



September 2017 Newsletter

Dear SBA Members, Welcome to the September 2017 issue of the SBA Newsletter, and apologies for the delay between newsletters – it has been a very busy year.

SBA2017 conference

The [SBA2017 conference](#) is just around the corner! We have an outstanding line-up of exceptional national and international speakers. The [program](#) is now available on the website and we are looking forward to seeing you in Sydney on 21st-22nd September.

SBA's Twitter account is [@SynBioAusAsia](#). Tweet with hashtag [#SBA2017](#) during the conference.

SBA AGM @SBA2017: Notice of AGM and Call for Agenda Items

As already advised, the 2017 Annual General Meeting of SBA will be held in conjunction with the SBA2017 conference in Sydney, (5:30-6:30 pm in the Bay Room at the Kirribilli Club, 11 Harbour view Cres, Lavender Bay, NSW 2060) on **Thursday 21st September**.

Please RSVP to the Secretary, Ashley Franks (A.Franks@latrobe.edu.au), as soon as possible (RSVP deadline: 14th September 2017). Note that AGM attendees/votes by proxy must be financial members of SBA. Links to download the Notice of AGM, AGM Information, Draft Agenda, Proxy Form, and Nomination Form are found below.

- [Notice of AGM](#)
- [AGM Information](#)
- [Draft Agenda](#)

- [Proxy Form](#)
- [Nomination Form](#)

Note that we will be accepting nominations and voting on Executive positions, as well as discussing a range of SynBio-associated issues relevant to SBA (including recent initiatives, funding opportunities, collaboration opportunities, etc.). **Please provide any further items for the Agenda and return Proxy Forms and Nomination Forms to Ashley Franks by 14th September 2017.**

iGEM Meet-Up @SBA2017

There is an iGEM meetup at the end of SBA2017 official proceedings on Friday 22 September at the Water Terrace Bar, Level 2, Kirribilli Club. Contact Abigail Sison for details abigail@igem.org.

CSIRO Synthetic Biology FSP PhD Top-Up Scholarships

The CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform will be opening a call for applications for PhD top-up scholarships (\$7,000 for stipend per annum plus a generous operating budget of \$10,000 per annum, for up to three years). The call is due to open in about a week; keep an eye on the website at <http://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/work-with-us/phd/> or email SynBioFSP@csiro.au with the subject line 'Notify PhD Top-Ups' if you would like to be notified when the scheme opens.

Post-Doc Position in Synthetic Biology - Centre for Cell Factories and Biopolymers, Griffith University

A new Centre for Cell Factories and Biopolymers (CCFB) has been established at Griffith University. The CCFBs mission is to research and develop innovative functional materials and technologies that can provide solutions for global health and environmental challenges. Our aim is to harness the capacity of biological systems to synthesise and assemble biologically active materials by implementing synthetic biology and biotechnological approaches. Synthetic biology is applied to design microbial cell factories for the production of bio-based high-performance materials composed of biopolymers, proteins and DNA. These nano-/micro-sized materials are tailored for a range of medical and industrial applications. Cell factory design is linked with bioprocess development for scalable manufacture of the various products such as e.g. particulate vaccines, diagnostic reagents and catalytically active microspheres.

For further details please visit <http://www.griffith.edu.au/institute-drug-discovery/about-centre/centre-cell-factories-biopolymers>

Colloquium: The Legal and Social Implications of CRISPR Gene Editing

The TC Beirne School of Law is hosting this colloquium on 18th September 2017. Details:

Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) is a genetic modification technology that many believe is poised to transform the life sciences and revolutionise genetic engineering. Described as a “word processor for genes” and “disruptive biotech”, CRISPR is a techno-scientific instrument that allows for the removal, addition, or alteration of the genetic code that can be used on any organism. CRISPR can edit genetic materials with exponentially greater precision and certainty than previous technologies and it does so at a substantially reduced cost.

Speakers at this colloquium, which is hosted by the UQ Law, Science and Technology Group, will provide an overview of CRISPR, its possible societal ramifications, and the legal structures surrounding its potential uses and regulation. The goal of the colloquium is to generate, facilitate and inform public debate around this new technology. In the process, we hope to initiate discussion and collaboration between multidisciplinary experts from law, government, and science who are interested in CRISPR and the role it will play in the future.

More information [here](#)

Register [here](#)

CRISPR genome editing services at UQ

The Queensland Facility for Advanced Genome Editing (QFAGE) at The University of Queensland provides services for mouse and cell genome editing using the CRISPR/Cas9 platform. Advances in CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing technology are providing new and rapid means to develop genetic models and tools for research to study development and disease or for synthetic purposes. In particular, using a range of approaches to edit the genome, we can generate a variety of modifications including:

- genetic knockouts and deletions to assess the role of protein coding gene or non-coding regulatory elements
- add DNA elements in place of or on series with a locus of interest – these can include epitope tags, fluorescence markers, or selection cassettes to mark or purify cells of interest
- generate transgenic constitutive or conditional over-expression cell lines or mice (e.g. gene over-expression, production of pharmaceuticals in cells, chimeric protein production)
- knockin point mutations or small nucleotide sequences such as disease causing SNPs
- generate conditional loss of function models (e.g. floxed alleles)

For cell genome editing, the facility can make use of any cell line provided by clients provided they pass quality control tests. For those interested in discussions about projects or for more details on the services provided, you can access the website [here](#) and submit an expression of interest query.

iBiology SynBio videos

iBiology have a series of synthetic biology videos that may be useful to you. Details:

We have highlighted here the best of our [Synthetic Biology course](#). These videos will provide you with a basic understanding and appreciation for this field. These lectures start with an introduction to Synthetic Biology and go through the major discoveries and ethical controversies that arise from this field. Join us and discover with us the world of synthetic biology!

www.ibiology.org

Upcoming Conferences

- [SBA2017!](#) Sydney on 21st-22nd September 2017. Come, it will be awesome.
- [International Conference on BioNano Innovation \(ICBNI\)](#) - will explore the translational intersection of biology with nanoscience and nanotechnology. 24th-27th September 2017 (right after SBA2017) in Brisbane.

Items for the next newsletter

Please send any news you might have for inclusion in the next newsletter to the SBA President at c.vickers@uq.edu.au. Remember that positions in synthetic biology can be advertised through this mailing list. These will be collated and sent out with the newsletter, or if urgent, they can be forwarded to the whole mailing list (not too many of these please, we do not want to spam people regularly).

Best regards,
Claudia Vickers

President
Synthetic Biology Australasia