



# Frontiers in Biorefining

*Chemicals and Products  
from Renewable Carbon*

# 2016 International Conference

St. Simons Island, Georgia, USA

November 8 - November 11

## Steering Committee Members

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**Steve Chmely**

**Nicole Labbé**

**Timothy Rials**

Center for Renewable Carbon  
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**Martin Patel**

University of Geneva

**Laurene Tetard**

University of Central Florida

Hosted By:



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2016

5:00pm-8:00pm Registration/Social Hour

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2016

6:45am-7:45am Registration/Breakfast

## Plenary Session: Biorefinery Concepts

- 7:45-8:00 **Timothy Rials** (The University of Tennessee – Welcome and Opening Remarks)
- 8:00-8:35 **Maureen McCann** (Purdue University – Re-defining recalcitrance: a multi-scale, multi-factor and conversion-specific property of biomass)
- 8:35-9:10 **Mahdi Abu-Omar** (University of California, Santa Barbara – Sustainable conversion of lignin to value-added chemicals, thermoplastics, and fuels)
- 9:10-9:45 **Gregg Beckham** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Acrylonitrile production from biomass for renewable carbon fiber applications)

9:45am-10:15am Coffee Break

- 10:15-10:50 **Ed de Jong** (Avantium – The pros and cons of 1<sup>st</sup> versus 2<sup>nd</sup> generation carbohydrates as biorefinery feedstock)
- 10:50-11:25 **Timothy Bugg** (University of Warwick – Bacterial enzymes for lignin degradation: production of aromatic chemicals from lignocellulose)
- 11:25-12:00 **Blake Simmons** (Joint BioEnergy Institute – Development of advanced biofuels and biomass conversion technologies at the Joint BioEnergy Institute)

12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch **Alison Goss Eng** (DOE – The U.S. Department of Energy's bioenergy program: growing a billion ton bioeconomy)

## Session 2A: Catalytic Conversion of Lignin and Carbohydrates - I

- 1:30-1:55 **Johannes de Vries** (University of Groningen – New fine chemical building blocks from lignin via stabilisation of reactive intermediates from the C-2 acidolysis pathway)
- 1:55-2:20 **Pieter Bruijninx** (Utrecht University – Catalyst development for new and 'drop-in' chemicals from the carbohydrate fraction of biomass)
- 2:20-2:45 **Ed de Jong** (Avantium – A biorefinery approach to produce biobased FDCA and MEG, the building blocks for the next generation polyester PEF)
- 2:45-3:10 **Jesse Bond** (Syracuse University – Levulinic acid oxidation as a strategy for the production of maleic anhydride)
- 3:10-3:20 *Flash Talks*  
**Li Shuai** (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – Quantitative depolymerization of uncondensed technical lignin at 120 °C with supported nickel catalysts)  
**Tom Renders** (KU Leuven - Catalytic reductive fractionation: effects of acidic and alkaline additives)

3:20pm-3:40pm Coffee Break

- 3:40-4:05 **Michel Gagné** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Catalytic approaches to complex molecules from carbohydrate biomass)
- 4:05-4:30 **Raul Lobo** (University of Delaware – Biomass valorization: making molecules we need through heterogeneous catalysis)
- 4:30-4:55 **Mark Mascal** (University of California, Davis – Chemical-catalytic approaches to the production of renewable fuels and monomers via 5-(chloromethyl) furfural (CMF))
- 4:55-5:20 **Linda Broadbelt** (Northwestern University – Mechanistic modeling of the (bio)conversion of (bio)macromolecules)
- 5:20-5:45 **Thomas Elder** (USDA-Forest Service – Computational studies of catalysts for oxygen pulping of wood)

