

The internal monthly newsletter for Biosciences at Berkeley Lab.

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BERKELEY LAB



BioSci Communiqué

10.05.16

Events Highlights

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

Area-wide Seminars Kick-off

The John Lawrence Seminar Series in Biosciences will begin later this month. The Area-wide seminars are held on Tuesdays at 4 PM at alternating locations. Exceptions to date and time may occur to accommodate out-of-town presenters. Be sure to look out for the announcements and check the [Area events calendar](#).

LabTech 2016

Berkeley Lab's fifth annual "all things computing" conference created by and for Berkeley Lab staff, will be held on October 11. From high performance computing to scientific software to business applications, this event will feature something of interest whether you're on the research, research-support, or operations side of the Lab. The event is free (and even includes lunch, snacks, and a social hour), but registration is required via the [event website](#).

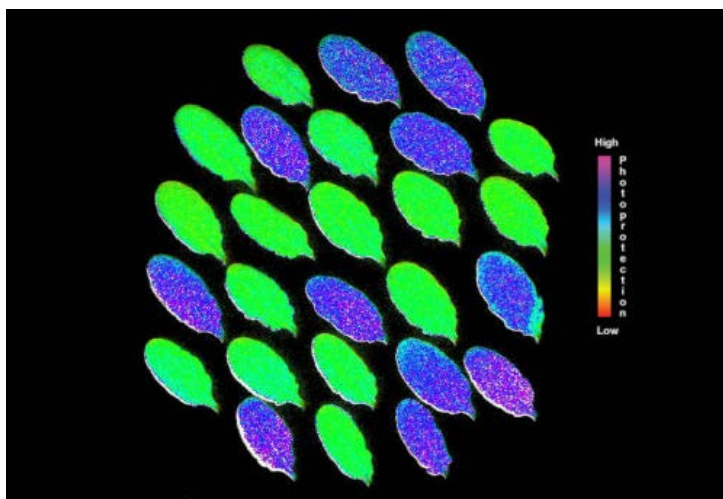
October BLIC Expert Speaker Event

Learn how customer interviews can make your research program more impactful and help grow funding, even if you don't want to start a company, at the next Berkeley Lab Innovation Corps ([BLIC](#)) expert speaker

News Roundup

- For Normal Heart Function, Look Beyond the Genes [>>](#)
- Nobel Prize Winner, World-Class Biophysicist to Join Biosciences [>>](#)
- BRAIN Neuro-Workshop Report Now Available [>>](#)
- Eva Nogales Named ASCB 2016 Porter Lecturer [>>](#)
- JBEI Featured in Biotech Curriculum [>>](#)
- Queensland Minister for State Development Visits JBEI [>>](#)
- X-rays Reveal New Path In Battle Against Mosquito-borne Illness [>>](#)
- Modeling Microbial Networks in an Oxygen Minimum Zone [>>](#)
- Let There Be (More) Light [>>](#)
- Scientists Find New Way to Manipulate Size of Virus-Like Particles [>>](#)

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



Message from the ALD

The Berkeley Lab Advisory Board meeting was held on Monday, October 3, and Mike Witherell asked that the Biosciences Area presentations focus on the Agile BioFoundry, which Blake Simmons presented, and the plans for the next phase of JBEI, which I presented.

The JBEI renewal proposal (~1000 pages with appendices!) was submitted in the very early morning of September 30, and was a tremendous effort over many months by many people to describe our plans to make bioproducts a reality while reducing the impact of

event October 18, 4:30 - 5:30 PM, Rm. 15-253. The speaker will be Todd Morrill, Faculty Director and Instructor for Bay Area NSF Innovation Corps. Biosciences' Katy Christiansen and Peter Frischmann of Material Sciences will share their customer discovery experiences and outcomes as well. Refreshments will be served.

Program Development Pilot

The first two installments in the second round of Biosciences Area program development brown bags are complete. Module #3 sessions focusing on Entrepreneurship and Corporate-Sponsored Research are offered this month. Peter Bluford, Michelle Wong, Mary Maxon, and Katy Christiansen will discuss corporate sponsored R&D, startups, the invention process, how to find your value proposition, and more.

From Noon to 1 PM on Oct 18, Walnut Creek, Rm. 100-149A; Oct 20, Emery Station, Rm. 978-4111; Oct 25, Aquatic Park, Rm. 977-141; Oct 27, on the Hill, Rm 84-318. Be sure to check the [Area events calendar](#) for updates.

