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LSU Computational Biologist Recognized Among Nation's Top Junior Faculty
(Source: LSU Office of Communications & University Relations) 07/10/2012

BATON ROUGE – Oak Ridge Associated Universities, a consortium of doctoral-granting academic institutions, announced that Assistant Professor Michal Brylinski of LSU's Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Computation and Technology, or CCT, is among the recipients of its annual Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award.

The Powe Award recognizes exceptional academic work by university junior faculty within several disciplines: engineering or applied science; life sciences; mathematics and computer science; physical sciences; and policy, management or education. The award confers a $5,000 grant, matched by the member institution, designed to enhance the recipient's professional growth in the early stages of his or her career.

"Recruitment and recognition of high achieving faculty are important in moving LSU to the top rank of America's research universities," said Kalliat T. Valsaraj, associate vice chancellor of LSU Office of Research & Economic Development. "The Ralph E. Powe award marks Dr. Brylinski as firmly in that category."

Brylinski conducts research in the area of computational biology at LSU. His group is interested in the development of novel tools for the modeling and analysis of biological networks using computational systems biology, with applications in emerging areas of contemporary life sciences such as the study of multiple drug-drug interactions and the development of more selective and safer therapeutics.

"As a consequence of major advances in genome sequencing technologies, many research projects are shifting from the study of single molecules to the proteome-wide investigation of molecular interactions and biological processes," Brylinski said.

"Because there is a large number of interacting molecules and the interaction patterns are highly complicated, the analysis of biological systems and their emergent properties is often strongly supported by computational approaches.

Brylinski hopes that the Ralph E. Powe award will help his group develop a research program at LSU focusing on the modeling of biological networks using structure-oriented approaches.
"We hope it will ultimately provide a very comprehensive picture of complex biological systems at the fundamental level of molecular interactions, with potentially important biomedical applications," said Brylinski.

As a 2012 Powe Award winner, Brylinski will also be developing a new course in computational biology that serves the missions of both the Department of Biological Sciences and the CCT to expand computational biology at LSU as an interdisciplinary and quickly developing area of modern biological research.

"Successful research in computational systems biology requires a hybrid environment at the interface of biological and computer sciences," Brylinski said. "I was very happy to join LSU with a joint appointment between the Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Computation & Technology. I found that both academic units provide an exciting and stimulating environment for researchers interested in computational life sciences and uniquely position research groups to approach problems that would be rather difficult to challenge in a more traditional setting. This really changes the way research projects are developed and accomplished."

Please Note:

- The LSU Center for Computation & Technology will host the LSU iOS App Boot Camp for its second year, July 30-August 10, 2012, (10 day camp; not including weekends), on the LSU Campus. NOW OPEN TO EVERYONE! This educational experience will offer LSU undergraduate students the opportunity to gain knowledge while enhancing their entrepreneurial spirit. Participants will work in groups to create their own functional iOS app and have it loaded on their personal device by end of camp. Post-camp programs to expand and hone new skills will also be available. Registration and more information can be found at: https://www.cct.lsu.edu/ios-abc

- The Virtual School of Computational Science and Engineering (VSCSE) is excited to announce three Summer School courses for 2012. The VSCSE provides courses and learning resources to help computational science students use emerging petascale computing resources to address real domain science problems. The summer courses for 2012 are:

  o Science Cloud Summer School (July 30 - August 3, 2012)--**located at LSU CCT

  o Proven Algorithmic Techniques for Many-core Processors (August 13 - 17, 2012)

  These courses will be delivered to a number of sites nationwide using high definition video conferencing technologies, allowing students to travel to a number of convenient locations where they will be able to work with a cohort of fellow computational scientists, have access to local experts and interact virtually with course instructors. Registration fees for these courses are $100* and help the host sites offset their hospitality and facility costs. Please visit http://www.vscse.org/summerschool/2012/ for more information and the full site list or http://hub.vscse.org to register today!

- Student Volunteer applications opened April 1, 2012 and will be available at the SC12 Submissions site: http://submissions.supercomputing.org/. Applications close on July 31, 2012. International attendees who will require a travel visa are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible. For more information on the Student Volunteer program and other student-related programs at SC12, visit: http://sc12.supercomputing.org/content/student-volunteers. Contact: student-vols@info.supercomputing.org

- Prior approval is required for Special Meal Requests. Employees who make meal purchases without prior approvals may find that they must cover the cost of any monies spent for an unapproved event out of pocket. Dine-in restaurant meals are not allowed on LaCarte credit cards. Please contact Susie McGlone (susie@cct.lsu.edu) prior to any special meal with visitor(s) to file the appropriate request for approval. Prior approval could take up to two weeks, so please plan accordingly.

- Please remember to send your news concerning grants, awards, conferences, or other pertinent information to CCT Event Coordinator Jennifer Fontenot at jennifer@cct.lsu.edu

- Follow CCT with social media to access photos and see news, events or updated information. These pages are public; you do not need an account to view the information.
  o Facebook group : LSU Center for Computation & Technology
  o Twitter : LSUCCT
  o YouTube channel : LSUCCT

Interest groups:

- MAG (Mobile App-Art-Action Group): Everyone interested in the potential for Mobile Apps is invited to come and add their vision for these revolutionary devices. For more information visit: http://www.cct.lsu.edu/MAG
  - Contact: Jesse Allison (jtallison@lsu.edu)

- GPU: meets weekly (Thursdays @ 12:30 pm in 338 Johnston) and encourages participation from anyone who would like to join in the discussions. Join the mailing list: lasigma-gpu@loni.org
  - Contact: Zhifeng Yun (zyun@cct.lsu.edu)

Upcoming events:
July 13: Lecture by Ed Seidel, 3PM in Life Sciences Annex Auditorium A101 "The Data and Compute-Driven Transformation of Modern Science"
July 17: Crazy Interdisciplinary Ideas Seminar Series – Ka-Ming Tam, 11:30 AM in 338 Johnston Hall (RSVP to Leanne@cct.lsu.edu if you intend to eat pizza)
July 30-August 3: Science Cloud Summer School
July 30- August 10: LSU iOS App Boot Camp

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