BLANCO-80: Thematic Collection of Structural and Thermodynamic Studies on Membranes

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the entire Editorial Team of the Journal of Membrane Biology, we are happy to announce the launching of a new Thematic Collection, *BLANCO-80*, committed to highlighting the advances and challenges in structural and thermodynamic characterization of membrane proteins and lipid bilayers. The collection is in honor of the occasion of the 80th birthday of Stephen H. White, who had made numerous seminal contributions to the field of Membrane Biophysics.

The first entry in the collection, entitled *How we came to understand the “Tumultuous Chemical Heterogeneity” of the Lipid Bilayer Membrane*, by William C. Wimley is published in the current issue. This insightful mini-review describes the fundamental principles behind the complete structure of the fluid lipid bilayer, deciphered by Stephen H. White and his co-workers in the early 1990s, as well as the lasting implications of their pivotal work.

Encouraging and pioneering collaborations among experimentalists and theoreticians remains one of the many important contributions of Stephen H. White to the cultural landscape of lipid bilayer and membrane protein studies. The results of one such collaboration, that arose in part from the fertile ground of his laboratory, are presented in this issue.

Namely, the *Experimental and Computational Characterization of Oxidized and Reduced Protegrin Pores in Lipid Bilayers* by Rodnin and co-authors reports on the application of the methods of molecular dynamics simulations and fluorescence spectroscopy to gain structural and thermodynamic insights into lipid interactions of antimicrobial peptide Protegrin-1.

We invite you to contribute to this collection by submitting a Research Manuscript, Topical Review, Letter to the Editor or a Brief Comment to the Journal of Membrane Biology. Please indicate your intention to be associated with the *BLANCO-80* thematic collection in your cover letter. We are looking forward to your submissions.

Alexey S. Ladokhin, Editor-in-Chief

Ana-Nicoleta Bondar, Section Head Editor in Biophysics

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This article is part of the Topical Collection: BLANCO-80: Thematic Collection of Structural and Thermodynamic Studies on Membranes.

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