Newsletter
Biophysical Society AUGUST 2015

DEADLINES

Meetings

Biophysics of Proteins at Surfaces: Assembly, Activation, Signaling
October 13-15
Madrid, Spain

October 5
Registration

Polymers and Self-Assembly: From Biology to Nanomaterials
October 25-30
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

October 19
Registration

Biophysics in the Understanding, Diagnosis and Treatment of Infectious Diseases
November 16-20
Stellenbosch, South Africa

August 21
Late Abstract Submission

August 24
Early Registration

60th Annual Meeting
February 27-March 2
Los Angeles

October 1
Abstract Submission

January 13
Early Registration

Congressional Fellowship

December 15

Biophysical Journal Editor-in-Chief

Call for Nominations

The Publications Committee of the Biophysical Society is calling for nominations for the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Society's flagship publication, *Biophysical Journal*. This appointment will begin July 1, 2017, and last for one five-year term.

The mission of *Biophysical Journal* (*BJ*) is to publish the highest quality work that elucidates important biological, chemical, or physical mechanisms and provides quantitative insight into fundamental problems at the molecular, cellular, and systems and whole-organism levels. Articles published in the Journal should be of general interest to quantitative biologists, regardless of their research specialty.

The Editor-in-Chief is the steward of the scientific content of the Journal and must as such have a broad understanding of biophysics as an evolving discipline. The Editor-in-Chief must have scientific stature, be responsive, be able to make timely decisions, and be firm when necessary.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for carrying out the editorial policies established by the Society, and for the following duties:

1. Establish and maintain the scientific standards of the Journal; ensure uniformity of scientific standards across Journal sections; increase the visibility of the Journal.
2. Recruit and submit Associate Editor and Editorial Board Member nominations to the Publications Committee (Editorial Board terms are staggered, three-year terms, renewable once).
3. Lead and mentor *BJ*'s Editorial Board, chair the Editorial Board meetings, and develop processes to increase the efficiency, quality, and uniformity of the editorial processes.
4. Resolve scientific and other conflicts as they arise.
5. Encourage the submission of manuscripts; recruit manuscripts at conferences; commission special issues and guest editors.
6. Write editorials that discuss issues pertinent to *BJ* and its constituents.
7. Respond to all reports of potential breaches of publication ethics, and all allegations of scientific misconduct.
8. Work with the Society office staff on the day-to-day editorial management of *BJ*.
9. Work with *BJ*'s publisher, Cell Press, on innovations in journal content and new editorial features.
10. Work with the Publications Committee on strategic matters affecting *BJ* and the Society.
11. Meet with and report at least annually to the Biophysical Society Council and Publications Committee.

(Continued on page 9)

CONTENTS

See page 10 for Newsletter Survey

Biophysical Society

BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Officers
President
Edward Egelman
President-Elect
Suzanne Scarlata
Past-President
Dorothy Beckett
Secretary
Frances Separovic
Treasurer
Paul Axelsen

Council
Olga Boudker
Ruth Heidelberger
Kalina Hristova
Juliette Lecomte
Amy Lee
Robert Nakamoto
Gabriela Popescu
Joseph D. Puglisi
Michael Pusch
Erin Sheets
Antoine van Oijen
Bonnie Wallace

Biophysical Journal
Leslie Loew
Editor-in-Chief

Society Office
Ro Kampman
Executive Officer

Newsletter
Beth Staehle
Ray Wolfe
Molly Seligman
Production
Laura Phelan
Profile
Ellen Weiss
Public Affairs
Beth Staehle
Publisher's Forum

The *Biophysical Society Newsletter* (ISSN 0006-3495) is published twelve times per year, January-December, by the Biophysical Society, 11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 800, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Distributed to USA members and other countries at no cost. Canadian GST No. 898477062. Postmaster: Send address changes to Biophysical Society, 11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 800, Rockville, MD 20852. Copyright © 2015 by the Biophysical Society. Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

Biophysicists in Profile

BPS SUMMER COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

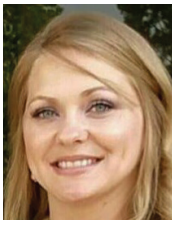
Amy Howard, Sam Kistler, Scott Langford, and *Hunter Wilkins*, all of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), served as teaching assistants for the 2015 Biophysical Society (BPS) Summer Research Program in Biophysics, held at the university. This 11-week scholarship program introduces undergraduate students from underrepresented groups, disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities to the field of biophysics. The program, designed to reflect a graduate-level research program, includes lectures, seminars, lab work, team-building activities, and field trips.

