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He has graduate 12 PhD students and 10 MS student and mentored over 100 undergraduate researchers. He is an advocate for hands-on and problem-based learning in engineering education. His lab researches novel methods for peripheral nerve stimulation and recording, peripheral nerve modulation of visceral organs, and methods for real-time control of electrophysiology experiments. Earlier in his career, he spent almost two decades studying of the neural control of breathing and synchronization in pattern-generating neural circuits. His research has been supported by NIH, NSF, and various foundations and companies. He is a recipient of the NSF CAREER Award and the James S. McDonnell Foundation 21st Century Scientist Award. Dr. Butera is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He currently serves as Vice-President for Publications for the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society.