

The internal monthly newsletter for Biosciences at Berkeley Lab.

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BERKELEY LAB



BioSci Communiqué

09.07.16

Events Highlights

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

Program Development Pilot

The Biosciences Area has been pleased to offer a program development pilot to all researchers and staff since last fall. Its goal is to augment the capacity of Biosciences personnel for program development, increasing their facility with creating, and getting funding for, new research initiatives.

A second round of brown bags about different types of funders/sponsors and program development activities is offered in several locations in September and October, in case you had missed them earlier. They cover four informational modules introduced this year: Module #1: Federal Budgets and Funding; Module #2: Philanthropy; Module #3: Entrepreneurship; and Module #4: Writing White Papers. Be sure to check the [Area events calendar](#) for updates.

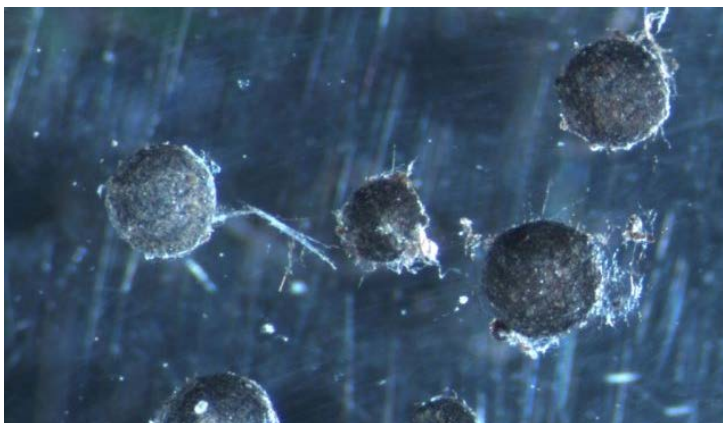
Brown Bags Module #1: Federal Budgets and Funding

This module focuses on federal budgets and funding, covering the federal science and technology (S&T) priorities and how they are set, the federal S&T budget process, stakeholder input into the S&T budget process, some typical processes for development of new funding opportunities, and guidance

News Roundup

- How Fungi Help Trees Tolerate Drought [>>](#)
- Study Finds Potential New Biomarker for Cancer Patient Prognosis [>>](#)
- Outside In: The Secret Life of Galectin-1 and its Dual Role in the Breast [>>](#)
- PNAS Profile on Nogales Accompanies Inaugural Article [>>](#)
- Biosciences Technology Among R&D 100 Award Finalists [>>](#)
- How Does a Bird Know What's Coming Next? [>>](#)
- Unveiled: Earth's Viral Diversity [>>](#)
- Expanding the Stable of Workhorse Yeasts [>>](#)
- JBEI Scientists Explore Novel Enzyme for Aromatic Biofuel Synthesis [>>](#)
- Carpooling and Companionship Go Hand in Hand for Stacey Gauny [>>](#)

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



Message from the ALD

Our annual presentation to the Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) will be held on October 5 at DOE headquarters in Germantown, MD. As in previous years, we've been invited by BER to present our progress toward the FY16 Science & Technology (S&T) goals and objectives. DOE uses the information we provide as one source of data that goes toward the grade given to Berkeley Lab for efficient and effective accomplishment of our scientific mission; design, construction and operations of research facilities; management of the S&T program; as well as the competent leadership and stewardship of the Lab. Leadership teams from the Biosciences and Earth & Environmental Sciences

on how to interact with the federal government to influence funding priorities.

From Noon to 1 PM on Sept 7, Walnut Creek, Rm. 100-149A; Sept 8, Emery Station, Seminar Rm. A&B, 978-4134; Sept 14, Aquatic Park, Rm. 977-141; Sept 15, on the Hill, Rm. 66-316.

Brown Bags Module #2: Philanthropy

This module focuses on philanthropy as a source of funding for R&D. Mary Maxon and Biosciences Development Officer Alicia Yeh will discuss the history of science philanthropy, how it works, when it's the right option for research programs, how the Berkeley Lab Foundation can help you, and more.

From Noon to 1 PM on Sept 19, Walnut Creek, Rm. 100-149A; Sept 20, Emery Station, Seminar Rm. A&B, 978-4134; Sept 28, Aquatic Park, Rm. 977-141; Sept 29, on the Hill, Rm. 66-316

Slots Still Available for Upcoming MGM Workshop

The JGI is offering a five-day workshop September 26-30 in Walnut Creek on Microbial Genomics and Metagenomics. The workshop includes seminars and extensive hands-on tutorials on how to use the Integrated Microbial Genomes ([IMG](#)) family of systems for comparative analysis of isolate genomes and metagenomes. For more information and to register, please go [here](#).