JGI Celebrates National Ergonomics Awareness in October

Join the JGI Safety & Wellness ([SWELL](#)) Team in celebrating National Ergonomics Awareness Month this month. Each week, SWELL - formed in 2014 to promote safety and wellness in the workplace - will highlight important topics surrounding ergonomics, human factors, and safety.

Events include an October 12 "Emotional Intelligence" workshop and an October 17 "Sleep and Emotional Health" workshop, both presented by members of Berkeley Employee Assistance (BEA). In addition, you can join the

fossil fuels on the environment.

On October 5, before the Biosciences leadership team presents to the Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) our progress toward the FY16 Science & Technology (S&T) goals and objectives at DOE headquarters in Germantown, MD, the Directors, Area Deputies, and I will engage in a first-ever joint goal-setting meeting. My thinking is that if our goals are clear and aligned, we can better help each other as a leadership team, and progress toward our Area goals will be easier to attain.

At the September 28 Biosciences ExComm meeting, we began discussing topics for Lab-initiative related LDRD proposals and Area Priority LDRD proposals. I've asked the Directors to submit short concept summaries for each track by October 10 and October 24 respectively, for discussion at our October 12 and 26 ExComm meetings. Please contact your Division Director if you have ideas for LDRDs this year, especially those that relate to the gaps identified at the Biosciences Strategic Plan implementation retreat on August 11.

Fiscal year 2016 closed on September 30, and the Area Operations team did an excellent job of completing everything successfully and on time. I'm very proud of the team and thank them for their exemplary work.

Regards,
Jay Keasling

Area News

Biosciences Participates in Solano Stroll

Lab Director Mike Witherell joined twenty-six volunteers from across Berkeley Lab, including Biosciences, to become an ambassador for "cool science" at the annual Solano Stroll on September 11. The ambassadors answered hundreds of questions from many local residents who were excited and eager to learn more about the science being performed at the Lab.

Biosciences volunteers included Philip Gach (EGSB), Kosuke Iwai (BSE), Mi Yeon Lee (BSE), Timo Scheurg (BSE), Deepti Tanjore (BSE), Jane Tanamachi (Ops), and Rochelle Urban (JBEI).



Biosciences Area D&I Efforts Shared with Berkeley Lab D&I Council

On September 20, the Biosciences Area hosted the monthly meeting of the Berkeley Lab [Diversity & Inclusion \(D&I\) Council](#). During this meeting, the past year's efforts within the three divisions, the JGI and the Operations team were highlighted by Area reps Eltra Green (Ops/EGSB), Banu Sankaran (MBIB), Todd Pray (BSE), and Massie Ballon (JGI). Rotating hosting duties throughout the Lab divisions and areas allows the D&I Council to act as a forum for identifying and sharing programs and practices that have proven their effectiveness in enhancing diversity and inclusion. The Biosciences presentations were well received and sparked a lot of

Annual JGI Runaround Halloween Edition, starting at 10:30 AM on October 31. There will be a prize for the best costume. For more information about the SWELL Team, or to take part in this month's activities, [contact](#) Christine Naca.

@LBNLBioSci Twitter Highlight



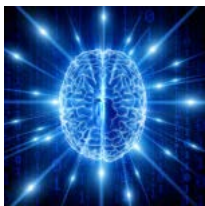
This tweet about our new Biosciences faculty scientists Na Ji and Chemistry Nobelist Eric Betzig garnered a high number of impressions this past month!

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

good discussion.

Programs & Initiatives

BRAIN Neuro-Workshop Report



The [report on the multi-institutional Neuro-Workshop](#) held June 2, co-chaired by Andrew Wyrobek and Kristofer Bouchard of the Biological Systems & Engineering Division, is now available. The [workshop](#) was convened to discuss relevant technological capabilities for the national Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies ([BRAIN](#)) Initiative

and to explore collaborative opportunities that would address neuroscience "grand challenges" in support of DOE's contribution to BRAIN and other national scientific challenges.

Agile BioFoundry Launched October 1

The Agile BioFoundry, a four-year national lab-led consortium to advance biomanufacturing, has been funded by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as of October 1.

The BioFoundry is comprised of nine national laboratories focused on improving the design-build-test-learn cycle for biomanufacturing of

renewable fuels and chemicals. Nathan Hillson is the Principal Investigator for this project; Blake Simmons and Todd Pray will be Task Leads.



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