

# ANDREW M LEIFER, PHD

Lewis -Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics  
170 Carl C. Icahn Laboratory  
Princeton NJ 08544  
[leifer@princeton.edu](mailto:leifer@princeton.edu)

## EDUCATION

- 2011 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.  
*Ph.D. in Biophysics*  
*Advisor:* Prof. Aravinthan D. T. Samuel  
*Thesis:* Optogenetics and computer vision for *C. elegans* neuroscience and other biophysical applications
- 2007 Stanford University, Stanford, CA.  
*B.S. in Physics*  
*B.A. in Political Science*  
Interdisciplinary Honors in International Security Studies  
*Thesis:* International scientific engagement for mitigating emerging nuclear security threats

## AWARDS

- 2013 American Physical Society, Biological Physics Thesis Award, Certificate of Merit.
- 2012 Lewis-Sigler Fellow, Princeton University
- 2008 Derek C. Bok Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University.
- 2007 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- 2006 Leonard M. Rieser Fellowship in Science Technology and Global Security, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist.
- 2006 SPIE International Society for Optical Engineering Scholarship.
- 2006 American Institute of Physics, Society of Physics Students, Leadership Award.
- 2006 National Science Foundation , Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, two-time recipient.
- 2006 AAAS, Center for Science Technology and Security Policy, Intern of the Year Award.
- 2006 Harry Press Journalism Award, Stanford University.
- 2006 National Association of Rocketry Academic Scholarship four-time recipient.
- 2004 Boothe Prize for Excellence in Writing, Stanford University.
- 2003 Robert C. Byrd Academic Merit Scholarship.
- 2003 Dofflemyer Eagle Scout Scholarship.
- 2003 Awards for the author's independent research, "Fractals, Power-Laws and the Weibull Distribution: Mathematically Modeling Crumpled Paper"  
Karl Menger Award, American Mathematical Society.  
Naval Science Award from The Office of Naval Research, US Navy.

Third Place Team Project, Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2003.  
 First Place Team Project, Colorado Science and Engineering Fair.  
 Outstanding Achievement in Education, Scientific American.  
 2000 Golden State Governor's Scholarship, State of California.

#### EMPLOYMENT

2012-Present Lewis-Sigler Fellow & Lecturer of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton NJ.  
 2009-2012 Resident Tutor, Senior Staff, Lowell House, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA.  
 6-9/05, 6-9/06 JILA, National Institute of Standards and Technology at University of Colorado, Boulder.  
 3/06 – 6/06 Center for Science Technology and Security Policy, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington D.C.  
 2005-2007 Stanford Daily, Stanford CA.  
 6/04-9/04 Institute for Telecommunication Sciences at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Boulder, CO.  
 6/03-9/03 National Institute of Standards and Technology, US Dept. of Commerce, Boulder, CO.

#### TEACHING

Spring 2013 Lecturer for Integrated Science 233: “An Integrated Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences II”, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.  
 Guest lecturer, Biophysics 242R: “Biophysics, Brain and Behavior,” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.  
 Fall 2012 Lecturer for Integrated Science 231: “An Integrated Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences I”, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.  
 Spring 2008 Teaching Fellow for Molecular Cellular Biology 199: “Statistical Thermodynamics for Quantitative Biology”, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Jamie L. Donnelly, Christopher M. Clark, **Andrew M. Leifer**, Marian Haburacak, Jennifer K. Pirri, Michael M. Francis, Aravinthan D. T. Samuel, and Mark J. Alkema. “Monoaminergic orchestration of motorprograms in a complex behavior in *C. elegans*.” (under review).

Steven J. Husson, Alexander Gottschalk, **Andrew M. Leifer**, “Optogenetic manipulation of neural activity in *C. elegans*: from synapse to circuits and behavior” *invited review in Journal of Biology of the Cell* (under review).

Quan Wen, Michelle Po, Elizabeth Hulme, Sway Chen, Xinyu Liu, Sen Wai Kwok, Marc Gershow, **Andrew M. Leifer**, Victoria Butler, Christopher Fang-Yen, Taizo Kawano, William R. Schafer, George Whitesides, Matthieu Wyart, Dmitri Chklovskii, Mei Zhen, Aravinthan D Samuel, “Proprioceptive coupling within motor neurons drives *C. elegans* forward locomotion.” *Neuron*, 76, 750-761 (2012).

Chenxiang Lin, Ralf Jungmann, **Andrew M. Leifer**, Chao Li, Daniel Levner, Geroge M. Church, William M. Shih, Peng Yin. "Sub-micrometer geometrically encoded fluorescent barcodes self-assembled from DNA." *Nature Chemistry*, 4, 832–839 (2012).

