

Computational Mechanics in Cell Biophysics: Membrane Dynamics and Euglenoid Motility

Marino Arroyo, Mohammad Rahimi and Daniel Millán

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Carrer Jordi Girona 1-3, Barcelona 08034, Spain
e-mail: marino.arroyo@upc.edu, web page: <http://www.lacan.upc.edu/>

ABSTRACT

The quantitative and detailed predictions granted by computational mechanics are a very useful complement to biophysical experiments. We will report on two examples in which continuum models and simulations have decisively contributed to understanding complex biological systems: the dynamical morphological changes of confined lipid bilayer membranes [1,2] and the motility strategy of the euglenoids [3], a family of microorganisms. In both applications, the modeling and simulations is motivated by experimental observations, and have implications in bio-engineering applications, and in the physical understanding of the biology of cells.

REFERENCES

- [1] M. Rahimi and M. Arroyo, “Shape dynamics, lipid hydrodynamics, and the complex viscoelasticity of bilayer membranes”, *Phys. Rev. E*, Vol 86, 011932 (2012).
- [2] M. Staykova, M. Arroyo, M. Rahimi and H.A. Stone, “Confined bilayers passively regulate shape and stress”, under review.
- [3] M. Arroyo, L. Heltai, D. Millán and A. DeSimone, “Reverse engineering the euglenoid movement”, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA (PNAS)*, in press.