

# The Hispanic Physicist

The Newsletter of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists

Year 8

November 2004

## Biophysicist Pedro Labarca is Chile's 2004 National prize in Natural Sciences



Pedro Labarca was given a valuable background by two biologists of the Universidad de Chile: a new way to look at living beings. Years later, after earning a Ph.D. in biophysics at Brandeis University and postdoctoral studies at the University of California, he found a unique way to look at the fruit fly: as an "open book". This tiny insect (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and its thousands of neurons in a small brain, is letting Labarca learn about memory and cerebral plasticity.

During his successful career Dr Labarca received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Muscular Dystrophy Association (1981-1982) and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1995. He was also awarded the 1994-1995 Catedra Patrimonial de Excelencia from CONACYT, Mexico, and was elected President of the Latin American Society of Biophysicists in 1995. In 1996 he was named a Chilean Presidential Chair in Science and, in 1999, was awarded the Rector's Medal from the University of Chile. Dr. Labarca is a professor at the molecular physiology laboratory of the Center for Scientific studies of Valdivia.

**NSHP salutes Dr. Pedro Labarca!**

## Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Awards



The Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) is pleased to announce the availability of limited funds to support the participation of eligible minority students and scientists at Gordon Research Conferences during 2005. GRC Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fund awards of \$600 will be made available to support African American, Hispanic American and Native American graduate students, post docs, faculty, and research scientists who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents working at a U.S. institution and are first-time attendees of a Gordon Conference. All candidates for funding must first apply and be accepted to participate in the Gordon Research Conference of interest. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for funding early; support is limited and available on a first come-first served basis.

For more information about Gordon Research Conferences, the list of 2005 meetings and an online application, please visit our website at <http://www.grc.org/>. Please contact Ms. Holly Tobin at [htobin@grc.org](mailto:htobin@grc.org) or by phone at (401) 783 - 4011 ext. 106 with any questions regarding this funding program.

GRC will hold over 180 conferences in 2005  
**Visit the Frontiers of Science - Go to a Gordon Conference!**

## Sergio Ulloa's Quantum Dots

Sergio Ulloa and his quantum dots were recently featured in an article of APS' Physics Central website: <http://physicscentral.com/people/people-04-06.html>. Ulloa was born in Mexico City and obtained his BS from the prestigious National Autonomous University of Mexico, and his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Ulloa is now a condensed matter theorist at Ohio University, and studies, among other topics, quantum dots and molecular electronics. ¡En horabuena Sergio!



### News you can use



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**

#### Enrico Fermi and Robert R. McCormick Fellowship

The Enrico Fermi and Robert R. McCormick Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to recent Ph.D. recipients in physics, astrophysics, geophysics, chemistry, or mathematics. The fellowships are awarded for two years with a possible renewal for a third year. The goal of these fellowships is to provide young scientists with the freedom to develop research initiatives either independently, or in collaboration with members of the Enrico Fermi Institute. Information about the Fellowships can be found at <http://efi.uchicago.edu/fellowships.html>. The nomination deadline this year is November 12.

### International Biophysics Congress



The next International Biophysics Congress will be held in Montpellier, France, in the early fall of 2005 as a combined meeting of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB, 15th Congress) and the European Biophysical Societies' Association (EBSA, 5th Congress). The French partners are the Société Française de Biophysique and the Comité National de Biophysique. All fields of Biophysics will be considered, from the molecular level up to integrated systems and organisms. Some Symposia are intended to lay emphasis on complex systems, with the motto "Biophysics: the end of simplicity? Preliminary Program and Schedule as well as general information are available on the Congress Web Site: <http://worldbiophysics2005.sfbioophys.org/>

#### Assistant Professor Position Theoretical Condensed Matter/Materials Physics University at Buffalo, SUNY

The Department of Physics anticipates an opening at the tenure-track assistant professor level in theoretical condensed matter/materials physics starting in September 2005. Theorists in all current areas of condensed matter and materials theory are encouraged to apply. Condensed matter and materials physics is the Department's major research focus with 12 full-time faculty, 5 theorists and 8 experimentalists, working in several areas including major new federally-funded initiatives in nanoscale physics. Prospective applicants should submit a résumé, which includes a list of publications, and statements of research interests and teaching philosophy, and arrange to have at least three letters of recommendation sent to Chair, Physics Search Committee, Department of Physics, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Buffalo, NY 14260-1500 by the initial deadline of December 1, 2004. Candidates are encouraged to submit applications electronically by e-mail to condensed-matter-search@physics.buffalo.edu (pdf format preferred). We especially welcome applications from qualified members of protected groups. The University at Buffalo is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Recruiter.



#### Assistant/Associate/Full Professor Position Biological Physics/ Bioinformatics University at Buffalo, SUNY

The Department of Physics anticipates a faculty opening in biological physics starting in September 2005. The Department seeks applicants with an outstanding record of research and scientific leadership, and who are also committed to excellence in teaching. Prospective applicants should submit a full résumé, which includes a list of publications, a detailed research plan, a statement of teaching philosophy, and a list of at least three persons who may be asked to write letters of recommendation, to Chair, Biological Physics Search Committee, Department of Physics, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Buffalo, NY 14260-1500 by the initial deadline date of December 1, 2004. Candidates are encouraged to submit applications electronically by e-mail to biophysics-search@physics.buffalo.edu (pdf format preferred). Applications from qualified members of protected groups are welcomed. The University at Buffalo is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Recruiter.

**The Hispanic Physicist.** Published whenever there is news and the editor has enough time. Send news, letters, congratulations, etc. to Jorge A. López, Physics Department, Univ. Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968, (915) 747-7538, [jorgelopez@utep.edu](mailto:jorgelopez@utep.edu), <http://physics.utep.edu/nshp/nshp.html>.