

Dear colleagues,

with this edition of the BP newsletter, we would like to look back on the last annual spring meeting 2012 at Berlin as well as call for proposals for the upcoming annual spring meeting 2013 at Regensburg.

### 2012 DPG Spring Meeting at Berlin

BP is part of the condensed matter section (SKM) of the DPG, which held its annual spring meeting 2012 at the Technical University Berlin from March 25-30. With 6.203 registered participants, the meeting has grown by another 5 percent or so (the 2011 annual meeting at Dresden had 7.474 registered participants, but this was together with SAMOP, the second largest section of the DPG after SKM). Within the section, the division of biological physics (BP) has grown above average, namely by around 15 percent, from 325 contributions (posters or talks) at Dresden to 374 at Berlin. In particular, we have seen a strong shift from applications for posters to applications for talks (from 181/144 to 154/218). However, because BP organizes two parallel sessions, we could accommodate only 138 talks. All other contributions had to be accommodated as posters. Together with a large number of additional joint sessions with other divisions, we had a full and very interesting program running with effectively three parallel sessions from Monday morning to Friday noon.

Judging from the feedback we received, the meeting was again very successful and we thank everybody who participated in one way or another. We thank all presenters for their great contributions. We also thank the SKM speaker, Prof. Gerd Schön from KIT Karlsruhe, and the local organizer, Prof. Eckehard Schöll from TU Berlin, for their excellent organization of the conference. For the coming three years, Prof. Klaus Richter from U Regensburg will be the SKM speaker and therefore in charge of the organization. The local organizer at Regensburg 2013 will be Prof. Dieter Weiß. Regarding the BP sessions at the Berlin 2012 meeting, there were several minor issues which have been raised in the BP member assembly on Wednesday evening (e.g. criteria for abstract selection, definition of smaller sessions with a clearer focus and more beverages during poster sessions). We will try to improve in these regards at the next meeting.

One new element of the BP 2012 meeting was the introduction of three EPL poster awards sponsored by the journal EPL (formerly *Europhysics Letters*), which was represented by the editor-in-chief, Prof. Michael Schreiber from TU Chemnitz. Each of the three poster awards comes with a certificate and a 1.500 EUR prize sum. We thank EPL for this very generous support, which will be continued next year. For each of the three BP poster sessions, one winner was selected by a separate prize committee. The three prizes went to Dr. Tihamer Geyer (Saarbrücken, protein simulations), Sarah Schwarz G. Henriques (Göttingen, force measurements for platelets) and Olivia Stiehl (Bayreuth, kinetics of DNA fluctuations). We congratulate the three winners for their excellent contributions!

BP does not have an own dissertation prize, but suggests candidates for the SKM dissertation prize. This year this prize has been awarded jointly to Dr. Yan Zeng (TU Berlin, experimental soft matter physics) and Dr. Henning Döscher (TU Ilmenau, experimental solid state physics). Many congratulations to the two awardees!

Our next annual meeting will take place from **March 10-15 2013** at Regensburg. Please save the date, we are looking forward to seeing you all at Regensburg. Assuming a similar participation as for Berlin 2012, it is clear that hotel capacities at Regensburg will be a limiting factor and we advise everybody to make hotel reservations sufficiently early. Like every year, abstract deadline will be **December 1 2012** and we will remind you of this date in the next newsletter. Group leaders are asked to coordinate applications within their groups in order to avoid that too many applications with similar topics are submitted for talks.

The planning for the Regensburg meeting already started and with this newsletter, we now call for proposals for the following categories:

- Plenary (morning) and semi-plenary (afternoon) talks of well-known speakers addressing a large general audience; if you suggest someone, please provide a short explanation and indicate if you could help with the invitation
- One of the five joint symposia (one every day, "Fachverbandsübergreifende Symposien") or one of the tutorials addressing general current issues in physics involving biological physics; each suggestion should come with a one-page description with title, short explanation, names of the organizers and potential speakers
- Special focus sessions either within BP or jointly with one or two other divisions, e.g. with CPP, DY or SOE; again we need similar information as for the joint symposia, but these suggestions can be less general

Please send your suggestions to Ulrich Schwarz until **June 14 2012** (email see below).

We also would like to encourage nominations of qualified candidates for the SKM dissertation prize. Note that this is a great opportunity to reward your students for excellent PhD-work in biological physics. Nominations have to be sent to the speaker of SKM, Klaus Richter, until **November 1 2012**.

With best regards,

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For more information on BP, please visit our website:

<http://www.dpg-physik.de/dpg/gliederung/fv/bp/index.html>