

BERKELEY LAB



BioSci Communiqué

05.03.16

Upcoming Events

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

May 3

John Lawrence Seminar: *Predicting and Preventing Drug Metabolism by the Human Gut Microbiome* | Peter Turnbaugh, UC San Francisco | 4 - 5 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

May 4

JBEI Seminar: *Towards Whole-cell Models of Complex Organisms* | Markus Covert, Stanford University | Noon - 1 PM, Emery Station, Rm 978-4132 & 4134

Early Career Scientists Society (ECSS) Seminar: Alex Davies (Bissell Lab) and Penny Meng (Yaswen Lab) present | Noon - 1 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

May 5

ECSS Imaging Tools for Biologists Seminar | *Advancing AFM for Cell Biology: From High-Resolution Imaging to Quantitative Nanomechanical Property Mapping of Living Cells* | Marcin Walkiewicz, Bruker AFM | 4 - 5 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

May 11

BioEPIC Seminar | *Microbial Ecology in the Genomics Era: Challenges and Opportunities* | Jizhong (Joe) Zhou, University of Oklahoma | Noon - 1:30 PM, B66 Auditorium

John Lawrence Seminar:

News Roundup

- Refining the Origins of Wood-rotting Mechanisms >>
- JBEI Highlights Commercialization Success on Capitol Hill >>
- Biosciences Co-hosts STEM Career Awareness Day >>
- JBEI Participates at National Lab Science Day on Capitol Hill >>
- Biosciences Scientists Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences >>

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



Message from the ALD

On April 21 & 22, I attended the DOE Big Ideas Summit for the first time and saw how DOE is bringing together its national laboratories to develop long-term strategies to address national-scale "big ideas" that require collaboration across the basic and applied research offices of the agency. Blake Simmons presented the multi-laboratory BioFoundry Big Idea, which was very well received, as measured by positive comments made by Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)'s Tom Kalil and DOE's Cherry Murray at the Summit.

The Biosciences Campus project continues to move in positive directions. Site preparations are set to begin soon for the next two buildings, BioEPIC and the first phase of the Biofuels and Bioproducts Research Center (BBRC A), and we've asked Area safety coordinator Ben Sandmann to serve as the long-term Biosciences Liaison to Facilities starting next month. In my efforts to secure funding for BBRC A, I engaged in a supportive conversation on April 29 with a staff member from the Governor's office, and on the same day met with a key appropriations Assemblymember who

Quantitative Correlative Light and Electron Microscopies | Dorit Hanein, Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute | 4 - 5 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

May 16

Enabling Inclusion Through Mindfulness | Peter Weng, Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute ([SIYLI](#)) | Noon - 1 PM, B50 Auditorium | [Live streaming](#) | [Sponsor](#): Berkeley Lab's Diversity and Inclusion Council

May 17

John Lawrence Seminar: *Genomes as Indicators of Environmental Stress* | Joseph Shaw, Indiana University | 4 - 5 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

May 18

DOE JGI Safety & Wellness Fair | Noon - 2 PM, JGI Courtyard, Walnut Creek | [Contact](#) Christine Naca

May 24

John Lawrence Seminar: *Organoid Modeling of Cancer* | Calvin Kuo, Stanford University School of Medicine | 4 - 5 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

May 26

Area Brown Bag on Program Development and Funding: Entrepreneurship Module @ Emery Station | 12:30 - 1:30 PM, Rm 978-4132 & 4134

May 27

BSE Division Seminar @ Aquatic Park: Ning Sun presents | Noon - 1 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

Events Highlights

Program Development Brown Bags: Entrepreneurship Module

The Biosciences Area held the first two brown bags of the Entrepreneurship Module at UHOO and Aquatic Park last

has interests in understanding how biomanufacturing advances could lead to reductions in California greenhouse gas emissions and could drive our state's future bioeconomy.

Continuing our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are reviewing our Area practices and policies broadly in an effort to identify opportunities for improvement across the Area.

Our program development activities are ramping up - with the recent arrival of Alicia Yeh and the rolling out of the Entrepreneurship/Industry program development module last week - and we'll be initiating the process to prioritize new projects for Area program development with the division directors next month.

Finally, I'd like to commend the Biosciences Communications Council for its great start since we reorganized the Area. Their efforts are reflected in the steadily improving functionality and content of the Biosciences website as well as the positive metrics for website traffic, *BioSci Communique* readers, and Twitter followers. These results indicate that the Council is a valuable component of the Biosciences team. As the *BioSci Communique* pilot draws to a close, I'm pleased to announce that this key form of communication will continue as a monthly newsletter for the Area with the next edition coming out on Wednesday, June 1.

Regards,
Jay Keasling

Area News

Lab Employee Survey Results

The Lab 2016 Employee Survey launched earlier this year received a 71% response rate from career and term employees and faculty Lab-wide. Biosciences tracked very closely with the Lab-wide results, which indicate that many Biosciences employees feel very positively about the safety practices and culture at the Lab, and take great pride in the Lab's reputation and quality of the work being done. Challenges include having enough staff to get all of the work done, satisfaction with pay, and receiving regular feedback from supervisors. The 2016 Employee Survey - Laboratory Aggregate Report and supporting information can be found [here](#).



2016 Lab Performance Review

As shared by Jay Keasling with Biosciences staff, the 2016 Berkeley Lab Performance Review process has officially begun. Read his May 2 [announcement](#).

Safety Walk-throughs

Biosciences division directors have started conducting their safety walk-throughs in their respective division lab spaces. Area safety coordinators Ben Sandmann and Shraddha Ravani will be contacting principal investigators/lab managers to schedule a walk-through in each Area lab space.

week. Feedback from these brown bags will be incorporated in the upcoming sessions on May 26, 12:30 PM (Emery Station, Rm 4132 & 4134); and June 7, noon (Walnut Creek, Rm 310-345). Refer to the [Area Events Calendar](#) for up-to-date schedule.

