

BERKELEY LAB



BioSci Communiqué

04.05.16

Upcoming Events

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

April 5

John Lawrence Seminar: *A Systemic Approach for Rejuvenating the Aging Brain* | Saul Villeda, University of California, San Francisco | 4 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

April 6

JBEI Seminar: *13C Flux Analysis as a Tool for Debottlenecking Metabolic Pathways* | Jamey D. Young, Vanderbilt University | Noon, Emery Station, Rm 978-4132 & 4134

April 7

JGI-LBNL Lab Meeting: Diane Dickel, Andy Tomatsu, and Christine Shulse present | 10:30 AM, Walnut Creek, Rm 100-149A | See [Area Events Calendar](#) for remote attendance.

Course: *Intro to Relational and Non-Relational Databases for Researchers* | 10 AM - 4 PM, Rm 54-130 | Get more [information](#) and [register](#).

April 12

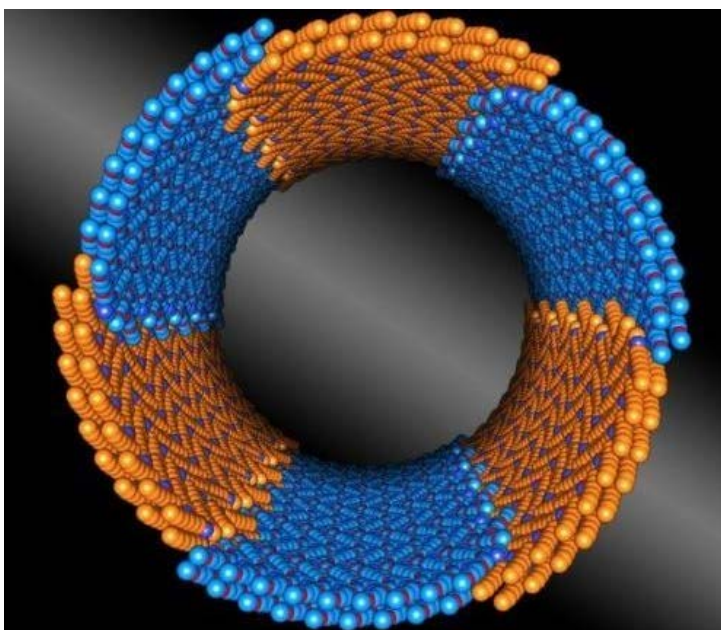
April [BLIC Meeting](#): *Navigating Conflict of Interest* | Noon, Rm 54-130

John Lawrence Seminar: *The Human Breast Microbiome* | Delphine J. Lee, John Wayne Cancer Institute | 4 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

News Roundup

- How Many Synthetic Genes Does it Take to Sustain Life? [>>](#)
- DOE Hosts #WomenInSTEM Twitter Chat Across National Labs [>>](#)
- Proving the Genetic Code's Flexibility [>>](#)
- From Near-Dropout to PhD, JBEI Scientist Now at Forefront of Biofuels Revolution [>>](#)
- Nature-Inspired Nanotubes That Assemble Themselves, With Precision [>>](#)
- JBEI Releases Video Series "Bioenergy Research @ JBEI" [>>](#)
- Unlocking the Secrets of Gene Expression [>>](#)
- Doudna Receives Canada's Gairdner Award as CRISPR Sweeps Field [>>](#)

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



Message from the ALD

After considering several nominations for the JGI Director search committee, I finalized the list of candidate members based on diversity of technical expertise (microbiology, plant science, systems biology, computing), roles, partner institutions, gender, and affiliation (inside versus outside Berkeley Lab). The search committee members, who will meet primarily by videoconference given geographical distribution, are:

April 13-14

Workshop on *Improving Data Management for Bioinformatics*, the latest in a series called "CrossConnects," run by the Lab's Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) | @ LBNL | Get more [information](#) and [register](#).

April 15

BSE Seminar @ JBEI: Andrew Wyrobek presents | Noon, Emery Station, Rm 978-4132 & 4134

April 19

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

Area Program Development Brown Bags

Entrepreneurship Module

The Biosciences Area is excited to offer its third brown bag of the series on program development and funding, which will focus on entrepreneurship. Peter Bluford and Michelle Wong of the Lab's Innovation and Partnerships Office, 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. Dates and locations will be announced soon and posted on the [Area Events Calendar](#).

