing and participating in early-career events and networking breakfasts; contributing to *Molly Cule*; judging posters in SRAA and general sessions; and mentoring trainees through the mentor-mentee program.

Candidate Statement: The Biophysical Society has been my professional home since graduate school, and its Annual Meeting remains a cornerstone of my scientific life. From its beginnings in Columbus in 1957 with about 500 members to today's vibrant, global community of nearly 6,000, the Society has grown into a powerful voice for biophysics in science and policy.

Each year, seeing first-time attendees in the poster hall reminds me of my own early experiences energized by discovery, conversation, and community. The Society excels at empowering early-career scientists while sustaining engagement and leadership across all career stages.

As Secretary, I will uphold the Society's commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and scientific rigor. I will work with BPS leadership, staff and committee members to strengthen programs that foster collaboration, communication, and member engagement; support innovative ideas; and ensure that BPS remains dynamic, welcoming, and forward-looking. My priority will be to showcase the strength, warmth, and scientific excellence of our community to the early career and first-time attendees. To meet that responsibility, we must actively mentor and inspire the next generation. This includes creating meaningful opportunities for local undergraduate students to engage with our field early and offering thoughtful incentives that encourage graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to participate, present, and grow within our society. By investing in young scientists at every stage, we strengthen our community and ensure that biophysics continues to lead the way in solving the world's most urgent challenges.

I am committed to transparency, integrity, and global cooperation and to working with stakeholders and partner societies to address challenges such as misinformation, resource inequities, and barriers to collaboration. I would be honored to serve as your Secretary and to work together to advance the mission and future of the Biophysical Society.



Ademuyiwa S. Aromolaran

Associate Professor
Department of Surgery
University of Utah

Research Interests: Modulation of ion channel biophysics by metabolic disease states leading to cardiac arrhythmias

Education: B.Sc. in Physiology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1991); M.Sc. in Pharmacology, King's College London, England (1996), Ph.D. in Pharmacology, St George's, University of London, England (2001)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, Loyola University (2001–2010); Associate Research Scientist, Columbia University (2010–2016); Assistant Professor, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University (2016–2019); Assistant Professor, Masonic Medical Research Institute and the State University of New York Upstate Medical University (2019–2021); Associate Professor, University of Utah (2021–present)

Awards, Honors and Activities: Ph.D. Studentship, British Pharmacological Society (1996–2000); Scholar, Program to Increase Diversity in Cardiovascular Health-Related Research, National Institutes of Health (2013-2014); "Up-and-Coming" Junior Investigator Award, Cardiovascular Research Summit, Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Wisconsin–Madison (2020); Assistant Director, Rural and Underserved Utah Training Experience, Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) (2022–present); Senator, Academic Senate, University of Utah (2023–2026); Recipient, Madam CJ Walker Award, University of Utah (2024); Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics* (2024–2026); Chairperson, National Institutes of Health BBHV "Basic Biology of Blood, Heart, and Vasculature" Study Section (2024–2026); Chair, Senate Advisory Committee on Student, Faculty, and Staff Success, University of Utah (2024–2026); Director, Cardiovascular Research and Training Institute, Electrophysiology Program, University of Utah (2024–present); Member, Senate Executive Committee, University of Utah, Academic Senate (2025–2026); Assistant Vice President of Compliance, Office of Research Integrity & Compliance, University of Utah (2025–present)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2021; Member, Early Careers Committee (2020–present); Co-Chair, Muscle Electrophysiology II Platform, BPS Annual Meeting 2022; Co-Chair, Calcium Handling and Electrophysiology I Platform, BPS Annual Meeting 2024

Candidate Statement: Dear colleagues, I am honored to be nominated for a Council position within the Biophysical Society. I am excited about the opportunity to represent and serve our members. Since attending the Biophysical Society meetings beginning in 2001, I have been fortunate to progress in my academic career—from presenting posters and giving talks as a postdoctoral researcher to now chairing sessions and engaging both trainees and experienced investigators in my roles as an Associate Professor and Academic Senator at the University of Utah, with a focus on facilitating student, faculty, and staff success.

My participation in the Annual Meetings has enabled me to build valuable relationships and to deepen my research interest in ion channel biophysics, particularly its role in cardiovascular and metabolic disorders that affect millions worldwide. I have also had the privilege of receiving mentorship and training from leading biophysicists, including Drs. Henry Colecraft, Gail Robertson, and Mike Sanguinetti. Their extensive experience and contributions to the field of ion channels have greatly influenced my development and align with the mission of the Biophysical Society. These experiences have prepared me to serve effectively on the BPS Council.

