Executive Committee

Anthony Watts – President

Tony Watts is at the Biochemistry Department, Oxford University, Oxford UK, since 1980, being a full time Tutorial Fellow at St Hugh's College, Oxford, finally taking the role as Vice-Principal (2015-2017). Currently he is an Emeritus Professor at this University. He has been interested in spectroscopic techniques, like ESR and NMR applied to mem-branes and also to applications like Lipodiscs. He has been very active with the British Bio-physical Society, being chair of this Society and also a member of the Executive Committee of the European Biophysical Societies' Association (EBSA)and President of this Association. He has been managing editor of the European Biophysics Journal, Editor in Chief of Biophysical Chemistry and an Associate Editor of the Biophysical Journal, Tony also sat on the editorial board of and several other Journals. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Chemical Society, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Biology and the Biophysical Society, as well as recipient of several national and international awards. In July 2024, Tony assumed the role of President of IUPAB

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Manuel Prieto – Past President

Manuel Prieto is Full Professor of Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), of "Universidade de Lisboa" (Portugal). His work in Molecular and Cell Biophysics obtained international recognition in the area of advanced photophysical methodologies, namely on the application of state-of-the art fluorescence methodologies, both in ensemble average and under the microscope, allowing to retrieve topological and dynamic information on biological systems, using quantitative approaches. Examples of the broad research interests are membrane biophysics such as phase diagrams, detection and study of membrane nanodomains, lipid-protein/peptide and lipid-DNA interactions, amyloid fiber formation, and ion channels. He has been deeply involved in international organizations, namely in Europe and Latin America, was a former President of EBSA and is a regular collaborator of international agencies.

Ronald J Clarke – Secretary-General

Associate Professor Ronald Clarke - The University of Sydney

Christina Sizun – Treasurer

Christina Sizun received a PhD degree in physical chemistry from the University of Strasbourg in 2001. She developed her interest in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, in the liquid and solid state, and first applied it to inorganic catalysis, then to biological molecules. After post-doctoral stays at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Martinsried and at the European Institute for Chemistry and Biology in Bordeaux, she was appointed a permanent researcher position at the French National Center for Scientific Research in Gif-sur-Yvette, one of the high field NMR locations in France. She is presently a group leader. She investigates the structure and dynamics of viral proteins, notably of respiratory syncytial virus, to establish the structural bases of their mechanisms and assess their potential as antiviral targets. She is involved in biological NMR teaching and has been active in the French Biophysical Society for several years.

Angela Gronenborn – President Elect

Angela M. Gronenborn currently holds the UPMC Rosalind Franklin Professor-ship and Chair of the Department of Structural Biology. She is also a Professor of Bioengineering and Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. Throughout her career, Dr. Gronenborn was involved in developing NMR methodology for structure determination of biological macro-molecules. In the area of HIV research, Dr. Gronenborn directs the Pittsburgh Center for HIV Protein Interactions (PCHPI). Dr. Gronenborn served on numerous Scientific Advisory Boards, the Council of the Biophysical Society (President in 2018-2019). She trained more than 50 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and authored more that 500 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Gronenborn is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Society of Magnetic Resonance. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (US), the Norwegian Academy of Arts and Sciences Letters, the German National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Councillors

Ruchi Anand

Ruchi Anand is the vice president of the Indian Biophysical Society (IBS) and has been associated with IBS for over 15 years and has been a life member for over a decade. Ruchi has seen the field of biophysics grown and transformed as the field has shifted gears in India. which now has a substantial international presence and have scientists from mechanobiology, structural biology, systems biology, spectroscopist such as force spectroscopy, optical tweezers and single molecule spectroscopist as well as computational biology and several others participating biophysics disciplines. Ruchi is very proud of representing India at IUPAB and provide a global perspective of the biophysics work going on in India.

John Baenziger

John Baenziger is a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada. His research is focused on understanding the structures and mechanisms of function of pentameric ligand-gated ion channels, such as the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. In particular, his lab has made seminal contributions to understanding of the mechanisms by which lipids modulate the activity of the nAChR. He has been an active member in the biophysical community serving as President of the Biophysical Society of Canada from 2014 -2019, Treasurer of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB) from 2017 - 2021 and as the Canadian Ambassador to the Biophysical Society, 2019-. He has also served in many leadership positions, particularly with regards to graduate studies, at the University of Ottawa.

Matthew Baker

Matt Baker is a Senior Scientia Lecturer and Group Leader in the School of Bio-technology and Biomolecular Science at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, Australia. He applies methods in synthetic and evolutionary biology to engineer and investigate the motors that make microbes swim and the proteins that sense force. Matt completed his DPhil in the Department of Physics in Oxford University in 2011 and started his group at UNSW in Synthetic and Structural Bio.

