

CELLULAR BIOPHYSICS

(5 ECTS, 2nd semester)

Contents:

1. SELF-ORGANIZATION IN BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES
 - a. Self-assembly and self-organization. Active systems
 - b. Pattern formation. Turing mechanism
 - c. Excitability. Dynamics of cardiac tissue

2. MEMBRANES
 - a. Membrane physics
 - b. Biological membranes. Rafts. Active transport
 - c. Morphology and biological function. Vesiculation and tubulation

3. CYTOSKELETON AND CELL MECHANICS
 - a. Structure and physics of the cytoskeleton. Force generation and deformation
 - b. Intracellular traffic. Microtubule-mediated transport
 - c. Mechanics of cell division

4. CELL MOTILITY
 - a. Hydrodynamics of cell movements
 - b. Cilia and flagella
 - c. Actin-based motility

Bibliography:

- Dennis Bray, *Cell Movements: From Molecules to Motility*, Garland Publishing (1992)
- Jonathan Howard, *Mechanics of Motor Proteins and the Cytoskeleton*, Sinauer (2001)
- Ral Jones, *Soft Condensed Matter*, Oxford University Press (2002)
- Philip Nelson, *Física Biológica*, Reverte (2005)
- David Boal, *Mechanics of the Cell*, Cambridge University Press
- Alberts et al. *Molecular biology of the cell*, Garland Science (2002) 4th Edition