

IUPAB News #90

International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics



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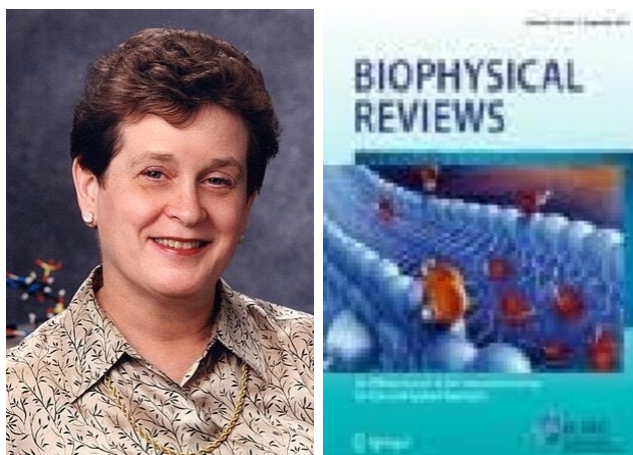
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Important: Sign-Up

To receive future newsletters, please sign-up to a subscription using the "Sign up" link at the end of the newsletter.

***Biophysical Reviews* Impact Factor assigned (IF 4.9)**

Biophysical Reviews achieved its first Impact Factor of 4.9 in June 2024. Damien Hall (Editor-in-chief, Biophysical Reviews, 2019-2024) has handed over to Wilma Olson (USA) as the new Editor-in-chief (2024-on). A big vote of thanks was expressed and minuted by the General Assembly in Kyoto for the significant effort Damien gave to the Journal during his tenure.



Wilma has been a member of the Editorial Board of Biophysical Reviews since the inception of the journal in 2008 and an Executive Editor since 2014. She holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Delaware and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Stanford University. Except for a year as a Damon Runyon Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia University, she has spent her entire professional career at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where she is currently the Mary I. Bunting Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. She served for many years as Founding Director of the Rutgers University Center for Molecular Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry, and has trained undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students from a variety of academic disciplines.

Her research involves the development and application of new computational and theoretical approaches to analyze, model, and interpret the biophysical properties and interactions of nucleic acids. She has held Alfred P. Sloan and John Simon Guggenheim Fellowships, a U.S. Public Health Service Research Career Development Award, a National Institute of General Medical Sciences MERIT Award, and a Biophysical Society National Award for Excellence and Leadership in Biophysics. She is also an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Physical Society, and Biophysical Society.

Professor Aravind Penmatsa, IUPAB-Lecturer at the Biophysical Society Meeting 2025

The IUPAB-sponsored invited speaker at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society (Los Angeles Convention Center, Saturday 15th Feb. - Wed. 19th Feb., 2025) will be Professor Aravind Penmatsa of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science. Professor Penmatsa will be speaking about Mechanisms of GABA reuptake and inhibition among GABA transporters. His early training was in pharmaceutical sciences at Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. He subsequently did a PhD at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad in structural biology and biophysics of ion-binding proteins. He did his postdoctoral research as an American Heart Association Fellow

at the Gouaux lab in Vollum Institute, OHSU in Portland, Oregon where he studied the mechanisms and pharmacology of neurotransmitter uptake system involved in dopamine transport in neurons. He returned to India and setup his lab at their 2015 where his group studies the transport mechanisms of neurotransmitters like noradrenaline and GABA and their transport inhibition by pain and antiepileptic medications. His group also studies antiporters involved in multi-drug efflux and develops novel strategies for using single domain antibodies to determine the structures of integral membrane transporters to study their mechanisms and functional roles. Aravind is a senior fellow of the DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance, an EMBO Global Investigator, fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India, a Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee and is a member of the Biophysical society.



Michèle Auger Award for Young Scientists' Independent Research

In late 2018, long time Editorial Board Member of the Biophysical Reviews journal, Professor Michèle Auger, sadly succumbed to illness. As a mark of our respect for Michèle, the Biophysical Reviews' Board, together with the support of Springer-Nature Corporation, created a perpetual memorial award in honor of her life and service. 'The Michèle Auger Award for Young Scientists' Independent Research' is to be granted each year to a single candidate performing biophysical research who, at the time of application, is under 40 years of age. The award will consist of a plaque, a free personal subscription to the journal and an invitation to submit a single author review article to Biophysical Reviews (with gold open access costs to be paid by the journal). The winner's published Review will carry a short foreword about the life of Professor Michèle Auger, along with her work associated with teaching and training the next generation of biophysical scientists. Nominations can be made in the form of a candidate's one page curriculum vitae, along with their five best original manuscripts, and can be submitted by email to any of the Biophysical Reviews' senior editors, prior to 2024, October 31st. Judging will be carried out by a special committee assembled from approximately twenty senior biophysical scientists (at the senior Professor, Head of Institute, Head of Department level) with this assembly taking place after the submission deadline. Results will be announced in late December, with the winner's single author Review to be published in Issue 5 of the following year. The 2023 winner was Professor David Alsteens of the Institute of Biomolecular Science and Technology, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.



Social Media

IUPAB is now on social media platforms! These include Twitter (@IUPAB1), Instagram (IUPAB1) and Facebook (IUPAB2). Please head over to any of these pages to keep up to date on all IUPAB activities. A IUPAB Wiki page has also been created – details [here](#).

Future IUPAB Congresses

2027 (October 17 – 21st) Berlin, Germany

Links will be posted on the IUPAB.ORG website when they are available.

2030 (July 8 – 13th) Quebec City, Canada



International Science Council (ISC) Events and Opportunities

- CODATA's WorldFAIR is shaping the future of research: <https://council.science/blog/from-siloed-data-to-shared-knowledge-worldfair-future-of-research/>
- Launch of the Asia-Pacific Academic Mentoring Program: <https://council.science/news/australia-and-new-zealand-academics-sow-seeds-of-success-with-pacific-islands-scholars/>
- 2 October: Webinar by the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science on Women in Geography “Paths and perspectives from around the world” – <https://gender-equality-in-science.org/2024/09/13/women-in-geography-paths-and-perspectives-from-around-the-world/>
- 3 October: Hurricanes in the Caribbean – climate resilience and vulnerable populations - <https://council.science/events/hurricanes-in-the-caribbean/>
- 8 October: The journey of Australian science – Oliphant and nuclear physics - <https://council.science/events/aas-oliphant-nuclear-physics/>
- 9 October: What mechanisms can be envisaged to finance African social science research? - <https://council.science/events/finance-social-science-research-africa/>
- 28-29 October: Computational Social Science Conference: innovative methods, research workflows and data stewardship - <https://council.science/events/computational-social-science-conference/>
- Science Officer vacancy at ISC HQ Deadline for applications is 15 November: <https://council.science/news/vacancy-science-officer-at-the-international-science-council/>
- Contribute to the UNESCO consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

- Call for applications to join the CODATA Cross-Domain Interoperability Framework Working Group or Advisory Group (deadline: 30 September)
- Call for researchers to organize the eleventh annual CECAM-Lorentz workshop in computational simulation and modeling and its applications (deadline: 13 November)
- Establishment of Biological Weapons Convention expert group: <https://council.science/news/announcing-isc-expert-group-biological-weapons-convention/>



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