AMY HOWARD

Amy Howard grew up in Minnesota; her father owned a concrete and masonry business and her mother worked as a school receptionist. She enrolled at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she studied and performed research in biochemistry. "By the end of my undergraduate career, I was reading primary literature, asking the next important questions, using the scientific method to test hypotheses, and presenting my findings at scientific meetings," Howard says. "I had learned a lot of biochemistry, but also knew that I had only scratched the surface."

She decided to pursue her PhD in biophysics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on the highly conserved XMAP215 family, members of which bind to and robustly increase microtubule polymerization rates and are essential for bipolar mitotic spindle formation.

Howard hopes to become a professor and principal investigator (PI), and wanted to work in the BPS Summer Research Program as preparation for those roles. The experience gained in mentoring and teaching the students, some of whom were having their first experiences with biophysics research, was invaluable. "It is great to help them through difficulties, push them to succeed, and see them grow, from working as a team to solve hard scientific problems," she says.



SAM KISTLER

Sam Kistler was raised on a farm in northeastern Ohio, where she had plenty to explore. "I was always experimenting when I was little, whether it be collecting pond water to evaluate under the microscope my mother bought me or scavenging through the woods for the best place to build a fort and coming home at dusk with my pockets full of the daily treasures: stones, sticks, flowers, and maybe a creature or two," she says. Her mother was an art teacher and her father was an accountant for the Department of Education; though they were not involved in science, they always encouraged her curiosity.

Kistler attended Bridgewater College where she earned her BS in biology and chemistry. She then completed her MS in biochemistry and molecu-

lar biology at Georgetown University. Currently, she is starting the third year of her PhD program at UNC Chapel Hill, in *Sharon Campbell's* lab. "My PhD laboratory work really sparked my interest in biophysics. I was entering a new field outside of my training that focused heavily on structure/function relationships and protein and binding dynamics," Kistler says. "I am working to biochemically analyze novel post-translational modifications in Ras and as well study isoform specificity and signaling between the Ras isoforms and hot-spot mutations." She heard about UNC's Biophysics Program and knew that it would help her to better understand both her own experimental work and the technologies available for use in biophysics research.

Kistler joined the BPS Summer Research Program as a teaching assistant in order to connect and guide students. "The field we are in is challenging and often intimidating, and having had powerful mentors aided in my personal growth as well as shaped my education and career path," she explains.

SCOTT LANGFORD

"I took science courses in high school and essentially thought that if one was good at science, they went into a health care profession," says Scott Langford. He realized otherwise early in his undergraduate career at UNC at Wilmington, when during his sophomore year he was able to work in a lab, on organic synthesis with the goal of creating enzyme inhibitors. He quickly found that "working on questions that there wasn't already an answer for [is] extremely interesting," he explains. He became interested in biophysics at that time, and decided to pursue his PhD in the discipline. He currently attends UNC Chapel Hill in the Biochemistry and Biophysics Department, studying the role of protein regulators in the miRNA biogenesis pathway, specifically how Lin28 affects miR-1 biogenesis.

Langford wanted to participate in the BPS Summer Research Program because of his interest in teaching. "I am interested in pursuing teaching as a career, and would like to gain experience in this area," Langford says. "This program allowed me to better assess whether teaching would be a good choice, and allowed me to strengthen my teaching skills."

HUNTER WILKINS

Hunter Wilkins was not particularly drawn to science until midway through his undergraduate career at UNC Chapel Hill, when he took an introductory chemistry class with an engaging professor. "I told him I wanted to do a particular experiment in lab, and he said if I organized it for the class, he'd get all the materials," Wilkins says. "After that I was hooked, switched my major to chemistry, and started considering science as a potential career path." His research in the chemistry department had been biophysics focused, which led his mentor to suggest that he pursue his PhD in the Molecular and Cellular Biophysics Program at UNC Chapel Hill.

