

## BERKELEY LAB



# BioSci Communiqué

04.19.16

## Upcoming Events

Refer to the [Area Events Calendar](#) for more events, details, and up-to-date information.

### April 19

John Lawrence Seminar:  
*From Genome Partitioning to Cellular Rejuvenation: Unique Aspects of Gametogenesis* | Elçin Ünal, UC Berkeley | 4 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

### April 21

JGI-LBNL Lab Meeting: Iros Barozi and Jess Jarett present | 10:30 AM, Walnut Creek, Rm 100-149A | See [Area Events Calendar](#) for remote attendance.

DOE JGI Science & Technology Meeting: *ETOP Project: Development of Flow Sorting for Microbial Genome Discovery* | Gerrit van den Engh, Center for Marine Cytometry | 2 PM, Rm 100-149A

Synberc Expanding Potential Meet Up: [Gender Identity Workshop](#) | 5:30 - 7:30 PM, 240 Bechtel Hall, UC Berkeley

### April 22

[Earth Day](#): Lab Environmental Discovery Walk | Noon, walk starts behind GPL (B33) | [Registration](#) required

### April 26

John Lawrence Seminar:  
*Move Over, Mice: How the Fusion of Systems Biology with Organs-on-Chips May Humanize Drug Development* | Linda Griffith, Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 4 PM,

## News Roundup

- Mapping a Path to Improved Cassava Production >>
- Visualizing Transporter Structure Creates Platform for Antidepressant Drug Design >>
- ESOC Welcomes French Synthetic Biology Delegation >>
- Tracking the Onset of Alzheimer's >>
- Dangers of Thirdhand Smoke Uncovered >>
- Doudna Awarded \$1.5 Million from The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group >>

More news on the Biosciences Area [website](#).



## Area News

### JGI Director Search

The search committee for the JGI Director conducted its first meeting on April 7, where ALD Jay Keasling shared the names of the many suggested candidates submitted by members of the JGI user community and outlined the desired criteria for the new director. The search committee worked to refine the job description for posting in high-profile science and technology journals as well as on strategic recruitment sites. The committee is scheduled to meet again before the end of April.

### AAAS Policy Forum

During the [AAAS Policy Forum](#) held April 14 - 15, Mary Maxon, a member of the AAAS Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy ([COSSPP](#)), moderated a roundtable session aimed to generate science and technology policy recommendations for the transition team of the next President of the United States.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz gave a keynote address at the

Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

#### April 27

Area Brown Bag on Program Development and Funding: Entrepreneurship Module @ UHOO | Noon, Rm 33-106

#### April 28

[April is Earth Month Fair:](#)

Safety, Security, and Sustainability | Lunch time, Lab cafeteria parking lot

Area Brown Bag on Program Development Funding: Entrepreneurship Module @ Aquatic Park | 12:30 PM, Rm 977-141

#### April 29

BSE Division Seminar: *Unraveling Plant Sugar Biosynthesis and Assembly* | Jenny Mortimer, JBEI | Noon, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

## Events Highlights

### Program Development Brown Bags: Entrepreneurship Module

The Area brown bags of the series on program development and funding that will focus on entrepreneurship are scheduled: April 27, noon (UHOO, Rm 33-106); April 28, 12:30 PM (Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141); June 7, noon (Walnut Creek, Rm 310-345); Emery Station TBD. Refer to the [Area Events Calendar](#) for up-to-date schedule.

Peter Bluford and Michelle Wong of the Lab's Innovation and Partnerships Office (IPO), together with Biosciences' Mary Maxon and Katy Christiansen, will discuss corporate sponsored R&D, startups, the invention process, how to find your value proposition, and more. All staff are encouraged to attend and participate.

Forum and devoted his presentation to describing the value of the DOE National Laboratories to the US research enterprise. Moniz described the role of two recent committee reports (by the [Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories](#) and the [Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board Task Force on DOE National Laboratories](#)) in transitioning the national laboratory network toward a role in setting strategy for national-scale science and technology challenges, in addition to implementing strategies set by DOE. He described the upcoming Big Ideas Summit as a key mechanism for addressing long-term problems of great scale and importance, and emphasized that the national laboratories are a network aimed to bring large teams together, "not individual competitors." Moniz encouraged the audience to attend the April 20 National Laboratory Day on Capitol Hill to learn more about the national laboratories, "what they are and what they do."