Ana Denicola

Ana Denicola, Pharmaceutical Chemist from Universidad de la República, Uruguay (1984) and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech, Va, USA (1989). She is Full Professor and Head of Physical Biochemistry, School of Science, Universidad de la República, CEINBIO, PEDECIBA and level III SNI (Sistema Nacional de Investigadores), Member by number of the National Academy of Science of Uruguay (ANCiU). Line of research is redox biochemistry, oxidative stress and associated diseases, with more than 100 publications, book chapters, conferences, international courses, editorial board member, organization of scientific events, and many master and doctoral thesis directed.

Monica Florescu

Monica Florescu is Associate Professor of Physics and Biophysics at the Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania with Ph.D. in Physics (2007) and in Medicine (2020). Throughout her career, Monica has been deeply involved in biophysics research, with a focus on study of biomolecular interactions (protein/lipid/drug/nanoparticle) and development of reliable detection devices and monitoring systems, particularly (nano)biosensors for biomarkers of oxidative stress and chronic diseases. Monica's work has not only contributed to the advancement of knowledge in the field but has also provided her with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing biophysicists today. In addition to her research experience, Monica has a strong track record of leadership and service within the biophysics community. She has served as Secretary General 2019-2022 and Vice-president since 2022 of Romanian Society for Pure and Applied Biophysics (RSPAB) and is actively involved in the organization of national biophysics conferences. She has successfully organized the IC-ANMBES international conference (https://icanmbes.unitbv.ro/) every two years, since 2010, with a special section for biophysics, for which she obtained grants from EBSA and IUPAB for invited speakers recognized in the field, but also for young researchers. These experiences have equipped her with the skills necessary to effectively represent the interests of biophysicists and advocate for initiatives that promote the growth and development of the field.

Thomas Gutsmann

Thomas Gutsmann´s research focuses on the lipid membranes of pathogens and host cells, which play a central role in many infectious diseases. The biophysical properties of these membranes and the interactions between individual molecules and membranes are at the heart of the work in his lab at the Research Center Borstel, Leibniz Lung Center. He is particularly interested in questions regarding Gram-negative bacteria, mycobacteria, and nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTMs). Based on biomedical questions often developed in collaboration with national and international partners, he use various membrane models in combination with different biophysical methods (e.g., atomic force microscopy, electrophysiology, calorimetry, X-ray scattering, fluorescence spectroscopy, and microscopy) to decipher the mechanisms of action of membrane-active substances. In recent years, aerosols have also become a focus, where lipid membranes play a crucial role as well.
Since 2008 Thomas Gutsmann has been active in different positions within the DGfB (German Biohysical Society) and represented the DGfB in different meetings of the EBSA and IUPAB. He hopes to bring in his experience into the work of the IUPAB.

Martina Havenith

Martina Havenith is director of the Center for Molecular Spectroscopy and Simulation of Solvent driven processes at RUB and Chair of Physical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She trained more than 70 doctoral students and 50 postdoctoral fellows of biochemistry, physics, and chemistry. Her group applies innovative spectroscopic laser techniques to fundamental biological questions. She pioneered THz spectroscopic methods in which unravelled the important role of water in biological processes. THz calorimetry, a novel tool, allows to quantify solvation entropy and enthalpy changes in inhomogeneous samples in real time during biological processes, e.g. Liquid Liquid Phase Separation, and enzymatic catalysis. Martina Havenith served on many Scientific Boards, such as the Executive Board of the German Physical Society, Selection Committees for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Science foundation and the SNF. She is elected member of the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina and the Academia Europaea

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Rosangela Itri

Rosangela Itri is full Professor in the Institute of Physics, University of São Paulo, Brazil. Her research is focused on understanding how lipid oxidation impacts on membranes and diseases, and proteins/membrane interaction.
Rosangela has previous experience on organizing courses and mini-courses of Biophysics for young scientists in Brazil, South America and other countries in the world, including the search for support for travel and living expenses to the students and the teachers. Just an example, she organized the São Paulo School of Advanced Science (Fapesp): Biophysics Tools to study Biomolecular Interactions – October 2017, at IFUSP, comprising 136 students being 60 students selected around the world (South and Central America, USA, many countries from Europe, Australia, some countries from Asia and Africa).
Regarding IUPAB meetings, Rosangela has a strong experience on organizing Brazilian Biophysics Meetings. In particular, she organized (chair) of IUPAB Congress 2021.

