University of Rochester

Biophysics, Structural and Computational Biology Program Retreat

Monday, October 10, 2011

Memorial Art Gallery

500 University Avenue

Rochester, New York 14607

Organizers: Alan Grossfield and Dmitri Ermolenko
Student Organizers: Anant Agrawal and Nicholas Leioatts
Staff Organizer: Melissa Vera

The Biophysics Retreat is partially funded by the
Dr. William F. Neuman Educational Endowment

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration, Breakfast & Poster Set-Up**

9:00 – 9:05 a.m. **Introduction**
Alan Grossfield, BSCB Retreat Organizer

9:10 – 9:30 a.m. **Jason Salter, Ph.D.**
Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
Characterization of the HIV-1 Vif Protein

9:35 – 9:55 a.m. **Amrita Yadav** (B. Miller, Advisor)
Department of Physics & Astronomy
Aqueous Arrayed Imaging Reflectometry with RNA Microarrays: A Medium Throughput Method to Study RNA-Protein Interaction Kinetics

10:00 – 10:20 a.m. **Amir Taslimi** (M. Dumont, Advisor)
Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
Conformational Changes Associated with Activation of the Yeast α-factor Receptor

10:25 – 10:40 a.m. **Morning Break**

10:45 – 11:05 a.m. **James Seckler, Ph.D.**
Department of Biostatistics & Computational Biology
The Interplay of Structure and Dynamics in the Function of HIV-1 Reverse Transcriptase

11:10 – 12:10 p.m. **Career Panel Discussion**
Dr. Jack Daiss, Dr. Thomas Gaborski and Dr. Lea Michel

12:10 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch, Tour Art Gallery**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Poster Session**

2:35 – 2:55 p.m. **Aleksandar Spasic, Ph.D.**
Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
Assessing the Accuracy of Molecular Mechanics Force Fields by Comparison with the Optical Melting Experiments and Nearest Neighbor Parameters

3:00 – 3:20 p.m. **Anant A. Agrawal** (C. Kielkopf, Advisor)
Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
Little Giants of Spliceosome Assembly

3:25 – 3:40 p.m. **Afternoon Break**

3:45 – 4:05 p.m. **Prahnesh Akshayalingam Venkataraman** (M. Dumont, Advisor)
Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
Biophysical Approaches, Including Single Molecule Fluorescence, for Studying Folding and Unfolding of a Transmembrane Transporter

4:10 – 4:45 p.m. **Thomas Gunter, Ph.D.**
Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics
A History of Biophysics at the University of Rochester

4:50 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Dave Mathews, BSCB Program Director