If elected, my goals include supporting the tradition of high-quality meetings, symposia, and networking opportunities, as well as encouraging active participation from early-career scientists within the Society. Ultimately, I hope our collective efforts will enhance the well-being and success of our members at all levels.

Julie Biteen

Professor
Departments of Chemistry and of Biophysics
University of Michigan

Research Interests: Single-molecule tracking and super-resolution microscopy in living microbial cells; bacterial chromosome organization; biomolecular condensates; nanoscale optics for biophysics

Education: A.B. in Chemistry, Princeton University (2001); M.S. in Applied Physics, California Institute of Technology (2003); Ph.D. in Chemistry, California Institute of Technology (2006)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University (2006–2009); Professor (2021–2024), Associate Professor (2017–2021), and Assistant Professor (2010–2017), University of Michigan; Janine Maddock Collegiate Professor of Chemistry and of Biophysics, University of Michigan (2024–present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities (Selected): NSF CAREER Award (2013); American Chemical Society Younger Investigator National Award (2014); Scialog Fellow (2015, 2016); Biophysical Society New and Notable Lectureship (2016); Biophysical Society Margaret Oakley Dayhoff Award (2017); Chair, Gordon Research Conference on Single-Molecule Approaches to Biology (2018); NSF Award for Special Creativity (2020); Senior Editor, *Journal of Physical Chemistry* (2021–present); University of Michigan Faculty Recognition Award (2023); PHYS Division Chair and Program Chair, American Chemical Society (2024–2025); NIH Macromolecular Structure and Function C Study Section Standing Member (2025–present); University of Michigan Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award (2026)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2012; Chair-Elect (2016) and Chair (2017), Nanoscale Biophysics Subgroup; Editorial Board Member, *Biophysical Journal* (2016–2021); Founding Officer (2018), Chair-Elect (2019), and Chair (2020), Cell Biophysics Physical Biology of the Cell Subgroup; BPS Nominating Committee (2019–2020; 2021–2022); Organizer/Chair, BPS Annual Meeting Sessions; Panelist, BPS Mini-Symposium for Early Career Scientists (2020)

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the Biophysical Society Council. BPS has been my professional home because it combines rigorous quantitative science with a community that values cross-disciplinary exchange. That culture mattered to me personally: during my postdoc, I came to biophysics from optics and solid-state physics, and BPS provided an intellectual on-ramp and a welcoming network early in my career.

I have helped strengthen BPS programming by building community at the Subgroup level (chairing the Nanoscale Biophysics Subgroup and then founding the Cell Biophysics Physical Biology of the Cell Subgroup and later serving as Chair), serving on the BPS Nominating Committee, and participating in early-career programming. These roles, together with broader editorial and peer-review experience, including as a *Biophysical Journal* Editorial Board member, have reinforced the importance of transparent processes and high standards.

If elected, I will focus on two priorities. **Mentoring and early-career support:** I want BPS to remain the place where scientists new to biophysics quickly find community, practical guidance, and visibility. I will champion scalable mentoring structures—connected to Subgroups and meetings—and career-development programming that helps trainees and junior faculty build durable networks. **Meetings and program innovation:** I will advocate for programming that is scientifically bold and interdisciplinary, while maintaining fair and transparent abstract review and platform selection. I am especially interested in formats that increase interaction and provide clear pathways from posters to talks and from first-time attendance to long-term engagement.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve on Council and help steward BPS's meetings, culture, and community.

Charles David Cox

Faculty
Heart Failure and Valve Diseases Division
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
Sydney, Australia

Research Interests: Membrane protein biophysics; mechanosensitive ion channels, specifically PIEZO channels; force transduction; cardiac and cellular electrophysiology; single-molecule biophysics; translational applications in cardiac biology

Education: MPharm, 1st Class Hons, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Cardiff University, UK (2007); Pharmaceutical Registration Training, Singleton Hospital, Swansea, UK (2009); Ph.D. in Pharmacology, Cardiff University, UK (2013)

Summary of Professional Experience: Pharmacy Manager, Sainsbury's Plc, Bridgwater, UK (2012–2013); Senior and Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Sydney, Australia (2013–2019); Conjoint Senior Lecturer, St Vincent's Clinical School, UNSW, Sydney (2016–present); Group Leader (2019–2022), and Faculty (2023–present), Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Sydney, Australia

