

About us:

Welcome to our lab in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Department of Applied Physics. We are developing innovative biophysical methods to study how cells send and receive signals. The group is highly inter- and multidisciplinary: current members have training in cell and molecular biology, chemical/mechanical/electrical engineering, physical chemistry, soft matter, biophysics and atomic physics. We also love doing collaborative work.

The functioning and success of our lab depends on a common sense of purpose. This statement was developed in collaboration between Prof. Prigozhin and all the group members in 2023. Its goal is not to be exhaustive, but to concisely capture our key values and motivations. This statement is a “living document” that is meant to be revised with time to take into consideration the diverse perspectives of all group members.

What motivates us:

Biological discoveries: We seek to discover and understand cellular processes in molecular detail. We strive to work on important problems and look for general rules that govern biological systems. Our science is driven by curiosity.

Tool development: We develop biophysical methods that would be broadly applicable, but also believe in the intrinsic value of advancing the craft of biophysical instrumentation and measurement. We like elegant approaches and don't shy away from challenging experiments.

Scientific training: As a lab, we collectively know a lot, but nobody is expected to be an expert in everything. We are continuously learning from each other and from our collaborators. We are generous with our time to help our colleagues acquire new skills and gain new knowledge.

Mentorship: We are committed to helping group members reach their full potential and advance their careers. We recognize that no single style of mentorship will be suitable for everyone, so we encourage pluralistic mentoring arrangements that serve a variety of needs.

Our values and expectations:

Diversity: We believe that diversity is a uniting force. Better scientific progress can be made in an inclusive environment. Our goal is to encourage all aspects of diversity with the conviction that it will enrich science in our laboratory and beyond.

Innovativeness and intellectual freedom: We listen to each other intently, with curiosity and an open mind. We think deeply about problems and try to come up with creative solutions. We communicate openly and frequently, generously sharing knowledge and ideas.

Integrity: We strive for the utmost scientific rigor. This includes putting our best foot forward to do the most careful science, honestly presenting results both when they make sense and when they don't, trusting and respecting each other.

Kindness: We strive to uphold a friendly and supportive lab dynamic. Science is hard and nobody's perfect. We support and encourage each other when the going gets tough. Understanding and forgiveness helps us get through difficult moments.

Policy on discrimination and harassment:

Every member of our group has a right to work in an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. We do not tolerate harassment of any sort, including sexist, racist or otherwise exclusionary comments or behavior. Discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race and religion are never appropriate. All communication, whether online or in person, should be appropriate for a professional audience.