JGI's 10th Annual Safety & Wellness Fair

The JGI Safety & Wellness (SWELL) Team, a group of employees led by Christine Naca who have been promoting an expanded safety culture that includes wellness and sustainability as a goal for healthy living, are once again organizing the [annual](#) Safety & Wellness Fair. The event will be held in the JGI courtyard, May 18, from noon to 2 PM. [Contact](#) Christine Naca. Biosciences staff participation is encouraged.

Plant Genome Engineering Symposium

UC Berkeley's Plant Genome Engineering Symposium (PGES) will be held from 9 AM to 6 PM on May 31, at the Li Ka Shing Center in Berkeley. PGES aims to expand and enrich the available knowledge about the potential for genetic engineering and modification in plant systems. Space is limited; please [register](#) now to attend.



NIH Image Gallery Seeks Images

The NIH is currently hosting a call for images of NIH-funded research. Selected images will

Division/User Facility News

EGSB Hosts PI Retreat

On April 22, the Environmental Genomics & Systems Biology (EGSB) Division hosted a half-day PI retreat that filled the building 15 seminar room. Through group discussions and breakout working groups, four ideas for future program development were identified and refined: Energy Optimized Agriculture 2100; The Functionator (predictive models of organisms for engineering of industrial, natural and anthropogenically perturbed ecosystems); phage engineering for selective manipulation of microbial communities impacting plant health; and Engineering Microbiomes. Working groups are forming to continue the work of fully defining and developing these ideas.

EGSB Scientists Introduce EcoTox Initiative

Ben Brown co-organized the 26th [Annual Meeting](#) of the Northern California Regional Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry ([SETAC](#)) called "Environmental Justice: Bridging the Gap between Environmental Science and Social Issues," in Oakland on April 26 - 27. At the meeting, Ben and Sue Celniker, both of the EGSB Division, discussed the Berkeley Lab's EcoTox initiative with representatives from California EPA, USDA, USGS, UC Davis, and other institutes. EcoTox is an initiative to elucidate the effects of anthropogenic change on ecosystem dynamics -- to develop sustainable solutions to energy and environmental challenges through the construction of mechanistic models at ecological scales. EcoTox is the Berkeley Lab component of the Consortium for Environmental Omics and Toxicology (CEOT), a global science initiative that promises to transform environmental and human health protection.

Fast-framing Detector for Gemini Beamline

The [Berkeley Center for Structural Biology](#) (BCSB), through Paul Adams, was awarded an NIH High-End Instrumentation grant for \$989,500. For over ten years, the BCSB has operated five protein crystallography beamlines at the Advanced Light Source where it provides outstanding service to crystallographers around the world, enabling structure solution on complex biological systems. The funds will be used to purchase a new fast-framing detector for the [forthcoming Gemini beamline](#).



JGI Hosts First Plant-Microbe Interaction Symposium

On April 15, JGI hosted its first Plant-Microbe Interaction Symposium with 40 scientists from around the Bay Area participating. Talks and posters spanned a broad range of topics, including symbiotic relationships with a focus on plant chemistry, plant pathogenicity in roots and shoots, ecological impact assessment of plant-microbe interactions, and research related to biofuel improvement. Also, current and future opportunities of cross-institutional collaboration were discussed. Due to the success of this program, JGI plans to make this an annual event. Download the [agenda](#) and [poster list](#).

JGI Represented at the Lab Safety, Security and Sustainability Fair

JGI had a highly-visible presence at the Berkeley Lab Safety, Security and Sustainability Fair held April 28, which had over 400 attendees. Stephen Franaszek and Terri Bartolome represented the JGI Safety Program, Christine Naca spoke

be posted on the official [NIH Image Gallery on Flickr](#). The gallery is a resource for the media, educational institutions, and the public, with images posted being free to use with credit. The image call is open through Monday, May 16. Rules and criteria can be found [here](#); [contact](#) for questions.

@LBNLBioSci Twitter Highlight



JBEI's recently released inspirational video promoting diversity in STEM was a natural choice for our #MondayMotivation tweet! Follow [@LBNLBioSci](#) to keep up with the latest from the Biosciences Area. Feel free to suggest or contribute content for our Twitter account by emailing bioscicomms@lbl.gov.

for the Safety & Wellness (SWELL) Team, Angie Kollmer appeared on behalf of the Emergency Response Team, and [Tootie Tatum](#) (pictured) brought her FEMA-certified search and rescue dog Moose.



JGI Joins First California STEM Mentoring Cafe

Christine Naca and Christine Shulse represented JGI on April 20 at the [DOE STEM Mentoring Cafe](#), the first of its kind in California. The event took place at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland.

Innovation and Partnerships Office (IPO)

ImaBiotech Licences OpenMSI

ImaBiotech has licensed Berkeley Lab's [OpenMSI](#) technology, as announced in their April 14 [press release](#). ImaBiotech, a contract research organization (CRO) company that develops and offers mass spectrometry imaging (MSI) services, applications, and software, plans to use OpenMSI to support its Multimaging™ technology, which accelerates drug pharmacokinetic, pharmacology, toxicology and formulation evaluation. OpenMSI project leaders are Ben Bowen (pictured) of the Environmental Genomics & Systems Biology Division and Oliver Rubel of [NERSC](#).



NSF I-Corps Program Summer Session

Berkeley Lab researchers with NSF-funded technology or research are eligible to apply for the six-week NSF I-Corps Program summer session. Applications are due Wednesday, June 1. [Contact](#) Robin Johnston before applying. For dates and other details, go [here](#).



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