Awards, Honors, and Activities: Travel Awardee, Biophysical Society (2014); Young Biophysicist of the Year, Australian Society for Biophysics (2015); St Vincent's Precinct Rising Star Award, Sydney, Australia (2018); New South Wales Health Early-Mid Career Research Fellowship (2018–2021); Founding Member and Treasurer, Australian Society of Mechanobiology (2020-present); Medical Advances Without Animals Fellowship, Australia (2021); Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, Australia (2023-2026); Editorial Board Member, *Channels* (2024-present)

Biophysical Society Activities: Society member since 2009. Member, Mechanobiology Subgroup (2017-present); Platform Chair (2022) and Subgroup Invited Speaker (2025) at the BPS Annual Meeting; Member, Channels and Transporters Subgroup (2024-present)

Candidate Statement: I am honoured to be nominated as a candidate for the Biophysical Society Council. The Society has been my scientific home since 2009, providing a uniquely supportive and vibrant environment for scientific exchange and career development. As an Australian researcher whose career has spanned the UK and Australia, I have been deeply involved in international collaborations, with key research partnerships across North America, Europe, and Asia. My work emphasizes the importance of collaboration across borders, especially as the current international landscape presents unprecedented challenges to science, including increasing funding instability, political pressures, and the devaluing of scientific enterprise, particularly in the US.

More than ever, BPS must champion scientific rigor, inclusion, and international cooperation. I am committed to advocating for greater international inclusivity, ensuring all voices, from early-career scientists to established leaders, and from all global regions, are represented in our Society's future. I have personally benefited from the Society's travel awards as an international member, and I am proud that three of my trainees have also been recipients, allowing them to attend and present at the Annual Meeting and develop collaborations that have significantly impacted their careers.

If elected, I will work to strengthen the Society's international networks, enhance support for trainees and early-career researchers worldwide, and ensure BPS remains steadfast in upholding the values of scientific freedom, diversity, and excellence. Our Annual Meeting and initiatives should reflect the global scope of biophysics, remain a voice for the importance of science, and actively resist forces seeking to undermine the scientific endeavor. I welcome the opportunity to give back to the Society and support its mission for the next generation of biophysicists.

Aurelia Honerkamp-Smith

Associate Professor
Department of Physics
Lehigh University

Research Interests: Flow transport of membrane lipids and proteins, microfluidics-based investigation of membrane physical chemistry, fluorescence microscopy and image analysis

Education: BS in Chemistry, University of Oregon (2004); PhD in Physical Chemistry, University of Washington (2010)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2010-2016); Assistant (2016-2024) and Associate (2024-present) Professor of Physics, Lehigh University

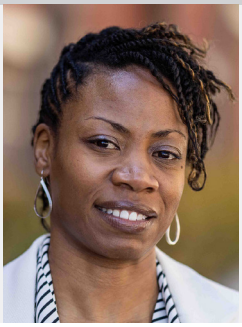
Awards, Honors, and Activities: Biophysical Society Travel Award (2008); Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research (2010); University of Washington College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student in Natural Sciences (2011); University of Washington Graduate School Distinguished Dissertation Award (2011); Oppenheimer Research Fellow, School of Physical Sciences, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2012-2015); Raymond and Beverly Sackler Research Fellow, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2012-2016); NSF-REU Mentor (2016-present), Lehigh University; NSF-International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) Program Co-PI, Lehigh University (2022-present); REU Program Co-PI (2025-present), Lehigh University

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2007; Member, Membrane Structure and Function Subgroup (previously, Membrane Biophysics Subgroup); Judge, Membrane Structure and Function Student Research Achievement Award (2017, 2025)

Candidate Statement: I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the Biophysical Society as a member of Council. For the last eighteen years, I have looked forward with anticipation to each Annual Meeting as another chance to connect, re-connect, start collaborations, and find scientific and professional inspiration. The Biophysical Society provides an irreplaceable service for researchers at every level, by bringing together scientists from across the world to have conversations that wouldn't happen anywhere else. This community has been immensely valuable to me, and it would be a privilege to help make sure that today's students and early career scientists have access to continuing excellence in Society events and programs. I will work to uphold the mission and the values of the Society and to provide high-quality meetings, publications, and networking events. Many members, and potential future members, are currently experiencing exceptional disruptions to their careers, funding, and research, and these impacts are likely to be felt for years to come. As a faculty member from a small institution, I am sensitive to financial and logistical barriers to meeting and Society participation. If elected, I will emphasize support for early career researchers and look for new opportunities to broaden participation in Society events.

