This issue of THE BIOLOGICAL PHYSICIST welcomes our new Assistant Editor, Dr. Christopher Smith of UCSD. We also bring you all the usual suspects – PRE & PRL Highlights, and some important job ads and announcements. Be sure to visit www.aps.org/units/dbp/governance/minutes/index.cfm for the minutes of the DBP Business Meeting at the APS March Meeting.
With this issue, THE BIOLOGICAL PHYSICIST is pleased to welcome Dr. Christopher Smith as the new Assistant Editor.

A self-described “recovering biochemist/bioinformaticist”, Christopher M. Smith, PhD., joined the Center for Theoretical Biological Physics (CTBP) at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), in 2004, to oversee the Center’s education, outreach and training activities.

After completing his doctoral work in plant biochemistry/molecular biology at the University of Nebraska, Smith did postdoctoral work with Phil Bourne (Co-Director, Protein DataBank) and Michael Gribskov (Purdue University), then with the San Diego Supercomputer Center at UCSD, developing scientific data resources and pursuing his research interests in protein sequence and structure-function relationships. Subsequently, he assumed more research administration responsibilities (National Biomedical Computation Resource, and the Integrative Bioscience and Integrated Computational Science Divisions at SDSC) and pursued another of his passions – promoting education and scientific literacy. He made the full jump to “education and outreach” in Physics when Professors Herbert Levine and José Onuchic recruited him to lead efforts of the new NSF Physics Frontiers Center, “Center for Theoretical Biological Physics”, to broaden education and training opportunities in biological physics, promote the nascent discipline of biological physics, and foster interdisciplinary and multi-institutional efforts to advance discovery using approaches from the biological physics world. According to Chris, his new TBP editorial duties will be “just an extension of his outreach efforts to support and promote biological physics to the national/international research and education communities.”
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Graduate student position
at Texas A&M
University Health Science Center /
Biomedical Engineering Health Science Center / Biomedical Engineering

Experimental Biophysics

A PhD student/graduate research assistant position is available immediately in the laboratory of Prof. Andreea Trache at Texas A&M Health Science Center, College Station, TX. The student will be enrolled in the Biomedical Engineering PhD program at Texas A&M University and will do their PhD thesis work at Texas A&M Health Science Center. The position will involve the study of molecular dynamics at the cellular level, focusing on mechanotransduction at cell adhesions and its connection with the cytoskeleton. These interdisciplinary studies will involve instrumentation development and calibration, and will use an atomic force microscope combined with total internal reflection fluorescence and fast confocal microscopy.

The successful candidate should have a BS/MS in Physics, Biophysics or Engineering with basic training in optics or microscopy. No cell biology knowledge is necessary at this time; however acquiring general cell biology skills and knowledge will be required to carry on live-cell experiments. Experience with MatLab is a plus.

Interested applicants please send your CV to trache@tamu.edu.
Lab website:
http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/basic-sciences/sbtrm/homepages/trache/
**JOB AD**

Postdoctoral Position in Physical Biology of Bacteria

Postdoctoral position to study the physical biology of bacterial mechanisms such as self-organization of division proteins (subcellular Min oscillations), export and motility apparatus (pili), and growth and division (peptidoglycan). My general interest is in developing computational models of spatial and temporal structure formation within bacteria, see http://www.physics.dal.ca/~adr

You should have a physics PhD and experience in computational modeling. The start date is Sept 1 2009. Please email your CV as a pdf file, and provide the contact details for three references, to andrew.rutenberg@dal.ca. The position is for one year, though additional funding should become available.

**JOB AD**

Biophysics/Soft Matter Postdoc
Dept. of Physics
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral research position to study the physical properties of biopolymer networks using optical and rheological techniques. The successful candidate will join the collaborative soft matter research effort at Georgetown with Profs. Dan Blair and Jeff Urbach (for more information, see http://softmatter.georgetown.edu/ and http://physics.georgetown.edu/~urbach/dil.html) and interact with other groups and Georgetown and NIH. Candidates should have a strong background in soft matter rheology or optical biophysics, and experience with in vitro biopolymer networks is preferred but not essential. To apply, please send your CV and the names of three references to blair@physics.georgetown.edu and urbach@physics.georgetown.edu.
The Bruno H. Zimm
Biological Physics Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Center for Theoretical Biological Physics (CTBP) at the University of California, San Diego invites applications for the Bruno H. Zimm Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biological Physics

Applications are due October 15, 2009

For additional information and application instructions:
http://ctbp.ucsd.edu/zimm_fellowship.html

CTBP is a consortium of researchers from UCSD and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, involved in research on fundamental problems at the interface between physics and biology. Research revolves around three synergy themes – Cellular Tectonics, the dynamic mesoscale structure of the intracellular milieu; Computational Approaches to Intracellular and Intercellular Communication, chemical-based reaction-diffusion governed communication across complex spaces; and Gene Regulatory Networks, genetic/signaling networks exhibit specificity and robustness in the face of intrinsic stochasticity, and yet retain evolvability. This fellowship is for recent graduates who have demonstrated exceptional research aptitude and are interested in pursuing more independent, semi-autonomous research than is available in a traditional postdoctoral position. Zimm fellows will be expected to pursue intensive research in any area of biological physics related to CTBP research synergies.

CTBP Faculty include:

Henry Abarbanel, Physics, UCSD
Olga Dudko, Physics, UCSD
Terence Hwa, Physics, UCSD
Bo Li, Mathematics, UCSD
José Onuchic, Physics, UCSD
Terence Sejnowski, Salk Institute
Wei Wang, Chemistry, UCSD

Charles L. Brooks, III, U Michigan
Michael Holst, Mathematics, UCSD
Herbert Levine, Physics, UCSD
J. Andrew McCammon, Chemistry, UCSD
Wouter-Jan Rappel, Physics, UCSD
Tatyana Sharpee, Salk Institute
Peter Wolynes, Chemistry, UCSD

http://ctbp.ucsd.edu

For more information contact Christopher Smith, PhD., CTBP, Department of Physics, 9500 Gilman Drive, MC0374, University of California, San Diego, CA 92093, csmith@ctbp.ucsd.edu  (858) 534-8370

CTBP is a Physics Frontiers Center of the National Science Foundation