Strategic Planning

Follow up BSP Progress Retreat

Thank you to all who participated in the recent Biosciences Strategic Plan (BSP) progress retreat on August 11. The mentors and strategy leads reported out on

Areas are working together to develop the content that we will present to BER in October. For those of you involved, I appreciate your efforts in assisting Helen Cademartori and her team as they gather and prepare the materials needed for our submission. I know this is a tremendous amount of work, and with your help, I believe we'll have an excellent offering for BER this year.

The [DOE Early Career Scientist Research Program](#) provides important opportunities for early career researchers in Advanced Scientific Computing, Biological and Environmental Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics. This year, five Berkeley Lab early career researchers [received awards](#) and the pre-proposals for next year's awards are due September 8. The Biosciences leadership team and I have decided to engage DOE in a dialog about potential future topics for eligibility, as well as introduce them to our up-and-coming talent. To begin, we are planning a visit to BER with a number of Biosciences early career researchers in FY17 so that they can meet program managers. I've asked the leadership team to work with me over the next few years to help prepare our early career researchers so that not only are they eligible for these prestigious awards, they are well-positioned to win them.

The Integrative Genomics Building (IGB) Team, which includes JGI, KBase, and Berkeley Lab Facilities representatives, has been working hard to complete the final design and documentation changes for the upcoming DOE Critical Decision Three (CD-3) review scheduled for October 7. This is a very important project milestone for the Biosciences Area and I fully anticipate the review board will give the green light to begin construction in October-November 2016.

Regards,
Jay Keasling

Area News

Division Leadership Team Changes

Adam Deutschbauer and Diane Dickel (pictured) have agreed to take on new leadership positions in the Environmental Genomics & Systems Biology (EGSB) Division. Adam, previously the department

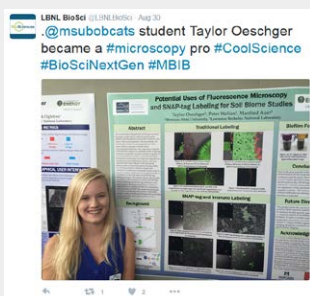


head of Functional Genomics, is rising to the position of EGSB co-deputy for science, and Diane will assume his role as the department head. Ben Brown and John Vogel continue on as Molecular Ecosystems Biology department head and co-deputy director, respectively. Sue Celniker, who has served as co-deputy for science in EGSB's inaugural year, has stepped down to assume the role of science deputy of the Biological Systems

& Engineering (BSE) Division. She succeeds Mark LaBarge who left Berkeley Lab in August to pursue a new opportunity at City of Hope. Antoine Snijders (pictured) has agreed to be the interim BSE department head

clear progress towards the five-year milestones outlined in the BSP and many new ideas were generated during the breakout sessions that will put us on track to meeting our 10-year goals.

@LBNLBioSci Twitter Highlight



The Biosciences Area is celebrating its educational outreach this month with a campaign on Twitter entitled #BioSciNextGen. Check out what our interns were up to this summer! Follow [@LBNLBioSci](https://twitter.com/LBNLBioSci) to keep up with the latest from Biosciences. Feel free to suggest or contribute content for our Twitter account by emailing bioscomms@lbl.gov.

of Organismal Systems & Bioresilience, a position also previously held by Mark. A search is underway to identify a permanent department head. Nathan Hillson and Todd Pray will remain heads of their respective departments, Biodesign and Process Engineering & Analytics.



Prediction Software Tool Selected in JBEI Competition

For the second year in a row, the JBEI Grassroots Software Tool Competition was organized by the JBEI SynBio Informatics group. The goal is to select a software tool previously developed by researchers from any JBEI Division and re-develop it into a professional application to benefit a broader community of researchers at Berkeley Lab and beyond. This year, Zak Costello, a bioinformaticist postdoctoral fellow, has won the FY17 competition with his Automated Recommendation Engine, which uses preliminary data and machine learning to predict an optimized set of experimental parameters to test.

New Round of FICUS Projects Start October 1

The 10 projects accepted by JGI and the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory ([EMSL](#)), submitted during the 2017 call for proposals for their joint Facilities Integrating Collaborations for User Science ([FICUS](#)) initiative, were given the go-ahead. Read more about the projects in [JGI's news release](#).

Summer Outreach in Biosciences

It has been an excellent summer for Biosciences outreach activities. We hosted high school students in four locations as part of the [Biotech Partners program](#). JBEI participated at the [Summer of Synbio](#) in San Jose and also hosted the [National Student Leadership Conference](#) on a recent visit.



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