

Industrial Biotechnology



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Industrial Biotechnology focuses on technical challenges relevant to industrial use of synthetic biology and the establishment of the United States as a global leader in the bio-based economy. Applications of engineering biology in this sector focus on increasing market share of bio-based products by US companies through the use of synthetic biology approaches, making sustainable manufacturing processes cost-competitive, accelerating innovation and discovery with respect to making new products and technologies, and generating products at scales necessary for economic viability. The goal is to stimulate investment in infrastructure, streamline production, and advance our use of engineering biology to improve lives. Many of the Challenges, Aims, and Objectives of the roadmap for *Industrial Biotechnology* are influenced by the findings of *Industrialization of biology: A roadmap to accelerate the advanced manufacturing of chemicals.* Committee on Industrialization of Biology: A Roadmap to Accelerate the Advanced Manufacturing of Chemicals, Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, Board on Life Sciences, Division on Earth and Life Studies, & National Research Council. (2015). Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US).

Societal Challenge 1: Enable next-generation production through sustainable, cost-competitive, flexible, and efficient manufacturing processes.

- Science/Engineering Aim 1: Better use of abundant, renewable substrates to make specialty chemicals via economically viable processes.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Modular systems (such as enzymes, consortia, and cell-free systems) that can adapt to different feedstocks and be easily modified to produce different target chemicals.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to edit genomes of microbial and fungal species that can rapidly degrade cellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstocks.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Rapid design and production of custom enzymes and enzyme pathways.
 - Assembled sets of proteins that can completely degrade sustainable feedstocks.
 - Regulatory components (including sensors and networks) that program the system to adapt to the feedstock, intermediates, and side products.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics and function, to feed off of sequential byproducts in an (almost) closed-loop system.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Novel analytics tools to enable prediction and manipulation of holistic microbial ecosystem function by incorporating both biological and environmental data.

Engineering Biology: A Research Roadmap for the Next-Generation Bioeconomy



- Analytical tools to determine and predict matching of organism, strain, or pathway with feedstock/substrate source for best productivity, yield, and lowest cost.
- Engineering Biology Objective 2: New enzymes and cells that work synergistically to degrade biomass and process by-products, possibly in combination with new chemical innovations.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Enzymes engineered to degrade renewable materials and process byproducts faster and more completely.
 - Metabolic or protein engineering approaches to enable complete use of all substrate components and byproducts.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Increased protein secretion rates to enable on-demand enzyme synthesis and release.
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics and function, to feed off of sequential byproducts in an (almost) closed-loop system.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Prediction of protein and cell assemblies that will exhibit desired target production, considering both composition and how components are physically assembled.
 - Prediction and modeling of microbial consortia functioning, specifically synergistic pathways and byproduct recycling.
- Engineering Biology Objective 3: Use of novel and lesser-used substrates/feedstocks for manufacturing processes that are more efficient and more environmentally-sustainable than currently available substrates. This engineering biology objective is aimed at developing new substrate and feedstock systems based solely on biotechnology industry needs, rather than utilizing offshoots of systems created for other purposes (such as farming or animal feeds).
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Improved methods for transformation of organisms with heterologous pathways.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Ability to engineer currently used organisms and hosts to work well with feedstocks deemed promising from environmental and cost standpoints.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Data analysis approaches combining sustainability analyses with strain/pathway/methodology product, yield, and efficiency to



determine promise of lesser-known feedstocks from both industrial-productivity and environmental-sustainability standpoints.

- Modeling methods combining environmental and economic factors to determine the best ways to implement production of new feedstocks.
- Science/Engineering Aim 2: More efficient production of (bio)chemicals, bio-based products, and other specialty materials. The goal of this Aim is to lower energy usage, lower waste processing, and reduce water use in manufacturing and industrial settings.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Implementation of computational approaches to assemble new systems that consider multiple facets of production. (Including feedstocks, target product, available facilities, biological component characteristics and limitations, among others.)
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Rapid design and production of custom enzymes and enzyme pathways.
 - Metabolic or protein engineering approaches to enable complete use of all substrate components.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics and function, to feed off of sequential byproducts in an (almost) closed-loop system.
 - Development of fast-growing variants of non-model production hosts.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Data integration methodology and approaches to describe and compare system performance.
 - Design-of-experiments approaches to obtain required data to enable prediction.
 - Artificial intelligence and/or machine learning approaches to predict how systems should be assembled considering production goals and constraints.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 2: Enable a broader range of microorganisms to be used in traditional biomanufacturing industries to expand the scope of natural product discovery and production.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.



- Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.
- Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Rapid adaptation of enzymes to work in the context of different hosts.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Development of fast-growing variants of non-model production hosts.
- Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Prediction of media components, additives, environmental conditions that promote growth of non-model production hosts from genomic data.
- Engineering Biology Objective 3: Experimental and computational approaches to increase growth rates, yield, and efficiency of production hosts.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Development of regulatory components that enable dynamic regulation to optimally balance growth and production, especially of toxic or high-energy-requiring products.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Ability to engineer non-model production hosts with increased growth rates and improved yield and efficiency, especially under bioproduction conditions.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Computational approaches to classify mutations found in slowgrowing production hosts, to define if they are necessary or detrimental for cell growth and processing.
 - Automation approaches to screen new candidate hosts for fast growth and desired production rates.



- Science/Engineering Aim 3: Modular manufacturing to enable flexible, on-demand production of a range of target chemicals. The goal of this Aim is to reduce transportation costs of both feedstocks and products to improve economic feasibility, especially of lower-value chemicals like biofuels.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Development of commercial systems for ondemand manufacturing of commodity and high-value chemicals. The ideal system will include on-demand capabilities for both upstream (production) and downstream (purification) elements of the process.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Assembled sets of proteins that can completely degrade sustainable feedstocks.
 - Regulatory components (including sensors and networks) that program the system to adapt to the feedstock, intermediates, and side products.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics and function, to feed off of sequential byproducts in an (almost) closed-loop system.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Novel analytics tools to enable prediction and manipulation of holistic microbial ecosystem function by incorporating both biological and environmental data.
 - Analytics tools and approaches to develop flexible manufacturing processes.
 - Widely adopted methods for defining reproducible workflows that can be used by cloud laboratories to embed protocols for implementation, characterization, and verification and validation of components, pathways/circuits, subsystems, cells, consortia, and multicellular organisms.
 - Modular field production facilities that can accommodate many manufacturing protocols.
 - Establish life cycle assessments to determine efficiency, sustainability, and feasibility of protocols and processes.



- Engineering Biology Objective 2: Develop hosts or consortia that can generate multiple products from a single process. The goal of this Objective is to generate product streams which can easily be separated, or modified, to produce different target products, such as by changing an environmental condition or one biological component.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.
 - Community-level, metagenome editing.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Assembled sets of proteins that can completely degrade sustainable feedstocks.
 - Regulatory components (including sensors and networks) that program the system to adapt to the feedstock, intermediates, and side products.
 - Regulatory components that allow the user to easily switch between different target products.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Ability to exert tight control over pathways (such as through dynamic metabolic engineering) that are not being used in production.
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics, and function, to feed off of sequential byproducts in an (almost) closed-loop system.
 - Adaptable hosts optimized for production of multiple products.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Novel analytics tools to enable prediction and manipulation of holistic microbial ecosystem function by incorporating both biological and environmental data.
 - Modeling and analytics tools for building systems with multiple objectives and constraints.
- Engineering Biology Objective 3: Engineer off-the-shelf hosts and microbial communities that can rapidly adapt and produce a target product(s) at high yield and high concentration. The goal of this objective is to enable production hosts that can rapidly adapt to different feedstocks, culture conditions, or toxic products and do so in increasingly closed-loop systems.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.



- Community-level, metagenome editing.
- Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Regulatory components (including sensors and networks) that program the community to adapt to the feedstock, intermediates, and side products.
- Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineer fast growing organisms that can rely on a variety of feedstocks.
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics, and function, to feed off of sequential byproducts in an (almost) closed-loop system.
 - Ability to exert tight control over pathways (such as through dynamic metabolic engineering) that are not being used in production.
 - Reliable strategies for microbial community assembly that promote desired community composition and high-levels of productivity.
 - Engineered host organisms that can be stored without freezing and easily shipped.
 - Engineered hosts that produce fewer (or no) toxic by-products.
- Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Novel analytics tools to enable prediction and manipulation of holistic microbial ecosystem function by incorporating both biological and environmental data.
 - Automation strategies for assessing community composition and function dynamically.
 - Modular field production facilities that can accommodate many manufacturing protocols.

Societal Challenge 2: Scalable production of novel and existing products that are more sustainable and economically- and environmentally-friendly.

- Science/Engineering Aim 1: Improved ability to identify and make commodity, specialty, and high value chemicals and materials.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Modeling, design, and test of pathways to make molecules and products that do not exist in nature.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Precise and automated generation of large collections of gene variants for pathway designs.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Design of enzymes for converting unnatural substrates.
 - At-will design of non-natural pathways for the production of novel products and materials.

