

BERKELEY LAB



BioSci Communiqué

05.03.17

Events Highlights

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

Upcoming John Lawrence Seminars

POSTPONED | *Towards Whole-cell Models of More Complex Organisms* | Markus Covert, Stanford University

Precision Dietetics for Metabolic Health: Effect of Genes, Diet and Bugs | David Threadgill, Texas A&M University | May 16, 4 - 5 PM, Aquatic Park, Rm 977-141

Cryo-electron Imaging from Molecules to Cells | Wah Chiu, Baylor College of Medicine | May 30, 4 - 5 PM, B66 Aud

[\[Complete Seminar Schedule\]](#)

Workshop: *Introduction to CAREER Development Planning for Postdoctoral Scholars* | No cost; [registration required](#). | May 5, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, B54, Rm 130

Cal Future Forum: *Our Changing World* | May 12, 12 - 6 PM, Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, UC Berkeley

Special Seminar: Doing Science in Space

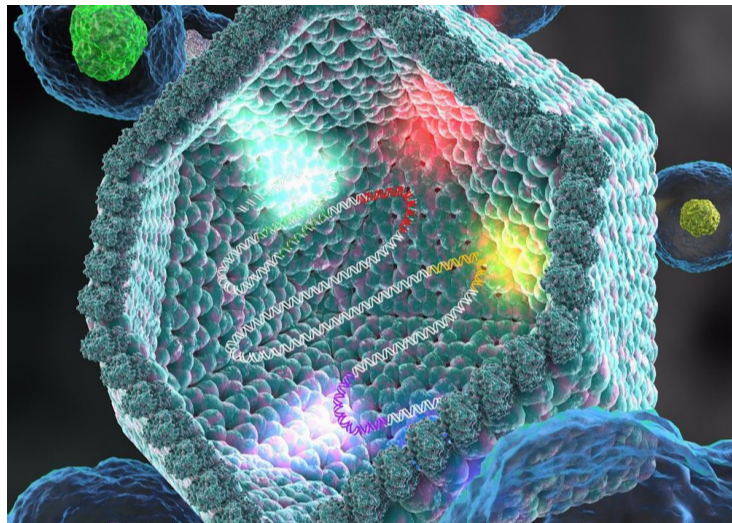


The Molecular Foundry and the DOE Joint Genome Institute are hosting a visit of

News Roundup

- A Gene that Influences Grain Yields in Grasses [>>](#)
- Biosciences Participates at East Bay STEM Career Awareness Day [>>](#)
- New Partnership for ABPDU through DOE's Small Business Voucher Pilot [>>](#)
- Kuriyan Recipient of 2017 Stein and Moore Award [>>](#)
- New *Science* Study Provides Further Insight Into Plant Cell Division [>>](#)
- Cate among Five Lab Scientists Named New AAAS Fellows [>>](#)
- *The Scientist* Profiles Mina Bissell [>>](#)
- Dickel Featured in UC Science Today Podcast [>>](#)
- Researchers Gain Insight into Protein Critical to Zika Virus Reproduction [>>](#)
- ENIGMA Researchers Uncover Factors in Microbial Community Collapse [>>](#)
- Discovered: Novel Group of Giant Viruses [>>](#)

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



ALD Message

I am very encouraged to see that over the weekend Congressional leaders reached a bipartisan agreement to fund the government through September, the end of the fiscal year. I am hopeful that the lawmakers will pass the legislation for this [budget](#), which includes increased levels for funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Institutes of Health.

Mary Maxon and I have been involved with several important DOE

astronaut/molecular biologist [Kate Rubins](#), the first scientist to sequence DNA in space, and about opportunities for research in space from Liz Warren, Associate Program Scientist for the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space ([CASIS](#)). They will give back-to-back [seminars](#) on Thursday, May 11, in B50 Auditorium from 10 AM - 11 AM (Rubins) and 11 AM - Noon (Warren). The talks will be [live-streamed](#).

JGI's 11th Annual Safety, Health and Wellness Fair

On May 17, from 12 - 2 PM in the JGI Courtyard, the JGI will host several groups from JGI and Berkeley Lab, as well as external vendors who will offer information on a range of topics including water conservation, hazardous waste disposal, fitness and wellness. The Fair is organized by the JGI's Safety & Wellness (SWELL) Team. Direct questions to SWELL Team head [Christine Naca](#).