Events Highlights

April is Earth Month!

To celebrate, join in an environmental discovery walk

Adam Arkin (LBNL, KBase partner), Robin Buell (Michigan State, JGI user), Allison Campbell (PNNL, EMSL partner), Jeff Dangl (UNC Chapel Hill, JGI Scientific Advisory Board member), Jonathan Eisen (UC Davis, JGI user), Kjersten Fagnan (LBNL, NERSC partner), Mary Firestone (UCB, JGI user), Jeff Kim (Radiant Genomics, industry affiliate), Glenn Kubiak (LBNL, JGI SAC member), Mary Maxon (LBNL, Ex Officio), Rick Myers (HudsonAlpha, HudsonAlpha partner).

On March 22, Susan Hubbard and I presented "grand challenge" ideas at the request of DOE's Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee (BERAC), who asked the DOE National Labs to participate in the update of their 2010 document, "[Grand Challenges for Biological and Environmental Research: A Long-Term Vision](#)." The three biosciences "grand challenges" we presented were: predictive integrative genomics; biofoundry-enabled discovery science; and microbial communities-harnessing for environment and energy benefits. The agenda for the BERAC meeting is [here](#).

On March 30 and 31, members of the Biosciences leadership team and I participated in the 2016 Director's Retreat. The retreat was a terrific way to begin to see how Laboratory Director Mike Witherell is thinking about the future of Berkeley Lab. Mike requested presentations from Biosciences leaders on a variety of topics: Blake Simmons, [FutureBio](#) ("Big Idea" to be presented later this month to DOE); Paul Adams, Cryo-EM as a strategic opportunity for Berkeley Lab; Trent Northen (with Peter Nico), Microbes to Biomes update; and Mary Maxon, Biosciences strategic planning and implementation. In all, there were over two dozen presentations, including Ivy Clift, Berkeley Lab Foundation update; Meredith Murr (UC Santa Barbara), Early career scientist development; and Vera Potapenko, Berkeley Lab diversity accomplishments and goals.

The Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB), which was established by President Obama with [Executive Order 13676](#), held its second meeting on March 30 and 31 in Washington, D.C. The Biosciences Area submitted a [public comment](#) in advance of the meeting that encourages PACCARB to leverage the DOE National Laboratories in the response described in the [National Action Plan for Combating Anti-Bacterial Resistance](#). More information about PACCARB and the recent meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Regards,
Jay Keasling

Area News

Area Leadership Meets Lab Director

Laboratory Director Mike Witherell had a two-hour meeting with the Biosciences Area leadership on March 29 where the ALD and Directors presented overviews with major goals, initiatives and programs, strengths, and challenges. The Biosciences leadership team requested advocacy support from the Lab leadership to realize the vision of the Biosciences Area Campus and co-localize the entire Biosciences Area for greater scientific discovery and responsiveness to industry needs.

Axel Visel Tapped as JGI Interim Director

around the Lab, learn about California's water and energy resources, and find out how to dispose of your most challenging waste items. Each week of April features a themed Earth Day event (waste, water, energy, safety). Visit the Sustainable Berkeley Lab's [Earth Month calendar](#) and participate!



Intro to Databases for Researchers Course Offered

IT will offer a daylong class, "Intro to Relational and Non-Relational Databases for Researchers," on April 7. This hands-on class will be taught by Greg Wilson (Software Carpentry) and Donny Winston (Berkeley Lab). Topics include creating and using relational databases and newer non-relational alternatives. April 7, 10 AM - 4 PM, Rm 54-130. Get more [information](#) and [register](#) for the course.

April BLIC Meeting: Navigating Conflict of Interest

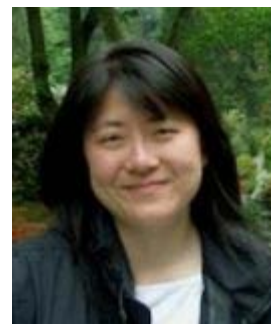
Want to consult for an outside entity or start a company to license and develop your Lab technology? Do you have financial interest in a company that could work with the Lab? The next Berkeley Lab Innovation Core ([BLIC](#)) meeting addresses these and other conflict of interest (COI) issues. Molly Stoufer, the Lab's Requirements Program Manager and COI Coordinator, and Innovation and Partnerships Office staff will lead the discussion and answer questions. April 12, noon - 1 PM, Rm 54-130.



