

Dear colleagues,

with this edition of the BP newsletter, we would like to draw your attention to the 2012 DPG spring meeting and to the upcoming election of the DFG review board members.

2012 DPG Spring Meeting

BP is part of the condensed matter section (SKM) of the DPG, which will hold its annual spring meeting at the Technical University Berlin, from March 25-30, with around 5.000 expected participants. For more information, visit <http://berlin12.dpg-tagungen.de/index.html>.

Important dates are: Dec 1, 2011: deadline for abstract submission
Feb 1, 2012: deadline for online registration

During submission, you have to place your abstract into one of several categories, which correspond to the different planned sessions. Apart from our own 13 categories, we plan to have several sessions jointly organized with other divisions. With the chemical physics division (CPP), we will have a general session and a topical session on "Stress Relaxation: from Polymers to Cells". With the dynamics and statistical physics division (DY), we will have a general session and two topical sessions, one on "Biophysics and Non-linear Dynamics of the Heart" and one on "Statistics of Cellular Motion". You also can choose to contribute to the symposia on "Origin of Life" (symposium jointly organized with CPP and DY) and "Systems Biology of Bacteria" (joint session with the young DPG).

BP will also be co-organizer of three more symposia, namely "100 years of X-ray Diffraction", "Control of Network Dynamics" and "Effects and Consequences of Fukushima". Contributions to these sessions are not planned in BP, but might be possible in other divisions.

An important element of the annual meeting is the competition for the SKM dissertation prize. We encourage supervisors to nominate this academic year's outstanding PhDs from their groups. The deadline for nomination is December 1 2011 and the 4 finalists will be selected mid-December. For more information, please visit

<http://berlin12.dpg-tagungen.de/programm/dissertationspreis-skm.html>

If you have contacts to companies or publishing houses related to biological physics, you might want to encourage them to present themselves at the annual meeting (e.g. in the job market series) or to sponsor special activities (e.g. beverages and food for the poster sessions).

We would like to encourage everybody to check if he/she is already member of BP. It is important that researchers who are active in this field are also members of our division. Note that you can be member of two divisions simultaneously. To make changes to your membership details, please follow this link:

<https://www.dpg-physik.de/mitgliedschaft/formulare/aendern.html>

Election of DFG review board members

We would also like to draw your attention to the upcoming election of the "Fachkollegiaten" of the German Science Foundation (DFG):

http://www.dfg.de/dfg_profil/gremien/fachkollegien/fk_wahl2011/index.jsp

The direct election of review board members is an important element in the system of scientific self-governance and has a direct effect on the distribution of grants through the DFG. Board members serve for four years and can be re-elected once. All academic staff possessing PhD degrees and working at scientific institutions are allowed to vote and should receive their online voting material these days through their institutions (altogether ~100.000 persons). If you know of PhD scientists at your institution who did not get their voting materials, please contact the appropriate election representative at your institution.

There are 48 review boards ("Fachkollegien") covering about 200 scientific areas and you can decide among 1.300 candidates. For each board there are roughly twice as many candidates as there are slots to be filled. The candidate lists will typically include board members who can be elected for a second term. Click here for the list of candidates for all boards:

http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/dfg_im_profil/gremien/fachkollegien/fk_wahl_2011/kandidierendenliste_fk_wahl_2011.pdf

The voting period lasts from Monday November 07 14h to Monday December 5 14h. You will have 6 votes which you can distribute among all candidates for all listed boards. In the context of this mailing to the biological physics division, we would like to point out that there are two panels which are especially relevant to BP. These two panels are

FK 201-02 Biophysik (5 seats, 15 candidates)

FK 310-01 Statistische Physik, nichtlineare Dynamik, biologische Physik, und weiche Materie (5 seats, 12 candidates)

The number of board members in FK 310-01 has been raised from 3 to 5 because soft matter physics has been moved from FK 307-2 (theory of condensed matter) to FK 310-01.

There is an understanding within the DFG that there should be a division of labor between the two boards. While FK 201-02 will judge biophysics proposals with a predominantly biological focus, FK 310-01 will judge biophysics proposals with a predominantly physical focus as well as proposals in the other assigned areas. FK 201-02 holds its sessions jointly with FK 201-01 (Biochemie), FK 201-04 (Strukturbiologie) and FK 201-07 (Bioinformatik und Theoretische Biologie). FK 310-01 holds its sessions jointly with FK 308 (Optik, Quantenoptik, Physik der Atome, Moleküle und Plasmen), FK 309 (Kern- und Elementarteilchenphysik, Quantenmechanik, Relativitätstheorie, Felder) and FK 311 (Astrophysik und Astronomie). Members of all participating FKs discuss all proposals.

In preceding elections, participation has been rather low. This can lead to decisions based on small numbers of votes. To make sure that your area is well represented in the FKs, please do vote and please inform yourself about the different areas of expertise represented by the different candidates.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested. Please excuse multiple mailings as the newsletter is distributed over more than one mailing list.

Hoping to see you at Berlin 2012 and with best regards,

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For more information on BP, please visit our updated website:

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