

BERKELEY LAB



BioSci Communiqué

11.06.19

Events Highlights

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

John Lawrence Seminars in Biosciences

Detangling the Role of Prokaryotes and Fungi During the Degradation of Plant Biomass in the Rumen Using a Multi-omics Approach | Matthias Hess, UC Davis | November 19, 4 – 5 PM, B978-4132

Upcoming Events

Women @ the Lab Speaker Series | November 7, noon – 1 PM, B54-130 and via [Zoom](#) | The [new series](#) continues with a talk by ALD for Biosciences [Mary Maxon](#).

42nd Annual Berkeley Lab Runaround | November 8, noon – 1:30 PM, starting at the firehouse (B48) and ending at the cafeteria (B54) | 3 km (1.86 mi) course; runners and walkers are welcome.

IDEA Brown Bag: Implicit Bias | November 11, noon – 1 PM, B54-130 and via [Zoom](#).

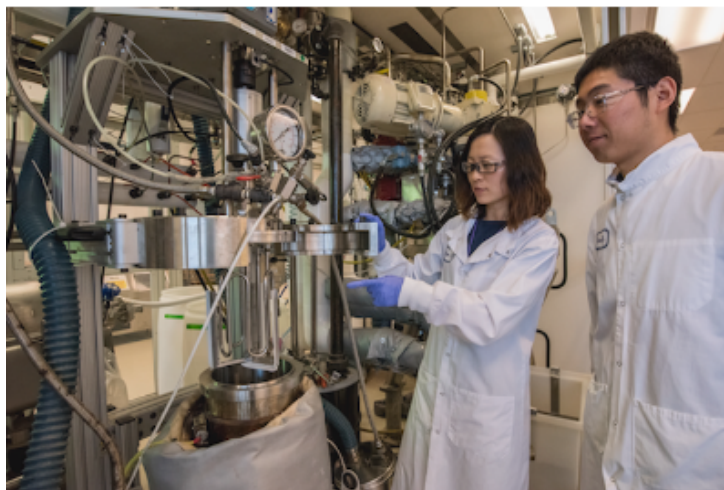
Breaking Barriers to Psychological Safety | Stanford VMware Women's Leadership Innovation Lab | November 13, 11 AM – noon, webinar | [Register](#).

National Biodefense Strategy | J. Bradley Dickerson, Sandia National Laboratories | November 14, 11 AM – noon, B978-4132 | [Registration](#) required. Parking is limited and Emery Station is a secure

News Roundup

- Perfectly Raw or Cooked to Perfection? How Food Preparation Affects the Microbiome [>>](#)
- Neurodata Without Borders Project Wins 2019 R&D 100 Award [>>](#)
- Mary Maxon: A PhD in a STEM Field Can Lead to Unexpected Career Opportunities [>>](#)
- Unlocking the Biochemical Treasure Chest Within Microbes [>>](#)
- Trash to Treasure: Scientists Convert Municipal Waste to Biofuel Precursors [>>](#)
- BCSB Helps Validate Citizen-scientist Designed Protein Structures [>>](#)
- Three Questions for Michael Espinosa [>>](#)
- Two Agile BioFoundry Collaborative R&D Projects Receive DOE Awards [>>](#)
- Triggering Morel Fruiting [>>](#)
- Amy Herr Receives UCB Faculty Award for Mentoring [>>](#)
- Jennifer Doudna Honored with Two Prizes [>>](#)
- Holger Müller Elected 2019 APS Fellow [>>](#)
- A Molecular Switch for Photosynthesis and Lipid Accumulation [>>](#)
- Characterizing Communities: JGI Announces Latest CSP Portfolio [>>](#)

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



ALD Message

November is an exciting month for Biosciences. Last Friday, the Joint Genome Institute (JGI) and Systems Biology Knowledgebase (KBase) began their move into the new Integrative Genomics Building (IGB) on the Berkeley Lab main site. The move marks a

site that requires visitor access registration for all, inclusive of Lab employees not located at this site.

