Meet Our Editorial Board Member

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James R. Bamburg is an Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Colorado State University. He is also a member and former Director of the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Neuroscience Program, a founder of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program and a member of the School of Biomedical Engineering at Colorado State University as well as a member of the Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Denver. He received his Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin where he isolated and characterized several important hemorrhagic mycotoxins. He pursued postdoctoral training in Neuroscience, Genetics and Pharmacology at Stanford University before joining Colorado State University as an Assistant Professor. During his 5 sabbatical leaves, he was a Guggenheim Fellow at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, U.K., twice a Sr. International Fellow of the NIH Fogarty Center, once in London, U.K. at Kings College and again in Sydney, Australia at the Children's Medical Research Institute and the University of Sydney. He was twice became a Visiting Professor, once at the University of California San Diego and again at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California. He was also a summer William Evans Visiting Scholar at Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand. His research has been funded for over 44 years by the National Institutes of Health and by grants from many foundations and private agencies. He has served for many years on the editorial boards of *Biochemistry*, *Cytoskeleton*, and *Current Neuropharmacology*.

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In a search for actin regulatory proteins in neuronal growth cones, he discovered the first member of the ADF/cofilin family of proteins and has continued to study their activity and regulation in many different biological processes. To study actin-based processes in the cells, he developed the first fluorescence microscopy center at Colorado State University, which he helped develop into a university-wide foundational core of advanced microscopes accessible to all CSU researchers. His lab first demonstrated the phosphoregulation of ADF/cofilin, identified the phosphoregulatory site, the competition of ADF with muscle tropomyosin in binding F-actin, the cooperative binding of ADF to F-actin, ADF/cofilin regulation of myosin II contractility in cells, and with many collaborators, their role in all aspects of neuronal differentiation, growth cone motility, pathfinding, synaptogenesis and synaptic function. His current research is an outgrowth of a discovery made by his wife and research partner, Laurie S. Minamide, of rod-shaped bundles of cofilin-actin filaments (rods) that occur within neurites of stressed neurons. Rods have a transient neuroprotective effect but cause the loss of synapses distal to them. Rods are found in the brains of humans with several different neurological and/or neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer's disease and in many mouse models used for studying these disorders.

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