Program Development

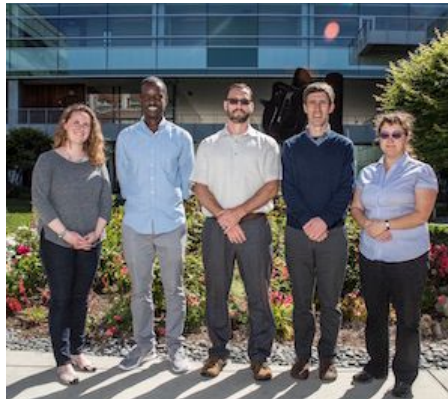
Area Program Development Module: Federal Budgets and Funding

The Biosciences Area has restarted this series in response to changes in priorities with the new administration and evolving budgets for FY17, FY18, and beyond. Mary Maxon and Katy Christiansen are continually updating their presentation – which covers how the federal budget process works, science and technology budget priorities are determined, and scientists and others can influence the process – with up-to-the-minute information and they lead a conversation that addresses a variety of concerns and questions about budgets and funding. Biosciences staff at all career levels are encouraged to attend. Please check the [Area](#)

outreach activities, both at home and on the road. Earlier this month, we presented an overview of the Biosciences Area, the Biosciences Strategic Plan, and the Biosciences Campus Vision to Paul Golan, the Berkeley Lab Site Office Manager. In the following week, we participated in DOE National Lab Day and the DOE Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee (BERAC) with several of our Biosciences colleagues.

DOE National Lab Day exposes people in states without National Labs to the many opportunities for collaboration and employment offered by the Labs. Mary & I were joined by Corie Ralston, Molecular Biophysics and Integrated Bioimaging's Deputy Director for Science at this year's [event](#), which was held at the University of Arkansas on April 18. During their opening remarks, Arkansas Congressmen Steve Womack and Bruce Westerman highlighted the national significance of the Labs. Stanford University's Arun Majumdar, Founding Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E), described energy innovation as a key aspect of our future, and Deputy Laboratory Director Horst Simon represented Berkeley Lab as part of a panel of Lab Directors who illustrated many of the opportunities available at the Labs. Mary Maxon moderated a Bioscience and Healthcare breakout session and I moderated a breakout on Renewables and Biofuels; there were many questions and lively discussions during both of our sessions.

The BERAC met on April 20 & 21 in Maryland, where Sharlene Weatherwax gave a nice historical overview of BER, and BERAC members highlighted their progress on their upcoming Grand Challenges report. DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI) Director Nigel Mouncey introduced his vision for the JGI, and MBIB Division Director Paul Adams presented highlights of an upcoming workshop report, Technologies for Characterizing Molecular and Cellular Systems Relevant to Bioenergy and Environment. Five Biosciences early career researchers (pictured, L to R), Emiley Eloë-Fadrosch (JGI), Edward Baidoo (Biological Systems and Engineering, BSE), Kris Bouchard (BSE), Hans Carlson (Environmental Genomics and Systems Biology, EGSB), and Karen Davies (MBIB), met with and presented their work to BER program managers. More information, including some of the slide presentations, can be found [here](#).



On April 26, I went to Capitol Hill with the directors of the other Bioenergy Research Centers (BRCs), Paul Gilna of the BioEnergy Science Center and Tim Donohue of the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center, as well as with the federal government affairs directors of each BRC lead institution. We spoke with members of Congress and staffers about the great work the BRCs have done over the last nine plus years and we talked about plans for the future. All of the Congresspeople and staffers we met were supportive of the BRCs and of basic science in general.

Tomorrow we will be conducting the first of our moves into Aquatic Park, with KBase relocating from Emeryville. This is the initial step toward creating a nexus for the EGSB Division at Aquatic Park that will include KBase, ENIGMA, and several individual PI labs. Earlier

[Events Calendar](#) for upcoming dates in the Berkeley and Emery Station Centers.

IPO

Startups and Storytelling: Adam Lorimer, Alphabet Energy Co-Founder and VP Automotive Products

Adam Lorimer, co-founder of [Alphabet Energy](#), presents the power and dangers of storytelling in developing a new business. He will expand on Lean Start-Up and customer discovery concepts and address specific questions from the audience. Alphabet Energy's waste-heat-to-energy technologies have been featured in [AIChE's ChEnected](#) and [Fortune](#), among many other publications. **Bring your lunch and network with fellow entrepreneurial researchers. New BLIC members and guests welcome.** May 9, 12:15 – 1:15 PM, Perseverance Hall (B54, Rm 130)

Entrepreneur's Club: Rachel Haurwitz, PhD, Co-founder, President and CEO, Caribou Biosciences, From Academic Lab to CRISPR Company CEO

Rachel was researching at Berkeley on CRISPR before anyone understood its potential. She and Jennifer Doudna founded the company in 2011 with the help of QB3 Startup in a Box. Hear her story and what it's like to be central to the exciting field of CRISPR. [Register here](#). May 8, 5:30-7:30pm, UCSF Mission Bay, Genentech Hall, Room N114, 600 16th Street, San Francisco, CA

Communications

The BioSci Communiqué Turns One!

