



February 2018 Newsletter

Dear SBA Members, Welcome to the February 2018 issue of the SBA Newsletter.

New President's Welcome

Dear Synthetic Biology enthusiasts, please find enclosed the January 2018 issue of the SBA Newsletter. It's a great honour to be your new SBA President and I thank our Immediate Past President Claudia Vickers for all her fantastic work to date. We're always looking for new ways to enhance Synthetic Biology in Australia, New Zealand and the greater Asian region, so please get in touch with me or our other Executive members with any ideas or suggestions you might have – we're passionate about Synthetic Biology and want to make your science even more fun. Our website can be found at <https://synbioaustralasia.org/> and follow us on Twitter @SynBioAusAsia.

The current Executive and support team are:

- President – Oliver Rackham, University of Western Australia
- Vice President – Natalie Curach, Macquarie University
- Immediate Past President – Claudia Vickers, University of Queensland
- Treasurer – Anwar Sunna, Macquarie University
- ECR and PhD Student Representatives – Karen Weynberg (ECR) University of Queensland, Dominic Logel (PhD) Macquarie University
- Communications Officer – Konstantinos Vavitsas, University of Queensland; Communications Assistant: Jestin George, University of Technology Sydney

Upcoming conferences

2018 Australasian Protein Engineering Meeting, Feb 9th Melbourne. On Friday 9th February 2018, the Lorne Protein Engineering Satellite Meeting will be held at the Florey Institute in Parkville, Melbourne. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the growing Australian and

New Zealand community of protein engineers and to provide a forum for us to discuss new results, develop new collaborations and discuss new opportunities and challenges. A number of international speakers will be attending, including Prof. Andreas Plückthun (University of Zürich), Prof. Joelle Pelletier (University of Montreal), Prof. Sarel Fleishman (Weizmann Institute of Science) and Prof. Juliet Gerrard (University of Auckland). The tone of the meeting will be informal, with an emphasis on unpublished results and lots of opportunities for discussion. The program will be a mix of invited speakers and abstract submissions. Students are welcome and there will be a poster/drinks session at the end of the oral presentations. Questions can be directed to: lornesbpe@gmail.com. More details are available on the website: <https://lornesbpesatellite.wordpress.com>

Molecular Microbiology Meeting in Sydney, April 11-12th, 2018. Some great synthetic biology content coming up at the Molecular Microbiology Meeting in Sydney, including our own Prof. Ian Paulsen talking on "The future of synthetic biology: building a eukaryotic machine" and Karen Weynberg's talk entitled: "Synthetic Biology in the Phage Age". More details are available on the website: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/criticalinfection/mmm/program.php>

2018 International Yeast 2.0 and Synthetic Genomes Conference, Nov 26-28th, ICC Sydney. From bespoke bioproducts to synthetic organelles we will be visiting a spectre of the latest discoveries to complement the evolution of Sc2.0 at IYSGC2018. To be held at the sparkling International Convention Centre in Sydney. There is a growing list of stellar International speakers who have confirmed including Prof. Jef Boeke (NYU Langone Health), Prof. Brenda Andrews (University of Toronto), Prof. Christina Smolke (Stanford University), Prof. Debra Mathews (Johns Hopkins University) and Prof. Danielle Tullman Ercek (Northwestern University). As we near the end of this monumental project celebrations are in order and there is no place like Sydney to have a party. So, mark out the diary to join us for this scientific extravaganza. <http://iysgc2018.com> coming soon.

2018 Synthetic Biology: Engineering, Evolution & Design (SEED), June 3rd-7th. SEED 2018 will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona and will focus on advances in science, technology, applications, and related investments in the field of synthetic biology. This year's theme will be "synthetic biology at the leading edge of massive DNA synthesis, editing, and decoding". The call for abstracts is now open until March 7th, 2018. See: <http://synbioconference.org/2018>

SynBioBeta 2018: The Global Synthetic Biology Summit, September 30th-October 6th. SynBioBeta unites the leading biological engineers, investors, innovators and entrepreneurs who make up this fast growing industry. Come meet the pioneers who are applying engineered biology to revolutionize agriculture, medicine, energy, and the production of food, consumer products, chemicals and materials. The conference will be on October 2nd and 3rd at the Mission Bay Conference Center in San Francisco with satellite events the whole week of September 30th to October 6th. See: <https://synbiobeta.com/conferences/synbiobeta-sf-2018/>

Opportunities

2018 CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Fellowships. A reminder that the second round of CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Fellowships is now open. Please find more details at: <https://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/work-with-us/synbio-fellowships/>

Position Open: Research Scientist in Computational and Systems Biology, CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform

Location: Canberra

URL: <https://jobs.csiro.au/job/Canberra%2C-ACT-Research-Scientist-in-Computational-&-Systems-Biology/451287000/>

Description: In this position, you will provide systems biology and data modelling support across two synthetic biology research projects, one on the in-vitro resynthesis of the lichen symbiosis and the other on the design of biorthogonal redox metabolic pathways in yeast and *E. coli*.

2018 Membership Fees

Please pay your 2018 membership fees ASAP via the SBA website (<https://synbioaustralasia.org/membership/>) as soon as possible. Membership fees allow us to run the society, which provides support at many different levels for synthetic biology in Australia (policy, advice, interfacing with regulators, contributing to development of strategic funding initiatives, etc.), acts as a linking hub for the synbio community, provides support for EMCRs and students, runs the annual Synthetic Biology Australasia conference, and administers the Synthetic Biology Awards which are conferred at the conference. You also get this newsletter (only once every few months) and a discount on registration for the SBA conference. Membership fees must be paid by **April 13th** to maintain your SBA membership in 2018.

Items for the next newsletter

We encourage all community members to share their updates, events, publications, and media coverage within SBA. Please send any news you might have for inclusion in the next newsletter to myself (oliver.rackham@uwa.edu.au) or our communications officer Kostas Vavitsas (k.vavitsas@uq.edu.au). Remember that positions in synthetic biology can be advertised through this mailing list, our website and our Twitter account.

Best regards,
Oliver Rackham

President
Synthetic Biology Australasia