After it was announced recently that JGI Director Eddy Rubin would be stepping down from his post, Jay Keasling has since tapped [Axel Visel](#) (pictured) to serve in that role effective immediately up to the time that the new JGI Director is on board. Axel, a senior scientist and JGI Deputy Director of Science Programs, is an 11-year veteran of Berkeley Lab. Meanwhile, the JGI Director [position](#) has been posted. Help get the word out about this great opportunity to lead the JGI.

Meet Science Writer Sarah Yang

Sarah Yang, who recently [joined](#) the Lab's Public Affairs office, will be covering biosciences, biofuels and chemical sciences. Sarah (pictured) was a science writer at UC Berkeley's Public Affairs Office for 14 years. As part of the media relations team there, she covered research news from the College of Engineering, the College of Natural Resources, the School of Public Health, and more.



If you have story ideas or newsworthy papers that have been accepted in journals, please contact bioscicomms@lbl.gov in advance and a Biosciences communicator will follow up with you to determine the next step, possibly working with Sarah.

Leadership Changes

Effective April 1, Kjersten Fagnan [became](#) a member of the JGI senior management team as Chief Informatics Officer (CIO), a position that has been held by Dan Rokhsar since 2012. In addition to her new duties as the JGI CIO, Kjersten will also continue to serve in her role as the NERSC Data Science Group Lead, while Dan will continue in his position at the JGI as the Eukaryotic Super Program Lead.

Aymerick Eudes has taken on the role of Deputy Director of Cell Wall Engineering in JBEI's Feedstocks Division, starting April 1. Dominique Loque remains Director of the group.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Matchmaker Courts NIH Rejects

The new Online Partnership to Accelerate Research (OnPAR), a collaboration between NIH and the defense, engineering, and health contractor [Leidos](#), lets researchers upload rejected NIH proposals to an online portal where potential funders can review the scores received from reviewers and decide whether to put up cash. The program, launched as a small pilot at the beginning of March with the participation of seven nonprofit disease foundations is likely to receive a warm welcome by the research community, according to the March 23 *Science* [article](#), "New funding matchmaker will cater to NIH rejects." Contact [Blake Simmons](#) or [Ivy Clift](#) if interested in this opportunity.



Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Employees are invited to bring a youngster, be it a family member, relative, or friend, to the Lab for Daughters and Sons to Work Day (DSTW) on April 21. DSTW is open to children ages 9 to 16 and costs \$30 per child. Go [here](#) to see a schedule of events, register, or sign up as a volunteer.

DOE Hosts STEM Mentoring Café at Chabot Space & Science

This program is an interagency effort to engage middle school students in STEM and their teachers with federal STEM professionals, through speed mentoring sessions. Lab volunteers are sought to serve as mentors at the April 20 [event](#).

BETO Industrial Seedlings Call

EERE's Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) has launched a Technology-To-Market [Laboratory Call for Proposals](#) for the purpose of fostering stronger partnerships between DOE National Laboratories and high impact bioenergy small businesses. Laboratory POC registration for "Enabling Lab-Small Business Partnerships: 'BETO Industrial Seedlings'" is due Friday, April 15.

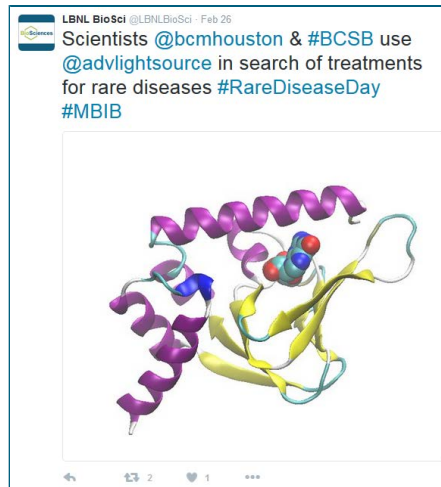
BRC FOA Released

A new funding opportunity [announcement](#) was issued by the DOE Office of Science for the Bioenergy Research Centers (BRC). The call invites proposals for the creation of integrated research efforts for the development of advanced biofuels and bioproducts derived from renewable lignocellulosic feedstocks. The pre-application due date is Friday, June 17.

@LBNLBioSci Twitter Highlight

Our tweets are getting noticed! One of our top tweets last month highlighted work that was done by scientists from Baylor College of Medicine at the Berkeley Center for Structural Biology.

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



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