> "The field we are in is challenging and often intimidating, and having had powerful mentors aided in my personal growth as well as shaped my education and career path"
>
> **– Sam Kistler**

Currently, Wilkins works in *Dorothy Erie's* lab and investigates the DNA mismatch repair pathway at the single molecule level, using atomic force microscopy and fluorescence microscopy. Wilkins saw the BPS Summer Research Program as a great opportunity to teach and have fun over the summer. "Teaching is rewarding not only in helping others understand, but also strengthens my understanding of the material, as well as provides an opportunity for me to practice getting my message across to an audience that may not be as intimately familiar with the subject as I, an important skill to have in research," he says. "I won't lie and say I'm not just a little jealous. If I had been aware of this program as an undergraduate I would have loved to have been in their shoes!"

Public Affairs

Society Issues Call to Action for American "Innovation Imperative"

On June 23, the Biophysical Society joined scores of other organizations, as well as leaders of American business, industry, higher education, science, and engineering in an urgent call to action for stronger federal policies and investment to drive domestic research and development. Ten CEOs and 252 organizations signed *Innovation: An American Imperative*, a document aimed at federal decision makers and legislators. It underscores the findings—and warnings—contained in The American Academy of Arts & Sciences report, *Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream*.

According to *Restoring the Foundation*, "There is a deficit between what America is investing and what it should be investing to remain competitive, not only in research but in innovation and job creation." The United States is failing to keep pace with competitor nations with regard to investments in basic research and development. America's ascendency in the 20th century was due in large part—if not primarily—to its investments in science and engineering research. Over the last two decades, a steady decline in investment in research and development (R&D) in the United States has allowed the country to fall to 10th place in R&D investment among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development nations as a percentage of gross domestic product.

These developments led a diverse coalition of those concerned with the future of research in America to join together in presenting the Innovation Imperative to federal policy makers and urging them to take action to:

- End sequestration's deep cuts to federal investments in R&D;
- Make permanent a strengthened federal R&D tax credit;
- Improve student achievement in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM);
- Reform US visa policy;
- Streamline or eliminate costly and inefficient regulations;
- Reaffirm merit-based peer review; and
- Stimulate further improvements in advanced manufacturing.

Details on these action items, as well as a full list of signatories, are included in the full document posted on the Society's website.

Hill Appropriations Bills

Congressional Committees Approve Funding Increase for NIH

For the first time in three years, the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee have passed a FY 2015 Labor-HHS spending bill. This bill provides funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as other agencies, for FY 2016, which begins October 1, 2015. The Senate committee passed its bill on June 25 by a 16–14 vote. The previous day, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version by a 30–21 vote. The Senate bill provides $32.1 billion for NIH, $2 billion (6.6 percent) more than the FY 2015 enacted level, and $900 million more than the House bill.

While opposing an amendment that would have increased funding for NIH because it violated the bill's spending cap, Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) noted that NIH "has been an area where the two parties have been able to find common ground." He added, "[L]ooking down the road, what we ought to try and do is not just an increase this year… but to get ourselves back in the position of sustaining increases on a somewhat predictable basis…."

Senate Committee Approves Flat Funding for NSF

In mid-June, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill, which includes funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The committee approved $7.34 billion for the NSF, which is the same amount provided in FY 2015. Earlier in the

spring the House Appropriations Committee approved a spending bill that would provide $4.39 billion, which would be a 0.7% increase over FY 2015.

The President had asked for a five percent increase in his budget proposal. While the Senate proposal is lower than that of the House, the Senate did not dictate how NSF should allocate its Research and Related Activities account across the agency's six research directorates. Instead it states, "The Committee's fiscal year 2016 recommendation renews its support for Federal long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformative to our economy and our way of life in the context of a stagnant Federal budget." The House bill required 70 percent of the funds to be sent on specific research activities that excluded social and behavioral sciences and the geophysical sciences.

The next step is for the full House and Senate to consider these spending bills.