Engineering Biology: A Research Roadmap for the Next-Generation Bioeconomy



- Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Creation of hosts suitable for the production of certain natural and synthetic molecule families.
 - Pathway integration processes for hosts that are easy and high-throughput.
 - Understanding of, and solutions for, product toxicity to the host.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - At-will design of non-natural pathways for the production of novel products and materials.
 - Automated robotic screening of desired phenotypes coupled with precise analytics of desired molecules and side products.
- Engineering Biology Objective 2: Novel methodologies for discovery and optimization of existing metabolic pathways in host organisms.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Precise and automated generation of large collections of gene variants.
 - Gene editing capabilities for diverse production organisms.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Better enzyme and pathway design in industrial production hosts.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Molecular tools for novel or unnatural production organisms.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Automated robotic screening of desired phenotypes coupled with precise analytics of desired molecules and side products.
 - Accurate prediction of gene and enzyme function for poorly annotated genomes to allow more effective bioprospecting.
- Engineering Biology Objective 3: Production of biologics in organisms at economically-viable scales.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Gene editing capabilities for diverse production organisms to ensure access to "the right tool for the job".
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Novel biosensors that respond to cheaper and/or more efficient inducer molecules (chemical pathway "on/off switches").
 - Automated directed evolution of multi-gene pathways to make a single host species or strain as productive as possible (such as able to synthesize multiple products).
 - Engineer cell consortia for orchestrated production of multiple products simultaneously.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineer host organisms that grow quickly during production and more efficiently use diverse feedstocks.



- Conversion of side products to valuable commodities for enhancing economic value.
- Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Improved prediction and analysis of flux via metabolic pathways to determine maximum theoretical yields under different fermentation conditions.
- Engineering Biology Objective 4: Commercialization of new types of products using bio-inspired fabrication, including engineered living materials and devices.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Precision gene editing in vivo.
 - Reliable and efficient delivery vectors for gene editing agents.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Optimize pathways for the production of novel bio-polymer materials.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Create engineered environments with three-dimensional structures and multiple cellular types ordered and arranged in a controlled manner throughout the structure.
 - Engineer hosts with controllable "kill switches", decreased toxic byproducts, and decreased immunogenicity (especially for biosensors for multicellular hosts and/or environments).
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Enhanced prediction of compatibility between bio-fabricated materials and hosts/environments.
- Science/Engineering Aim 2: Manufacturing of consumable and infrastructure products via synthetic biology, including food, textiles, building materials, and packaging.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Innovations in bio-based manufacturing of commodity products.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Highly efficient organismal gene and genome editing.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Enable more efficient and rapid engineering of orthogonal chemical communications pathways between cells.
 - Heterologous pathway transformation into organisms from different kingdoms.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - General molecular toolbox that can be applied to a wide range of hosts.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Screening capabilities for bio-based production.
 - Databases and foundries for microbial isolates.



• Engineering Biology Objective 2: Synthetic and natural organisms that can convert agricultural wastes into commodity products.

- Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists to find hosts that are naturally more efficient or that have more efficient pathways that can be placed into heterologous hosts.
- Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered proteins and large complexes with efficient catalytic capabilities for conversion of bulk agricultural waste into products with downstream applicability.
 - Regulatory components (including sensors and networks) that program the organism to adapt to the feedstock, intermediates, and side products.
- Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - General molecular toolbox that can be applied to a wide range of hosts.
 - Engineer hosts that can sustain production yield and efficiency under a wide range of stress conditions.
- Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Screening capabilities for bio-based production.
 - Libraries and foundries for microbial isolates.
 - Analysis and prediction of metagenomic data.
- Science/Engineering Aim 3: Safer production processes through reduced toxin use and toxic byproduct synthesis. (Including a reduction in downstream toxins from degradation of materials after use.)
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Risk, safety, and life-cycle assessments for biobased manufacturing processes.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Safe, reliable, and efficient delivery vectors for gene editing agents.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered biosensors for toxic compounds.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Metabolic pathway engineering to prevent synthesis of toxic byproducts and/or to metabolize toxins.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - High-throughput screening approaches to assess toxin production.
 - Development of holistic models of risk/safety with respect to manufacturing process (including employees), environment, and consumers.