Thanks for making the *BioSci Communiqué* a success! It has been a year since the newsletter became the official internal communications channel of the Area. Each

this month, Alicia Yeh, Gary Andersen, and I toured the [TomKat Ranch](#) in Pescadero and met with Kat Taylor and her team there. I gave a brief presentation on the work in EGSB, highlighting our plans for the Ecotron experimental chambers that will be located at Aquatic Park. We anticipate that Kat and her team will visit Biosciences in the near future and we look forward to the opportunity to host them.

Regards,
Jay Keasling

Area News

JGI Hosts CA Assemblymember Grayson

Assemblymember Tim Grayson (D-Concord) visited the DOE Joint Genome Institute on April 14. He met with JGI Director Nigel



Mouncey, heard about wetlands studies being led by User Programs Deputy Susannah Tringe and EcoFab from metabolomics researcher and EGSB staff scientist Trent Northen before taking a tour of the facility. (Photo, from L: Naser Javaid, District Director for the Assemblymember, Trent Northen, Assemblymember Grayson and JGI Director Nigel Mouncey)

Safety & Clean-up Days

Over the next two months, the Area will be hosting Safety & Clean-up Days in all of its Operations Centers.

- The Walnut Creek Operations Center will dedicate the afternoon of May 9 to conduct a site-wide safety and facility clean-up. The goals of this event are to improve housekeeping and prepare for the eventual move to the Integrative Genomics Building by going through laboratory and office work areas and disposing of all unneeded chemicals, samples, equipment, and supplies. The event will kick off with an all-hands discussion on safety led by JGI Director, Nigel Mouncey, and end with a group photo in the JGI courtyard. Please contact [Steve Franaszek](#) if you have any questions.
- On May 17, Biosciences Operations @ Berkeley members will pause for a day and turn their attention to safety. Division and Ops Leaders are requesting that each lab, as well as people in operations, dedicate the day to safety and clean-up. For questions, please contact your lab's safety representative, or safety coordinators [Shraddha Ravani](#) and [Ingrid Peterson](#).
- The next Emery Station Operations Center Clean-up Day is Wednesday, June 7, from 9 AM until 1 PM. Clean-up Day is a STOP WORK event, so there are no experiments, office work, or meetings during the event. [Tim Lease](#) is the contact person for this activity.

2017 Lab Performance Review

As shared by Jay Keasling, the 2017 Berkeley Lab Performance Review process has officially begun, and will now include

month, the *Communiqué* is delivered to approximately 1400 people and over 51% of recipients open it, with one-fifth of readers clicking on at least one link.

@LBNLBioSci Twitter Highlight



In recognition of Earth Day, observed on April 22, and to raise awareness about environmentally-related research, the Biosciences Area highlighted its sustainability efforts @LBNLBioSci during Earth Week. Check out the tweets on our [Storify page](#).

Follow @LBNLBioSci to keep up with the latest from Biosciences; contribute content for our Twitter feed by emailing bioscomms@lbl.gov.

participation by postdoctoral scholars. Read his May 1 [announcement](#).

Staffing Changes

Last month, Karolina Connolly joined Human Resources (HR) and Berkeley Lab. Karolina will be the new, part-time Sr. HR Division Partner in Biosciences, supporting the MBIB and EGSB Divisions, as well as the Biosciences Operations @ Berkeley Center personnel. Karolina will be based at Aquatic Park and her standard hours will be 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Monday - Thursday.

Principal Administrative Supervisor Lori Shields will be retiring and her last day at Aquatic Park will be May 12. Over her ten-year career at the Lab, she has provided exceptional support to former ALD Joe Gray, former Life Sciences Division Director Gary Karpen and most recently to EGSB Division Director Louise Glass.

New Publications Management System

Berkeley Lab has rolled out a new Publications Management System so that we can keep publications updated as an institution and comply with DOE and UC Open Access Policies. The system has been pre-populated with researchers from HR data and potential publications from “harvesters” that have scraped Web of Science, PubMed, and other databases. Please log onto the [UC Publications Management System](#) to claim your publications, designate funding, and upload the appropriate open access version of your article. Researchers will begin receiving publication claim notifications on May 9. More information is available in this [announcement](#). Please contact publications@lbl.gov with questions.

Biosciences Staff Participate in East Bay STEM Career Awareness Day

Biosciences Area researchers and staff participated at the annual East Bay STEM Career Awareness Day on April 27 at Wareham Development’s Aquatic Park Center in West Berkeley, home to Biosciences Operations @ Berkeley and several Area research groups.

The event was led by Cal State University East Bay’s [Institute for STEM Education](#) in partnership with local businesses and organizations, and was aimed at providing insight into potential STEM careers and educational opportunities in the region. Three hundred high school students from Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Richmond engaged with a variety of STEM professionals during tours (e.g, with Paul Yaswen, pictured), a working lunch and exhibitor tabling. [Read more](#).



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