NIGMS Expands MIRA Pilot Program

After rolling out a pilot funding program earlier this year for senior investigators, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at NIH is expanding its Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) program to include new and early stage investigators. The goal of the MIRA program is to support investigators' overall research programs through a single, unified grant rather than individual project grants. Awards are for five years. The goal is to cut down on time spent writing and reviewing grant proposals, increase funding stability, increase research flexibility, and free up research funds to be spread among more investigators.

According to NIGMS Director Jon Lorsch, "We are pleased to extend our strong and long-standing commitment to supporting new and early stage investigators by offering them the same benefits we expect the MIRA program to have for established investigators. We hope that MIRA will help newer investigators get off to a good start in thinking about their science broadly, emphasizing the significance of the questions they are asking and the impact of the answers, and focusing less on experimental details in their applications."

The Society expressed support for the program prior to its launch with the caveat that prior to expanding the program, the Institute conduct a thorough evaluation of MIRA to ensure that it does not have unintended consequences in the distribution of funds to researchers throughout the community.

NSF Reports Federal funding for Science and Engineering at Universities Decreased Six Percent

According to a new report issued by the National Science Foundation (NSF), US federal agencies provided $29 billion to 995 science and engineering academic institutions in FY 2013. The figure represents a six percent decline in current dollars from the previous year, when agencies provided $31 billion to 1,073 institutions.

After adjustment for inflation, federal science and engineering obligations to academic institutions dropped by $1 billion from FY 2011 to FY 2012, and by $2 billion between FY 2012 and FY 2013. The obligations fall into six categories:

- R&D;
- R&D plant (facilities and fixed equipment, such as reactors, wind tunnels, and particle accelerators);
- Facilities and equipment for instruction in science and engineering;
- Fellowships, traineeships, and training grants;
- General support for science and engineering; and
- Other science and engineering activities.

Of those categories, R&D accounted for 89 percent of total federal obligations during the past three years.

The three largest providers of federal funding in FY 2013 were the Department of Health and Human Services (58 percent), NSF (17 percent) and the Department of Defense (12 percent). The Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, and NASA provided the remainder of funding (11 percent, combined). Of these six agencies, only the Department of Energy showed increased spending between FY 2012 and FY 2013.

The statistics are from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges and Nonprofit Institutions.

Biophysical Society 60TH ANNUAL MEETING

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA • FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 2, 2016

Workshops

Workshops will be held on Sunday, 7:30–9:30 PM. Workshops differ from symposia in that they are technique-oriented. During these sessions, widely recognized experts and developers share knowledge about specific techniques, with the goal of helping participants to gain a a working knowledge of new technologies and their applications.

Time-resolved Crystallography

Philip Anfinrud, NIH, Chair
Petra Fromme, Arizona State University
Marius Schmidt, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Keith Moffat, University of Chicago

Frontiers in Biophysical Instrumentation Development

Joerg Bewersdorf, Yale University, Chair
Gabriel Popescu, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Thomas T. Perkins, University of Colorado, Boulder
Gabriela Schlau-Cohen, MIT

Computational Methods for Ion Permeation and Selectivity

Maria Kurnikova, Carnegie Mellon University, Chair
Benoit Roux, University of Chicago
Dirk Gillespie, Rush University Medical Center
Ulrich Zachariae, University of Dundee, United Kingdom

Methods for Tracking Single-Biomolecule Mobility, Clustering, and Conformational State

Keith Lidke, University of New Mexico, Chair
Maxime Dahan, Institut Curie, France
Raimund Ober, Texas A&M University
Taekjip Ha, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Affordable, Accessible
The not to be missed
Scientific Meeting

Updated Abstract Categories

The Society organizes the platform and poster sessions based on scientific areas. The abstract topic categories are reviewed annually and modified as needed to reflect new and evolving areas in biophysics. When you submit an abstract, you will be asked to choose in which category your abstract best fits. The abstract categories for the 2016 Annual Meeting are listed below.

