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General Physiology is the study of biological mechanisms through analytical investigations, which decipher the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying biological function at all levels of organization.

The mission of the *Journal of General Physiology* is to publish articles that elucidate important biological, chemical, or physical mechanisms of broad physiological significance.

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Cover picture: Logo for the 2010 SGP Symposium, "New optical methods in cell physiology." Please see abstracts to be presented at the meeting, in this issue (1a–15a).