### Biosciences Researchers Join BLPA Board

On April 5, the newly launched Berkeley Lab Postdoc Association (BLPA) nominated and officially [appointed](#) inaugural board members. JGI's Cameron Coates and Valentine Trotter of the Environmental Genomics & Systems Biology Division were appointed co-chairs; Cameron will also co-chair the Sports & Activities Committee. Visit the BLPA [website](#) or check out the BLPA [Facebook page](#).

### LDRD Review Schedule Change



The Biosciences review of "Area/Divisional" LDRD proposals will be held on May 2 (changed from April 21). This is a full-day review for the management team; presenters have received an invitation to sign up for a 15-minute slot. The Biosciences "Lab Initiative" LDRD proposals review took place on April 13. The revised schedule can be found on the [Area](#)

[website](#).

### Implementation of BioHR@lbl.gov

A new Human Resources (HR) email alias, BioHR@lbl.gov, has been implemented for the Biosciences Divisions, User Facility, and Operations Centers. The new alias, intended to be a more effective method of tracking, processing, and managing HR actions, will replace the division aliases currently being used. All staff are encouraged to begin using BioHR@lbl.gov for all routine HR action requests and questions.

## Programs & Initiatives

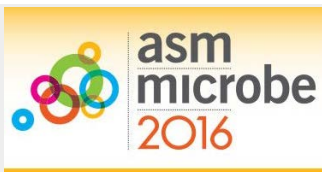
### New Partnerships for ABPDU

The Advanced Biofuels Process Demonstration Unit ([ABPDU](#)) has entered into Federal Strategic Partnership Program [agreements](#) with three new companies to develop and scale up processes in renewable chemical production ([Ardra Bio](#)), sustainable food product development ([Hampton Creek](#)), and biobased chemical production ([Ginkgo Bioworks](#)).



### FutureBio

On April 14, Biosciences hosted the leads of prospective [FutureBio](#) institutional partners from Sandia National Laboratory, Pacific



**ASM Microbe 2016 Workshops**

Planning to attend [ASM Microbe 2016](#) on June 16–20 or know someone who will likely be there? Help spread the word that JGI and KBase are hosting concurrent workshops for honing genome data analysis/management skills on June 16, 8:15 AM - 4:15 PM. They are: "[Mining Microbial Genomes and Metagenomes for Biotechnological Applications](#)" (JGI); and "[Genome-scale Metabolic Modeling of Environmental Isolates and Communities using the DOE Systems Biology Knowledgebase \(KBase\)](#)." The registration deadline for workshops is Thursday, April 21.

**Synberc Expanding Potential Meet Up: Gender Identity Workshop**

Billy Curtis of UC Berkeley's [Gender Equity Resource Center](#) will present on foundational concepts and critical information about gender identity and trans-related issues, which will allow for better integration of trans-inclusive practices into work practices and the work environment. The workshop is scheduled on April 21, 5:30 - 7:30 PM at 240 Bechtel Hall, UC Berkeley.

For more information about Synberc's Expanding Potential: Diversity in STEM Meet Ups, visit [here](#).

Northwest National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, UC San Francisco, UC Davis, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. They discussed FutureBio Institute governance, opportunities, intellectual property, and next steps for the realization of the Institute.

**Director's Awards Program**

**Call for Nominations**

The Berkeley Lab Director's Awards program recognizes significant achievements of Lab employees. Each year, awards are given for accomplishments, leadership, collaboration, multi-disciplinary science, cross-divisional projects, and commitment to excellence in support of the Lab's mission and strategic goals. Any Lab employee may submit a nomination for the program's Director's Awards for Exceptional Achievement and The Berkeley Lab Prize – Lifetime Achievement. Go [here](#) for nomination forms and eligibility criteria. Submissions are due by Friday, May 6.



Laureates of the 2015 Director's Awards for Exceptional Achievement include Eleanor Blakely, Sarah Richardson, and Corinne Scown of the Biological Systems & Engineering (BSE) Division. Ken Downing of the Molecular Biophysics & Integrated Bioimaging Division received a 2015 Lab Lifetime Achievement Award.

**@LBNLBioSci Twitter Highlight**

One of our top tweets this month highlighted JBEI scientist Ee-Been Goh, who was the subject of a recent [feature story](#).

Follow [@LBNLBioSci](#) to keep up with the latest on the Biosciences Area! You can contribute content for our Twitter account by emailing [biosci\\_comms@lbl.gov](mailto:biosci_comms@lbl.gov).



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