Proteins

1A Protein Structure & Conformation
1B Protein Structure, Prediction & Design
1C Protein Stability, Folding & Chaperones
1D Protein-Small Molecule Interactions
1E Protein Assemblies
1F Protein Dynamics & Allostery
1G Membrane Protein Structure & Folding
1H Enzymes Function, Cofactors & Post-translational Modifications
1I Enzyme Regulatory Strategies
1J Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDP) & Aggregates

Nucleic Acids

2A DNA Replication, Recombination & Repair
2B Transcription
2C Ribosomes & Translation
2D DNA Structure & Dynamics
2E RNA Structure & Dynamics
2F Protein-Nucleic Acid Interactions
2G Chromatin & the Nucleoid

Lipid Bilayers & Membranes

3A Membrane Physical Chemistry
3B Membrane Dynamics
3C Membrane Active Peptides & Toxins
3D Membrane Fusion & Non-Bilayer Structures
3E Membrane Structure
3F Protein-Lipid Interactions

Cell Physiology & Biophysics

4A Membrane Receptors & Signal Transduction
4B Mechanosensation
4C Exocytosis & Endocytosis
4D Calcium Signaling
4E Intracellular Calcium Channels & Calcium Sparks & Waves
4F Excitation-Contraction Coupling
4G Cardiac, Smooth & Skeletal Muscle Electrophysiology
4H Muscle Regulation
4I Intracellular Transport

Channels

5A Voltage-gated Na Channels
5B Voltage-gated Ca Channels
5C Voltage-gated K Channels & Mechanisms of Voltage Sensing Gating
5D Mechanisms of Voltage Sensing & Gating
5E TRP Channels
5F Ligand-gated Channels
5G Ion Channel Regulatory Mechanisms
5H Ion Channels, Pharmacology & Disease
5I Other Channels

Cytoskeleton, Motility & Motors

6A Skeletal Muscle Mechanics, Structure & Regulation
6B Cardiac Muscle Mechanics & Structure
6C Cardiac Muscle Regulation
6D Smooth Muscle Mechanics, Structure, & Regulation
6E Actin Structure, Dynamics & Associated Proteins
6F Microtubules, Structure Dynamics & Associated Proteins
6G Kinesins, Dyneins & Other Microtubule-based Motors
6H Myosins

(Continued on next page)

6I Cytoskeletal Assemblies & Dynamics
6J Cell Mechanics, Mechanosensing, & Motility
6K Cytoskeletal-based Intracellular Transport
6L Bacterial Mechanics, Cytoskeleton & Motility

Bioenergetics

7A Membrane Pumps, Transporters & Exchangers
7B Energy Transducing Membrane Protein Complexes
7C Electron & Proton Transfer
7D Light Energy Harvesting, Trapping & Transfer
7E Mitochondria in Cell Life & Death

Systems Biology

8A Gene Regulatory Systems
8B Cellular Signaling and Metabolic Networks
8C Systems Biology & Disease
8D Emerging Techniques & Synthetic Biology

Biophysics of Neuroscience

9A Molecular & Cellular Neuroscience
9B Systems Neuroscience
9C Experimental Approaches, Modeling & Tools in Neuroscience
9D Computational Neuroscience
9E Sensory Neuroscience

New Developments in Biophysical Techniques

10A Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, Imaging & EPR Spectroscopy
10B Electron Microscopy, Diffraction & Scattering Techniques
10C Diffraction & Scattering Techniques
10D Molecular Dynamics
10E Computational Methods & Bioinformatics
10F Optical Microscopy & Super Resolution Imaging
10G Single-Molecule Spectroscopy
10H Optical Spectroscopy: CD, UV-VIS, Vibrational, Fluorescence
10I Force Spectroscopy & Scanning Probe Microscopy

Bioengineering & Biomaterials

11A Bioengineering
11B Biosensors
11C Biosurfaces
11D Micro- and Nanotechnology
11E Micro- and Nanotechnology

Biophysics Education

12A Biophysics Education

Techniques

To allow attendees to search for abstracts based on specific techniques in addition to areas of research, during abstract submission you will be asked to select the techniques used in your research from among a list of broad topics. If you did not use any of the techniques listed, you will have the option to select "None/Other." The technique categories for the 2016 Annual Meeting are listed below.