Director's Awards | November 15, 4 – 6 PM, ceremony held in B50 auditorium (live stream at streaming.lbl.gov) followed by a Lab-wide reception in the cafeteria (B54).

Entrepreneurship

Call for Energy I-Corps Cohort 11

The course will run from March 23 to May 14, 2020. Anyone interested should contact [Robin Johnston](#) by November 7. The letter of intent, which requires minimal effort, is due on November 15. Watch an informational [webinar](#).

Outreach

Kudos to Solano Stroll, Art + Soul Volunteers



Serving as ambassadors for Berkeley Lab's science, volunteer staff for the Lab's booth at the 2019 Solano Stroll on September 8 included: Jon Diab (BSE), Kanupriya Pande (MBIB), Deepti Tanjore (BSE), and AJ Whitman (MBIB). Earlier in the summer, a group of Berkeley Lab employees, including Shawn Chang (BSE) and Valentine Trotter (EGSB), staffed the Lab's booth at the 2019 Art + Soul Festival in Oakland, where hundreds of people stopped by to learn about internship opportunities, job openings, and our world-class research.

'Day of Science' at Mexican Consulate

significant step towards realizing the vision of the BioCampus and closer proximity to our current and future colleagues in other Areas. I look forward to our team in IGB establishing themselves in their new surroundings, and to the day when they can welcome the next group of Biosciences adventurers that will join them in the planned second BioCampus building: the Biological and Environmental Program Integration Center (BioEPIC).

Berkeley Lab hosted a visit from DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation, Michael Berube, and Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) Director Jonathan Male. They spent the day with many of our BETO-funded researchers for a deep dive into our BETO projects, as well as learning about some of our core Office of Science-funded research at the JGI and the Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI) and our LDRD projects related to bioenergy and biomaterials. It was a very packed day and I would like to thank all the staff, including those outside of Biosciences, who made time to meet with our VIP visitors.

Last month, efforts to promote and protect the U.S. Bioeconomy were at the center of federal government activities. On October 7, I attended the White House Summit on America's Bioeconomy, hosted by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). There was great enthusiasm amongst the group for the effort; you can read a summary of the event [here](#). At the same time, OSTP had an open Request for Information on the Bioeconomy. Berkeley Lab, led by Biosciences, submitted a formal response that focused on the role of the Department of Energy and the national laboratory complex in developing, disseminating, and training the workforce on technologies to enable the growth of the bioeconomy. Finally, I attended an Interagency Working Group meeting on synthetic biology hosted by the National Science and Technology Council. During this meeting, members of federal agencies discussed their efforts in synthetic biology and new approaches to coordination across the federal government.



Finally, I would like to thank Area Deputy of Operations Nikki Humphreys, who served as Emergency Operations Center (EOC) lead for Biosciences, as well as our operations staff and all of you for your hard work and patience during the two PG&E Public Safety Power Shutdowns that happened in October. This was a challenging time for research and researchers, not just for our work but also for many of us in our personal lives, and I am grateful for the professionalism and flexibility of our staff to operate under changing conditions.

Best,
Mary

Area News

Berkeley Lab Hosts Gene Ontology Consortium Meeting



Javier Ceja-Navarro (BSE) and Patricia Valdespino (MBIB), together with other researchers from UC Berkeley, participated in a "[Day of Science](#)" at the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco on October 26. The aim of the event was to give Mexican children and youth an opportunity to have a closer experience with hands-on scientific activities and interact with scientists from different fields.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Latinx and Native American (LANA) Employee Research Group (ERG) spearheaded an observance of the cultural holiday Dia de los Muertos. Biosciences at Aquatic Park participated by setting up an *ofrenda*, to which employees added photos and mementos of their loved ones.