Tjaart Krüger

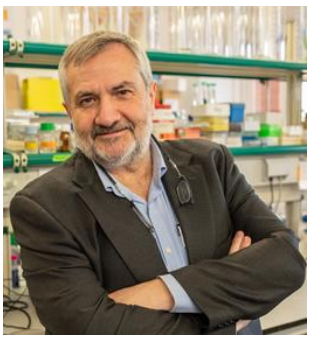
Tjaart Krüger is involved with numerous educational activities in South Africa to promote and develop biophysics. At his home university, he has been offering an introductory biophysics course to postgraduate physics students since 2014, and he is currently developing an undergraduate biophysics curriculum for his university. He has also initiated the development of a biophysics curriculum for the University of Limpopo. Recently, two other South African universities (Nelson Mandela University and University of Kwazulu-Natal) involved him with their strategic planning about the extension of their Physics Departments' research and course work to include biophysics. He regularly co-organises Biophysics Postgraduate Schools, targeting mostly the South African Physics community. The focus of three of these schools (in 2017 -2019) was extended to involve students from 13 other African countries. He recently extended his educational and outreach activities to Tanzania and Kenya. Together with Trevor Sewell and Lawrence Norris, they started in 2021 with a biennial Biophysics in Africa Zoom Conference and have been running a monthly African Biophysics Colloquium Series since July 2023. In his capacity as the Convener of the Biophysics subgroup of the African Strategy for Fundamental and Applied Physics, he has been leading several discussions with interested scientists across Africa regarding the development of biophysics in Africa, which have resulted in two status reports (arXiv:2303.14456v1 and arXiv:2403.05609). They aim to use these reports for science policy discussions.

Takayuki Nishizaka

Dr. Nishizaka is a professor in the Physics Department of the historically celebrated Gakushuin University, the oldest private university in Japan, located in Tokyo. Gakushuin ranks first of the Japanese universities in quality of research in the Natural Sciences, and his research in Biophysics has strongly contributed to the high score (see the article Nature 555, S73 (2018)). He has been worked as Executive Committee in Asian Biophysics Association (ABA), and is currently President of ABA (2024-2026). He also works in Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) as Administration Officer for

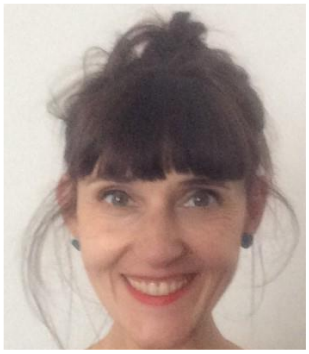
International Affairs and Vice-President (2024-2025). His early career focused on the study of eukaryotic linear motor proteins. This included the development of advanced optical microscopes to study biomolecules at the single molecule level. Later, Nishizaka expanded his interests to motors of organisms in the Bacteria and Archaea Do-mains, which culminated in landmark publications outlining mechanisms for how these molecular machines function. He is the only researcher who has embarked on understanding the molecular mechanisms of not only all representative motor families in eukaryotes (myosin, kinesin and dynein), but also bacterial machineries (those in mycoplasma, cyanobacteria and spiroplasma) and archaeal flagella motor. In addition, he contributed to the visualization of the mechanics and chemical reaction of the world's smallest rotary motor, F1-ATPase, for the first time and deciphered its sophisticated working with technical tour de force.

Jesús Pérez Gil



Prof. Pérez-Gil has served to the spreading, potentiation and communication of Biophysics uninterruptedly during more than 30 years, as member of different Societies of Biophysics (SBE, EBSA, BPS) and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SEBBM). He has participated as member of the Scientific and Organizing Committees of several Congresses, national and international, in the area of Biophysics, and served as member of the Editorial Board of several scientific journals also in the area of Biophysics. Prof- Pérez-Gil is the Director of a very active research group at Complutense University of Madrid, interested in the study of the molecular and biophysical mechanisms of pulmonary surfactant and other membrane systems, being co-author of more than 230 articles in journals indexes in JCR and supervisor of 25 PhD Thesis. In the last few years, he has been included by Stanford University within the list of 2% most productive scientists (https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/6).

Gabriella Viero



Gabriella Viero is group leader of the Laboratory of Translational Architectomics at the Institute of Biophysics (CNR Italy). Her research is dedicated to RNA biology, translation and motor neuron diseases. The laboratory is interested in studying ribosomes and polyribosomes by uniquely combining biophysical approaches with sequencing techniques. The lab is seeking to move forward strong interdisciplinary approaches in biophysics, combining expertise in biophysics, biochemistry, mathematics, IT, neuropathology and cell biology. The laboratory has developed methods for characterizing polysomes in troublesome biological samples by POL-Seq and RIBO-Seq and computational tool for data analysis. During her career she published 50 papers in high impact journals (Nat. Cell Bio.; J.Cell Biol; Nucleic Acids Res; Cell Rep; Mol Cell; Nat Commun; Proc Natl Acad Sci USA; Immunity, PLOS Comput Biol and others).