- Develop new and better life cycle assessment models for biomolecule production.
- Engineering Biology Objective 2: Incentives and regulations, when needed, to ensure the safety of those involved in production and of consumers, as well as overall process sustainability.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Development of holistic models of risk/safety with respect to manufacturing process (including employees), environment, and consumers.
 - Undertake life cycle assessment to determine efficiency, sustainability, and feasibility of protocols and processes.
- Engineering Biology Objective 3: Engineer processes, pathways, and enzymes to minimize waste production.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Ability to synthesize, edit, assemble, and deliver many genes and regulatory components in a single cell.
 - Ability to edit genomes of diverse hosts, including microbes, fungi, and protists.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Assembled sets of proteins that can completely degrade sustainable feedstocks.
 - Regulatory components (including sensors and networks) that program the system to adapt to the feedstock, intermediates, and side products.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered microbial consortia with predictable composition, dynamics, and function.
 - Metabolic pathway engineering to prevent synthesis of toxic byproducts and/or to metabolize toxins.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Novel analytics tools to enable prediction and manipulation of holistic microbial ecosystem function by incorporating both biological and environmental data.
- Science/Engineering Aim 4: Better tools for rapidly translating desired products or process features into industrial workflows and accelerate time-to-market.
 - Engineering Biology Objective 1: Predictive and generalized models that allow laboratory-scale results to be accurately projected to industrial scale processes and vice-versa.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Methods for creating variant libraries that can be used for validating models of genetic circuits and pathways.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Ability to predict function from sequence.



- Ability to design sequences for desired functions.
- Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Better methods for predicting interactions between components and for designing components and subsystems that behave as expected.
- Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Higher-throughput data collection and analysis.
 - Better tools for predictive modeling across scales and environments.
 - Ability to estimate robustness of circuits and pathways to genetic, host, and environmental context.
- Engineering Biology Objective 2: Common (and reproducible) standards for biological components and subsystems that enable re-use and efficient component suppliers.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Methods for modular assembly of subsystems and replacement of components required to reconfigure subsystem interfaces.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Protein libraries that allow modular replacement of domains to mix and match functions required for circuit and pathway engineering.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Methods of defining "modules", and flexible interconnection of modules, that maintain the desired function of the module independent of the operation of other parts of the circuit or genetic, host, environmental context.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Methods for modeling components/subsystems that allows better characterization and prediction of effects of interaction with other modules and cellular resources, as well as the effects of uncertainty (such as context or system noise).
 - Automated techniques for assembly and characterization of complex circuits consisting of thousands of individual elements (organized as interacting subsystems).
- Engineering Biology Objective 3: Increased rate of design-build-test-learn cycles that combine design, modeling, prototyping, implementing, and characterization of components, pathways/circuits, subsystems, cells, consortia, and multicellular organisms.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Faster, lower-cost methods for creating genome-length sequences that are generated by design tools.



- Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Better methods for design and characterization of proteins and multi-protein complexes for performing a wide variety of functions required at component to subsystem scales.
- Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Ability to design, implement, and characterize circuits/pathways, subsystems, cells, consortia and multicellular organisms consisting of hundreds to millions of individual components through a modular, hierarchical framework that enables reuse of interacting components.
- Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Layered and modular design abstractions and the modeling, characterization, and testing tools required to support the creation and use of components, pathways/circuits, and subsystems to create engineered cells, consortia, and multicellular organisms.
- Engineering Biology Objective 4: Deployment and improved use of automation for both research and translational activities to increase throughput.
 - Gene Editing, Synthesis, and Assembly Achievement:
 - Well-defined libraries with associated assembly and editing methods for genomic sequences that support the output of compilers and other design tools.
 - Increased cross-talk between geneticists and automation experts to hone efficient, high-throughput, automated laboratory protocols and workflows for gene editing and assembly and genetic library creation and exploration.
 - Biomolecule, Pathway, and Circuit Engineering Achievement:
 - Well-defined libraries with associated assembly and editing methods for protein domains and molecular machines that support the output of compilers and other design tools.
 - Host and Consortia Engineering Achievement:
 - Engineered hosts with predictable composition, dynamics, and function.
 - Continually refined physical automation infrastructure and processes (including factories, robots, assembly lines, and workflows) to enable more efficient and modular high-throughput engineering of multiple different kinds of organisms, pathways, and product outputs.
 - Data Integration, Modeling, and Automation Achievement:
 - Widely adopted methods for defining reproducible workflows that can be used by cloud laboratories to implement protocols for implementation, characterization, and verification and validation of components, pathways/circuits, sub-systems, cells, multicellular organisms, consortia, and automation platforms.



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