Biosciences Area Social Media

Our top tweet in October was about the JGI-led development of the CRAGE technique for transferring microbial machinery from one



In early October, Chris Mungall, who leads the Molecular Ecosystems Biology Department in Environmental Genomics and Systems Biology (EGSB), and members of his group hosted the biannual Gene Ontology Consortium (GOC) meeting. The GO User Meeting, held on the first day, brought together more than 50 people who either utilize GO and its associated tools in their work, or are developers and curators who work on the ontology and platform. The core GOC meeting, which focused on progress and future plans, took place October 8–10, followed by a meeting of the project PIs with the consortium's scientific advisory board. [Read more.](#)

Registration for JGI Annual Meeting and VEGA 2020 is Open

The 15th JGI Genomics of Energy and Environment Meeting and the Viral EcoGenomics and Applications (VEGA) Symposium, will be held March 22–26, 2020, at the [Oakland Marriott City Center](#). Register early and watch [usermeeting.jgi.doe.gov](#) for agenda and speaker updates and travel and accommodation information.

Grow JGI's Poplar!

With the move to the IGB, staff and affiliates are invited to take a piece of JGI history home with a cutting from the iconic poplar, the first tree to have its genome sequenced. [Watch a video](#) to learn how in a few easy steps. Then bring your own supplies to try your hand at propagating the poplar.



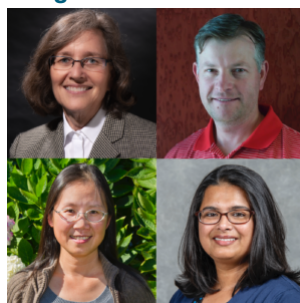
Mammalian Functional Genomics Holds IDEA Workshop



In October, the Mammalian Functional Genomics group, led by Axel Visel, Diane Dickel, and Len Pennacchio, held an IDEA workshop with approximately 25 participants. The various activities included a presentation by Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Lady Idos. One of the goals of the workshop was to test various formats of activities for this purpose and to provide recommendations on what works best in the hope of providing inspiration for other groups in Biosciences to organize similar events for their staff.

Awards and Honors

Congratulations to Director's Award Recipients

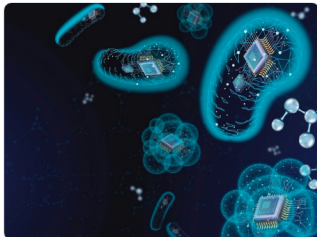


Several Biosciences Area personnel will be honored at the 2019 Berkeley Lab Director's Awards ceremony on November 15. Sue Celniker, Biological Systems and Engineering (BSE) Division Deputy for Science, will be one of two recipients of the 2019 Berkeley Lab Prize. Len Pennacchio, a senior scientist at JGI with a secondary affiliation in EGSB, will be recognized

species to another.



An international team led by [@jgi @BerkeleyLab](#) with [@goetheuni](#) and [@EMSLscience](#) developed the CRAGE technique for transferring microbial machinery from one species to another, making the study of microbial secondary metabolites easier. [#synbio #microbiome ow.ly/6XcX5owL2RK](#)



Follow the Biosciences Area on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Help us disseminate further by liking and/or sharing.

for Exceptional Scientific Achievement. Miaw-Sheue Tsai, a research scientist in BSE, and Romy Chakraborty, Ecology Department Head in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Area (EESA) with secondary appointment in EGSB, both will be recognized for Exceptional Achievement in Outreach.

Operations Update

Integrative Genomics Building Move-in Information

Floor-by-floor dates for the move to the IGB are as follows:

November 4–15: 1st floor labs and offices, early ops staff, Northern lab

November 18–22: 2nd floor labs and offices, Northern lab

December 3–7: 3rd floor offices, Goodstein group

December 9–13: 4th floor offices, KBase

For more information about the move, including how to pack and other FAQs, [go here](#).

Tag your tweets [#MoreBioSciOnTheHill](#) and [#IGBMove!](#)



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