

**BIO FOR
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

Name: Robert T. Youker

Present Position: Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology

Organization: Western Carolina University

Chapter Affiliation: Western Carolina University

Biographical Information: Dr. Youker received his PhD in Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently assistant professor of molecular biology and director of the research microscopy core in the Biology Department at Western Carolina University.

Recently, his research has been focused on the role of protein dynamics in diverse cellular processes such as protein trafficking and signal transduction. Disruption of these processes in cells leads to devastating human diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis. He has employed state-of-the-art biophysical imaging techniques to study these processes at the molecular level.

Dr. Youker also has a long-standing interest in science outreach education and has been a participant in the School University Teacher Education Partnership (SUTEP) funded science outreach program at WCU. The outreach program provides educational support, through faculty mentors, to area high school Science Olympiad teams.

Dr. Youker has published 15 peer reviewed articles and one book chapter.