- Analytical Ultracentrifugation
- Atomic Force Spectroscopy
- Bioinformatics
- Calorimetry
- Cell/Tissue Imaging & Mechanics
- Computational Chemistry
- Electron Microscopy & Tomography
- Electrophysiology
- Fluorescence
- Light Microscopy & Super Resolution Imaging
- Mass Spectrometry
- Microfluidics & Microfabrication
- Molecular Modeling
- Molecular Dynamics Simulations
- Nanotechnology
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance/EPR spectroscopy
- Optical Spectroscopy (CD & UV-VIS)
- Single Molecule Methods
- Vibrational Spectroscopy (Infrared & Raman)
- X-Ray & Neutron Scattering & Diffraction
- X-Ray Crystallography
- None/Other

Biophysical Journal

Know the Editors

Stanislav Shvartsman

Stanislav Shvartsman

Princeton University

Associate Editor, Systems Biophysics Section

Q: What is your area of research?

My research group uses experiments, theory, and computation to develop predictive models of dynamical processes in cells and tissues. We are interested in the extent to which simple physicochemical and mechanical principles can be discerned in complex biological systems, such as developing embryos. Current projects in the group fall into three broad categories. First, we are developing quantitative descriptions of enzymatic networks. The experimental systems here are *Drosophila* embryos, and theory is based on more or less conventional chemical kinetics models. Second, we are studying the processes by which two-dimensional sheets of cells give rise to three-dimensional structures of tissues and organs. Here, experiments are done in developing *Drosophila* eggs and zebrafish embryos, and theory relies on either continuum or discrete models of epithelial tissues. Third, we are studying how developing tissues and organs manage their constant need for energy. This project is still very young; we are exploring multiple avenues for quantitative experiments, from single-embryo calorimetry to in vivo imaging of mitochondrial networks and cell metabolism.

To see the complete Editorial Board, visit

www.biophysj.org

Call for Nominations

(Continued from page 1)

The Biophysical Society is committed to increasing the diversity of its membership and the Publications Committee welcomes nominations from a diverse list of candidates that mirrors the Society membership in terms of scientific interests, background, gender, and geographic diversity.

Confidential nominations should be made to the Publications Committee through the Society Office (eic@biophysics.org). The candidate's CV is helpful but not required for the nomination. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2016.

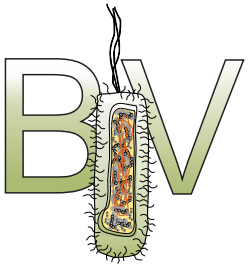
About *Biophysical Journal*

***Biophysical Journal* Quick Facts (January-December 2014)**

Manuscripts submitted:	1,316
Acceptance rate:	47%
Manuscripts published:	651
Number of Associate Editors:	7
Number of Editorial Board Members:	108
Time to first decision: avg. days	31

***Biophysical Journal* Editors-in-Chief**

1960–1963	Frank Brink, Jr.
1964–1966	J. Lawrence Oncley
1967–1969	Fred M. Snell
1969–1973	Max A. Lauffer
1973–1977	Frederick A. Dodge
1977–1980	V. Adrian Parsegian
1980–1983	John Gergely
1984–1987	Eugene Ackerman
1988–1992	Thomas E. Thompson
1993–1997	Victor A. Bloomfield
1997–2002	Peter B. Moore
2002–2007	Robert Callender
2007–2012	Edward Egelman
2012–Present	Leslie Loew



Subgroups

BIV

Keeping up with the Crowd

My year as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation

I am a member of the Chemistry Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), and have been for over 26 years. I maintain a group of 6 to 12 students. The National Science Foundation (NSF) supported my initial efforts to understand protein chemistry and biophysics under physiologically relevant conditions. That support changed my career. About four years ago, I decided to try to pay back in a small way by applying for a Program Director "rotator" position. "Rotator" means a fixed term Program Director position at NSF and then a return to UNC.

I contacted my Program Director, and was invited to Arlington, Virginia, for an interview. I liked the people, and they liked me, but I needed to ensure that I could keep my lab going. A deal was worked out such that I spent three weeks a month in Arlington and one week in Chapel Hill (I also Skyped with everyone in my lab once a week). The NSF was flexible; these plans were finalized more than a year before I started. Reassured, I made a one-year commitment. UNC gave permission, and Elizabeth and I moved to Arlington.