COUNCIL NOMINEES

VOTE FOR FOUR



Sharonda LeBlanc

Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Department of Physics and Astronomy
North Carolina State University

Research Interests: Single-molecule biophysics, FRET, FCS, FLIM, ribosome assembly, DNA repair, viral RNA processing

Education: B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2007); Ph.D. in Nanoscale Science, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2012)

Summary of Professional Experience: Associate Research Scientist, General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products (2007–2008); NSF Graduate Research Fellow (GRFP), The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2008–2011); NIH Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2013–2014); Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Chemistry, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2014–2020); Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, North Carolina State University (2020–present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award (2008–2011); Selected to attend the 60th Annual Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students (2010); Lucille P. and Edward C. Giles Dissertation Year Fellowship Award (2011–2012); National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship Award to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (2013); Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2014–2016); Postdoctoral Leadership Award, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (2016); NIH F32, F32GM123602, NIH/NIGMS (2017–2019); NIH K01 Mentored Career Development Award, K01CA218304, NIH/NCI (2017–2022); Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Science Diversity Leadership Award (2022–2027)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2010; BPS Biological Fluorescence Subgroup; Platform Talk in the Molecular Biophysics Subgroup Symposium (2019); Speaker, Black in Biophysics Symposium (2024); Black in Biophysics Panelist (2025); 7 trainee posters (2023, 2024, 2025)

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the Biophysical Society Council. I attended my first BPS meeting as a graduate student in 2010 in San Francisco, and I have been engaged ever since. The Society has been an important scientific home for me as a biophysicist working across physics, chemistry, and molecular biology, and as someone committed to building rigorous, collaborative, and inclusive scientific communities. In a meeting of thousands, I enjoy seeing familiar faces and meeting new people each year.

I have been especially grateful for the way the Society brings together scientists across disciplines, career stages, and research areas around a shared commitment to quantitative, mechanistic biology. That breadth is one of BPS's greatest strengths, and it is also what makes the Society so valuable to trainees and early-career investigators seeking both intellectual community and professional development.

If elected, I would work to support three priorities. First, I would advocate for strong support of trainees and early-career scientists through mentoring, visibility, and opportunities for scientific exchange. Second, I would help strengthen an inclusive Society in which members from different backgrounds, institution types, and career paths feel that they belong and can contribute meaningfully. Third, I would support programming and initiatives that sustain scientific excellence while helping the Society remain responsive to the changing needs of the biophysics community.

My experience as a researcher, educator, mentor, and community builder has prepared me to contribute thoughtfully and energetically to Council service. I would be proud to help advance the Society's mission and to serve the broad and interdisciplinary community that makes biophysics so dynamic and impactful.

Patricia Soto Becerra

Director
Undergraduate Research Opportunities
Center and Honors Program
University of California, Merced

Research Interests: Pathological protein folding mechanisms; protein-lipid interactions; protein fibril dynamics; computational structural biophysics

Education: BSc (1997) and MSc (2000) in Physics, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia; Doctor in Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands (2004)

Summary of Professional Experience: Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Santa Barbara (2004–2007); Visiting Assistant Professor (2007-2010), Assistant Professor (2010-2017), Associate Professor (2017-2024), Creighton University; Director Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center, University of California, Merced (2025-present)

Awards, Honors, and Activities: International Postdoctoral Fellowship AAUW (2006-2007); BPS Travel Award (2015); Service Award, SoBLa (2025); Member of the Executive Committee, APS DBIO (2024-2027); Member of the Executive Committee MERCURY Consortium (2021–2024); Distinguished Educator in Teaching as Scholarship, Creighton University (2024)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 2015; Founding Editorial Board Member of *The Biophysicist* (2020-present); Education Committee (2015–2020); Founding Member and Co-Lead, PUI Network (2020-2024); Awards Committee (2024-present); Annual Meeting: Co-Organizer, Co-Chair, or contributor to education sessions and workshops, service as Poster Judge, speed networking Mentor, and Panelist

Candidate Statement: I eagerly embrace the opportunity to serve on the BPS Council. Although I had attended multiple professional conferences as a trainee, my first attendance at the BPS Annual Meeting made me feel I had found my professional home. BPS thematic, professional, and identity-based communities have offered a springboard for my trajectory and contributions.

My research aims to identify molecular targets against diseases driven by protein misfolding. My teaching advances learning at the interface of the physical and life sciences through the design and implementation of evidence-informed interventions. In my current role, I extend this work by building infrastructure for undergraduate research experiences, supported by internal and external funding.

