Biophysical Society

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Biophysical Society Member Thomas A. Steitz Recognized with Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Bethesda, MD - The Biophysical Society congratulates Thomas A. Steitz, Ph.D., on his selection to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, PhD and Ada E. Yonath, PhD " for studies of the structure and function of the ribosome." Steitz is a long time member of the Society and was a featured speaker at the 2001 and 2004 Annual Meetings. Steitz is a HHMI investigator and Professor at Yale University.

Society President Henry Lester noted, "…medical advances, both past and future, depend on the knowledge gathered by this year's winners. Furthermore scientists and engineers are now generating new types of protein-like materials by using this detailed and powerful knowledge."

"Steitz," added Lester, "has made additional important contributions to structural biology. These include the structures of several proteins that operate on DNA and RNA: polymerases, helicases, recombinases, and tRNA synthetase, and binding proteins, as well as the key metabolic enzyme hexokinase. Steitz has also actively contributed to ideas about how proteins work, and to general methods in biophysics. Tom shows us all how concentrating on the details of importantly chosen biophysical topics can lead to important new principles—and from there to useful medications and materials."

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

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