I served in the Molecular Biophysics Cluster of the Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Division. I also interacted with the Chemistry of Life Processes program in the Chemistry Division and the Physics of Living Systems program in the Physics Division.

From day one I was treated like a permanent Program Director—a steep learning curve. Everyday I read and talked with my NSF colleagues about exciting new directions in biophysics. I read proposals, found the right reviewers, set up panels, did the post-panel analysis, directed funding to the successful efforts and even organized a workshop on enzyme design. I got a warm glow from talking with and advising young faculty members. Absolutely the best part was running the panels; there is nothing like talking science with a dozen or so cutting-edge scientists for two and a half days.

The atmosphere at the office was collegial, and the adventure was both intellectually rewarding and stimulating. My colleagues and I had a good time outside the office, too. Most importantly for me, I kept my lab going with no drop in productivity.

NSF works best when it is well staffed with scientists 'from the trenches,' i.e., rotators. I encourage those who have the opportunity to consider service.

— *Gary J. Pielak*, Subgroup Chair-Elect

Newsletter Survey...We're Listening!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BPSNewsletter

Is the BPS monthly Newsletter all that it can be? Is it a must read for you? Are there additional featurs you'd like to see? Is there something missing that would make it more interesting for you? Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey by August 20 to tell us if you read the Newsletter, what you like, what you don't like, and what you'd like to see added.

We will soon be planning content for next year's Newsletter and your feedback will be the catalyst for change.

Members in the News

Carol Robinson, University of Oxford and Society member since 2010, has received the 2016 AstraZeneca Award from the Biochemical Society.

Anthony Watts, University of Oxford and Society member since 1993, has been awarded the Interdisciplinary Prize from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Winfried Denk, Max Planck Institute and Society member since 1986, is the most recent recipient of the Brain Prize from the European Brain Research Foundation.

Grants and Opportunities

Inclusive Excellence: 2017 Undergraduate Science Education Grants

Objective: To help institutions build their capacity to effectively engage all students in science throughout their undergraduate years, especially those who come to college via non-traditional pathways.

Who Can Apply: Schools that are part of the 1,500 not-for-profit, four-year institutions identified by the 2010 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Basic Classification, offer four-year baccalaureate degrees in the natural sciences or offer a single baccalaureate degree that is inclusive of the natural sciences, and is accredited and in good standing.

Deadline: Pre-proposals due December 1, 2015

Website: www.hhmi.org/InclusiveExcellence2017

Advances in Biological Informatics - National Science Foundation

Objective: To encourage new approaches to the analysis and dissemination of biological knowledge for the benefit of both the scientific community and the broader public.

Who Can Apply: Non-profit, non-academic organizations, universities and colleges

Deadline: September 15, 2015

Website: www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15582/nsf15582.htm

Biophysical Society

Guidelines for the Reproducibility of Biophysics Research

Read Today at www.biophysics.org/researchguidelines

Biophysical Society

11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 800
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Claysburg, PA
Permit #6

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

October 25–29

Diabetes: New Insights into Molecular Mechanisms and Therapeutic Strategies (T2)
Kyoto, Japan
https://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfm?e=web.Meeting.Program&meetingid=1419

October 29–31

2015 Society for Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science National Conference
Washington, DC
www.sacnas.org

November

November 2–4

Membrane Hydration: A Challenge to Nanosciences
Santiango del Estero, Argentina
membraneshydration.blogspot.com.ar/

November 11–14

2015 Annual Biomedical Research Conference For Minority Students (ABRCMS)
Seattle, WA
www.abrcms.org

December

December 2–5

2nd Zing Neurodegeneration Conference
Cancun, Mexico
www.zingconferences.com/conferences/2nd-zing-neurodegeneration-conference/

January 2016

January 17–22

Sensory Transduction in Microorganisms
Ventura, CA
https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12139

January 28–31

Bioinorganic Chemistry (GRS)
Ventura, CA
https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=14173

Please visit www.biophysics.org for a complete list of upcoming events.