I bring a collaborative leadership style shaped by experiences across research, education, and administration in varied institutional contexts. I approach the role of Councilor as a catalyst and bridge-builder. In alignment with BPS priorities, my goal is to strengthen our biophysics community through three interrelated components:

- Expand how we convene as a community by creating both in-person and virtual spaces that broaden participation and catalyze more rigorous, innovative thinking. I propose that BPS develop idea incubators, structured dialogues on emerging or contentious topics, and panels that elevate contrasting viewpoints.
- Advance the biophysics workforce through graduate and undergraduate education initiatives grounded in the sciences of learning. While our community has made progress, I propose we support faculty and instructors with resources and recognition to design learning experiences that integrate established and emerging biophysics concepts and skills. These efforts prepare trainees for research careers and equip professionals across sectors with biophysics fluency.
- Enhance relationships across the biophysics research ecosystem by convening structured, ongoing conversations that bring together the full range of contributors on whom our research work depends. This approach cultivates creative, sustainable pathways for research infrastructure and funding that leverage the breadth of skill sets and professional priorities of the broader research community.

The BPS community has built a strong foundation while navigating a context of continuous transformation. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to Council by strengthening this foundation and advancing a shared vision grounded in stewardship and fiduciary responsibility.

Christopher M. Yip

Professor and Dean
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering
University of Toronto

Research Interests: Self-assembly; single molecule biophysics; optical and scanning probe microscopies; computational biophysics

Education: B.A.Sc in Chemical Engineering, University of Toronto (1988); PhD in Chemical Engineering, University of Minnesota (1996)

Summary of Professional Experience: Engineer, Dupont Canada (1988-1991); Postdoctoral Fellow, Eli Lilly (1996-1997); University of Toronto: Assistant Professor (1997-2002), Associate Professor (2002-2007), Professor (2007-present), Director of Biomedical Engineering (2013-2017), Associate Vice-President of International Partnerships (2017-2019), Dean of Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (2019–present)

Awards, Honors and Activities: Premier's Research Excellence Award (1999); University of Toronto Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Early Career Faculty Teaching Award (2000-2001); Canada Research Chair Tier II (2000-2010); Session Co-Chair, Pacifichem (2005, 2020, 2025); Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (2008); University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Graduate Faculty Teaching Award for Sustained Contribution to Excellence in Graduate Teaching (2008); Member (2010–2014), Section Co-Chair (2013–2014), and Group Chair (2015–2018), NSERC - Chemical and Materials Engineering Study Section; Fellow, Engineering Institute of Canada (2014); Fellow, Canadian Academy of Engineering (2024)

Editorial Board: *Biophysica Biochemica Acta - Biomembranes* (2007-present); Member (2011–2016) and Vice-Chair (2014–2016), CIHR - Institute of Genetics Advisory Board; *Nanotechnology* (2011–2018); Editorial Board, *AIP Bioengineering* (2017–2021)

NIH Grant Panel: Molecular Imaging (2006, 2007, 2010); Biophysics of Neural Systems (2009, 2010–2014, 2016, 2017)

CIHR Grant Panel: Regenerative Medicine and NanoMedicine (2006), Biomedical Engineering (2014, 2018, 2019, 2025-2026), Foundation (2015-2017)

Biophysical Society Activities: Member since 1997; Co-Chair, 2025 Annual Meeting; Program Committee (2023-2025); Thematic Meetings Committee (2023, 2025-present); Editor, *Biophysical Journal* (2014–2020, 2025-present); Publications Committee (2017–2023); Nominating Committee (2018), Chair, Bioengineering Subgroup (2016)

Candidate Statement: As an engineer, I have always been intrigued by how things are built, how structures assemble, and how structure informs function. As a biophysicist, whether this was following how fibrils grow, or the dynamics of aggregation, the context was always: What starts everything, and can I see it and manipulate it? It is this same perspective that I would bring as a member of BPS Council. I have seen firsthand how the Biophysical Society builds an engaged, vibrant, welcoming and diverse community pushing the frontiers of biophysics. Publishing my first *BJ* paper in 1996 and attending my first Annual Meeting in 1997 were the catalytic events and indeed structures that led to long-standing friendships and mentorships, sparked new research questions and directions, and galvanized and drove my career. We have all had that shared experience of standing by a poster or listening to a talk, sharing ideas over a coffee, and then bumping into the same folks year after year and seeing each other's careers develop. What is particularly poignant is being a part of that journey for others: chatting with an undergrad at their poster and seeing them grow into an accomplished researcher, scientist, communicator and so much more. The diverse ways of engaging researchers, trainees, partners, and indeed the public have enabled the Biophysical Society to be the catalyst for so many – and in so many impactful ways. If elected to Council, I would focus on increasing accessibility to events and opportunities supported by the BPS, growing engagement of under-represented regions such as the Global South, and creating opportunities that will enable and inspire the next generation of biophysicists.