**Andrew M. Leifer**, Christopher Fang-Yen, Marc Gershow, Mark Alkema, Aravinthan D.T. Samuel, "Optogenetic manipulation of neural activity in freely moving *Caenorhabditis elegans*," *Nature Methods*, 8, 147–152 (2011) .

Kevin J. Coakley, David S. Simons, **Andrew M. Leifer**. "Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry Measurements of Isotopic Ratios: Correction for Time Varying Count Rate." *International Journal of Mass Spectrometry*, 204, 107-120 (2005).

## TALKS

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Clark, Mark Alkema, Aravinthan D T Samuel, "Technology for manipulating and monitoring neural activity in *C. elegans* during mechanosensory induced escape response," *Dynamics of Prey Capture and Escape Conference*, Janelia Farms, Ashburn, VA, March 6-9, 2013 (scheduled, invited).

Andrew M. Leifer, "Two Optical neurophysiology instruments for manipulating and monitoring neural activity in *C. elegans* during motor sequence behaviors." *Optics & neurophototonics seminar*, INSERM, University Paris Descartes, Paris, France, June 8, 2012. (invited)

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Clark, Mason Klein, Mark J. Alkema, Aravinthan Samuel, "Two Optical neurophysiology instruments to perturb and observe neural activity in freely-moving *C. elegans*." *Neuronal Circuits Conference*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, March 28-31 2012.

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Clark, Quan Wen, Christopher Fang-Yen, Mark Alkema, Aravinthan Samuel, "Shining light on behavior: An optogenetic dissection of neural circuits in freely behaving *C. elegans*." *18th International C. elegans Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA, June 22 - June 26, 2011.

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Fang-Yen, Aravinthan D. T. Samuel, "A remote control for the *C. elegans* nervous system." *American Physical Society March Meeting 2010*, Portland, OR, March 15-19, 2010.

## POSTERS

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Clark, Mark Alkema, Aravinthan Samuel. "Technology for manipulating and monitoring neural activity in *C. elegans* during motor sequence behavior." *C. elegans Neurobiology*, EMBO, EMBL Advanced Training Centre, Heidelberg, Germany. June 14-17, 2012.

Andrew M. Lifer, Christopher Clark, Christopher Fang-Yen, Mark J. Alkema, Aravinthan D. T. Samuel. "Optogenetic investigation of the *C. elegans* mechanosensory circuit." *Synapses: From Molecules to Circuits & Behaviors*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, NY, April 12-16, 2011.

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Fang-Yen, Aravinthan D. T. Samuel, "Optogenetic manipulation of neural activity in freely moving *C. elegans*," National Institute of Health,

NIH Director's Pioneer Award Symposium, Bethesda, MD, September 30 – October 1, 2010.

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Fang-Yen, Marc Gershow, Aravinthan D. T. Samuel. "Spatiotemporal control of neural activity in freely behaving *C. elegans*," *Neuronal Development, Synaptic Function & Behavior C. elegans meeting*, Madison, WI, June 27- 30, 2010

Andrew M. Leifer, Christopher Fang-Yen, Marc Gershow, Aravinthan D. T. Samuel. "Spatiotemporal control of neural activity in freely behaving *C. elegans*," *Neuronal Circuits Meeting*, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, March 10-13, 2010

Andrew M. Leifer, William M. Shih, "Rigid Linear Nano-Actuator Self-Assembled from DNA." *Biophysical Society 53rd Annual Meeting*, Boston, MA, February 29- March 4, 2009.

Tobi A Szuts, Bitaliy Fedeyv, Andrew Leifer, Wladyslaw Dabrowsky, Naoshige Uchida, Alan Litke, Markus Meister, "Wireless Recording from the Cortex of a Freely Roaming Rat." *CoSyNe 09*. Salt Lake City, Utah. February 27, 2009.

Tobi Szuts, V Fadeyev, S Kachiguine, MI Grivich, A Sher, AM Leifer, N Uchida, AM Litcke, M Meister. "Wireless Recording from Freely Behaving Rat," *Using In Vivo Physiology to Understand Neural Circuits in Genetic Systems*. Janelia Farm, Virginia. April 20 - 23, 2008.

A. M. Leifer, D. G. Pothier, R. To. "Fractals, Power-Laws and the Weibull Distribution: Mathematically Modeling Crumpled Paper." *Intel International Science and Engineering Fair*. Cleveland, Ohio. May 15, 2003.

## SERVICE

Scientific content reviewer for peer-reviewed journals including: *PLoS One* and *JoVe*.

## PRIOR ACTIVITIES

President, Stanford Chapter, Society of Physics Students, Stanford, CA.

Undersecretary General, Stanford Model UN Conference, Stanford, CA.

Counselor, Camp Kesem, Stanford, CA.

Managing Editor, Fairview High School Newspaper, Boulder, CO.

Eagle Scout, Boy Scout Troop 273, Boulder, CO.

Last updated on January 29, 2013