

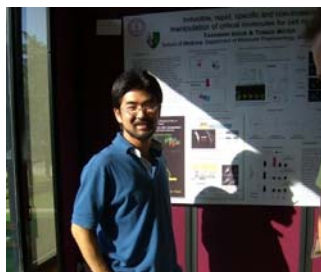


SYNAPSES

► *Please make sure your students and post-docs know about the poster competition that is now a regular feature at the annual symposium. Applications will be available in the Call for Papers and must be submitted by April 15, 2007. Winners (and there can be more than one) receive a \$500 prize.*

► *Don't forget to nominate a candidate for the Paul F. Crane-field Award. The Award is meant to recognize an independent young investigator who in the preceding calendar year has published an outstanding article in JGP. You can find a nomination form on our website at www.sgpweb.org*

As always, the atmosphere at the meeting was informal and interactive. The poster session, while officially scheduled for an afternoon, actually stretched over a cou-



At poster on a sunny afternoon

ple of days. This year's poster competition winners were Kassidy Huynh, Simon Johnston, David Mason, and Benjamin Steinberg.

Meals and mixers helped meld the discussions into a continuum covering the whole duration of the meeting. These reached a climax on Friday evening with a full-blown New England banquet featuring the local bounty of lobsters, mussels, and clams. We'll see you next year for the symposium on Membrane



Poster discussion

Biophysics of Fusion, Fission, and Rafts in Health and Disease.

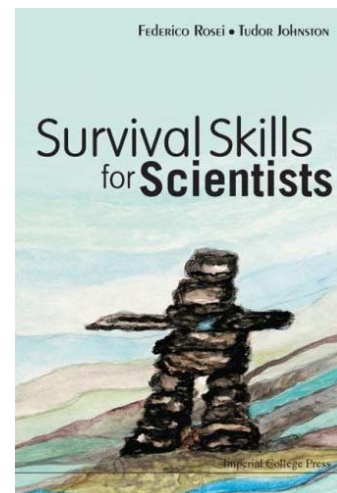
A BOOK FOR ALL SEASONS

"What am I going to do next?" "Which job should I take?" These are questions faced by every young scientist a number of times during his or her developing career. While we can tap a variety of resources to improve our technical skills (books, articles, manuals, the internet—just to name a few), when it comes down to planning our career moves we pretty much have to rely on our mentor's advice with little in the way of outside information or opinions. A recent attempt at covering this gaping hole in a young scientist's formation is the illuminating new book *Survival Skills for Scientists*.

"This book is intended as a tactical guide for scientists who will be faced with many career choices in the next few years. We do not presume here to give you advice about how to do the science itself. We remind you of the things to keep in mind when you are faced with various choices. Among these career choices

are obvious ones. . . , but also where to publish, how to conduct yourself in the eternal three-player game (between author, referee and editor) for publication, and much more. Although we address directly the young scientists on their way up the ladder, there is also much here that the more senior scientists can gain from this book, particularly in helping to understand the professional preoccupations of younger colleagues and employees."

So say the authors of this survival guide, Tudor Johnston and Federico Rosei. Johnston is a plasma physicist who has worked in both the U.S. and Canada for the past four decades. He is at the INRS Énergie, Matériaux et Télécommunications, University of Quebec. Rosei is a young, tenured Associate Professor, also in the plasma physics department at the University of Quebec, specializing in nanostructured materials.



Council member Alessio Accardi recently had the chance to exchange a few words with one of the authors, Federico Rosei.

Q: What prompted you and Tudor Johnston to write this book?

"When I started this job about four and a half years ago, I noted that most of the students who were about to graduate did not have a clue

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2007 SYMPOSIUM

MEMBRANE BIOPHYSICS OF FUSION, FISSION, AND RAFTS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

The 61st annual symposium of the Society of General Physiologists will be held September 5-9, 2007. In three cellular processes: exocytosis, endocytosis, and lateral membrane organization, there are divergent views on membrane fusion, fission, and the lateral organization of membranes. This meeting will focus on the biophysical aspects of these fascinating membrane processes, and the significance of these cell biological processes for common and rare human diseases will be discussed.

Organizers Fred Cohen and Josh Zimmerberg have lined up a stellar cast of speakers for the meeting. Look for updates on arrangements for this symposium on the SGP website. The organizers may make future adjustments to the program to allow for late-breaking science. And don't forget the poster competition!

SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

Viral, exocytotic and developmental cell fusion

Steve Harrison
Margaret Kielian
Grigory Melikyan
Meyer Jackson
Leonid Chernomordik

Proteins of exocytotic and intracellular fusion

William Wickner
Josep Rizo
Reinhard Jahn
Tom Südhof

Endocytosis

Ari Helenius
Tomas Kirchhausen
John Heuser
Jürgen Klingauf
Thomas Schwarz
Tim Ryan

The endocytotic fission pore

Sandra L. Schmid
Sanford M. Simon
Harvey McMahon

Dynamin and the fission process

Vadim Frolov
Michael Kozlov
Jennifer Hinshaw
Pietro DeCamilli

Protein recruitment and membrane microdomains

Christian J. Merrifield
George Augustine
Akihiro Kusumi
Kenneth Jacobsen
Kai Simons

The Call for Papers will be mailed in January. Deadline for submission of Abstracts and Poster Competition applications is April 15, 2007.

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about what they would do next. It seemed that Universities are able to offer very valuable scientific and technical training, and yet have little advice in terms of job prospects, careers, etc. So we started a graduate course in my school, called 'Survival Skills for Scientists,' which begins with an analysis of the job market for science graduates. While preparing for the course, it seemed natural to write extended notes, which then became our book."

Q: You have a chapter dedicated to analyzing the peer-review process and ethical issues in science. What are your thoughts on these two topics and their impact on a young scientist's development?

"Ethics is the sort of issue that everybody considers important, and yet most people tend to take for granted. In the aftermath of a series of recent events, which culminated with the Korean scandal of falsified data and fraud a few months ago, we thought it

important to 'go back to the basics' so to speak, and remind the new generations that ethics is a cornerstone on which the scientific enterprise is built. Ethics, or lack thereof, seems to be a greater issue for the present generation of scientists, rather than the previous one. I would argue that the main reason for this is that the scientific endeavor has become increasingly competitive. Extreme forms of competition lead people to act in ways which they would not normally consider (and I am not condoning their actions, mind you...!)"

Q: Try to summarize your advice to a young student treading the first steps in the big world of science in one sentence.

"Be honest with yourself! Learn to appreciate your qualities and recognize your limitations, and try to plan your career around them."

Published by Imperial College Press, the book may be purchased on Amazon.com