

## Michael and Kate Barany Award for Young Investigators

Michael and Kate Barany have endowed the Young Investigator Award with a generous gift of \$25,000 to the Biophysical Society. This award is for an outstanding contribution in biophysics by a person who has not achieved the rank of full professor at the time of nomination.

The interest from the endowment will provide \$1,000 annually towards the award, which will be matched by the Society. The Society will administer the Award, receive nominations, and select the Awardee each year.

The Barany's gift celebrates their 50 years in muscle research during which they have made many contributions: through research into the biophysics, biochemistry, and physiology of muscle, through teaching, and by the inspiration of many young scientists, including their two sons George, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, and Francis, Professor of Microbiology at Cornell University Medical College. Throughout their careers, the Barany's have applied the most current biophysical and biochemical methods to the analysis of the contractile process and its regulation, at the molecular level in living muscles. They have boldly moved into new areas as the technology and methodology became available, allowing them further insights into contractile mechanism. Their enthusiasm, devotion, and insights into muscle contraction are well known and enjoyed by muscle researchers at the Biophysical Society Annual Meetings, regularly attended by the Barany's, who have been members since 1975.

The political and social turmoil of this century brought the Barany's together and carried them from Hungary, eventually to the United States, via the premier muscle research centers. Kate and Michael met in Budapest, survivors of the Holocaust. After the war, Michael worked at the Szent-Gyorgyi Institute, and then both of them worked at the Straub Institute in Budapest. There Michael worked on the bound ATP of actin and its possible hydrolysis in muscle, while Kate, a physicist, developed instrumentation for the analytical ultracentrifuge. The Barany family escaped from Hungary during the 1956 revolution by walking through the snow to Yugoslavia. As Jews, they could immediately

emigrate to Israel where Michael worked with Ephraim Katchalsky at the Weizmann Institute on the active sites of myosin. In 1958 they moved to the Weber Institute in Heidelberg, where Michael and Kate continued the work on myosin, and soon thereafter took positions at the newly-established Institute for Muscle Disease, in New York, supported by the Muscular Dystrophy Association. It was there that the Barany's carried out much of their classic work on actin and myosin in muscles, including proving that the myosin ATPase correlates with the speed of contraction of muscle. They remained in New York until the Institute closed in 1974, when they both were appointed as fac-

including teaching and committee work. Kate also became active in women's issues and was named "Woman of the Year" in 1996. Kate retired in 1998 while Michael continues working virtually full-time as Professor Emeritus.

We thank the Barany's for their generous endowment of the Young Investigator Award, and hope their careers and contributions will serve to inspire future young biophysicists. Three cheers to Michael and Kate!

—Sarah Hitchcock-DeGregori



Kate and Michael Barany

ulty at the University of Illinois at Chicago. There Michael and Kate moved into new areas including magnetic resonance spectroscopy of living muscle, the role of protein phosphorylation in striated and smooth muscle contraction, and the full array of academic responsibilities

### Reminder

Dues Notices were mailed in August, 1998.

Renew your 1999 membership early!

### Future Biophysical Society Meetings

**2000**

New Orleans, Louisiana  
February 12-16

**2001**

Boston, Massachusetts  
February 17-21

**2002**

San Francisco, California  
February 23-27