## Session 2B: Biobased Chemicals and Materials

- 1:30-1:55 **Mark Hillmyer** (University of Minnesota – Next-generation block polymers from renewable resources)
- 1:55-2:20 **Jeremy Luterbacher** (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – Stabilization with formaldehyde facilitates the high-yield production of monomers from lignin during integrated biomass depolymerization)
- 2:20-2:45 **Elinor Scott** (Wageningen University – Integrated approaches in dealing with dilute heterogeneous biomass sources for the production of chemicals)
- 2:45-3:10 **Wenzhen Li** (Iowa State University – Electrocatalytic processing of biorenewables for generation of electricity, chemicals and fuels)
- 3:10-3:20 *Flash Talks*  
**Way Khor** (Ghent University – Production of medium chain fatty acids from grass)  
**Jennifer Greenstein** (North Carolina State University – Two-step enzymatic conversion of algal triacylglycerides to hydrocarbons)

3:20pm-3:40pm Coffee Break

- 3:40-4:05 **Maria Soledad Peresin** (Auburn University – An overview of the role of ligno-nanocellulosics in the biorefinery concept)
- 4:05-4:30 **Andrew Sutton** (Los Alamos National Laboratory – The use of bioderived molecular building blocks for the simultaneous production of fuels and chemicals)
- 4:30-4:55 **Hua Zhao** (Savannah State University – Pretreatment of cellulosic biomass by glycol-functionalized ionic liquids and aqueous ionic liquids)
- 4:55-5:20 **David Johnson** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Production of advanced biofuels for blending into jet and diesel fuels via furanic intermediates)
- 5:20-5:45 **David Harper** (The University of Tennessee – Use of lignin based carbons for energy storage applications)

6:30pm-8:00pm Group Picture/Social Hour

7:00am-8:00am Breakfast

**Session 3A:****Catalytic Conversion of Lignin and Carbohydrates - II**

- 8:00-8:25 **Steve Chmely** (The University of Tennessee – Catalytic transfer hydrogenolysis of organosolv lignin using NiFeB nano alloys)
- 8:25-8:50 **Eric Hegg** (Michigan State University – Effective metal catalyzed oxidative pretreatment of woody biomass)
- 8:50-9:15 **Frederick Baddour** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – From lab to market: designing a cost model for catalyst scaling)
- 9:15-9:40 **Wouter Schutyser** (KU Leuven – Catalytic reductive fractionation of woody biomass)
- 9:40-9:50 *Flash Talks*
- Arpa Ghosh** (Iowa State University – Production of soluble and hydrolyzable carbohydrates from biomass using THF/water co-solvent in the presence of acid catalyst)
- Robert Narron** (North Carolina State University – Towards specific description of autohydrolyzed lignin's chemical structures)

**9:50am-10:20am Coffee Break**

- 10:20-10:45 **Rebecca Key** (The University of Tennessee – Development of novel nitrogenous base-tethered Cobalt-Schiff base complexes for the selective catalytic cleavage of lignin)
- 10:45-11:10 **Jian Shi** (University of Kentucky – Catalytic conversion of lignin in ionic liquids via catalysis and biocatalysis)
- 11:10-11:35 **Joris Thybaut** (Ghent University – Automating the assessment of renewable feedstock conversion kinetics)
- 11:35-12:00 **Richard Hess** (Idaho National Laboratory – Conversion-ready feedstocks for biorefining)

12:00pm-5:00pm Free Time

12:30pm-2:00pm Round Table

**Session 3B:****Advanced Biomass Characterization**

- 8:00-8:25 **Laurene Tetard** (University of Central Florida – Exploring phenolic and polysaccharides compounds in lignocellulosic biomaterials)
- 8:25-8:50 **Loukas Petridis** (Oak Ridge National Laboratory – Molecular mechanisms driving biomass deconstruction)
- 8:50-9:15 **Seong Kim** (Pennsylvania State University – Non-linear optical spectroscopy study of plant cell walls - New opportunities and challenges)
- 9:15-9:40 **Lee Makowski** (Northeastern University – The impact of alterations in lignin deposition on cellulose organization of the plant cell wall)
- 9:40-9:50 *Flash Talks*
- Enshi Liu** (University of Kentucky – Fractionation and characterization of lignin streams from engineered switchgrass)
- John Jennings** (University of Kentucky – Tin beta zeolite for regioselective Baeyer-Villiger oxidation of lignin model compounds)

**9:50am-10:20am Coffee Break**

- 10:20-10:45 **Madhavi Martin** (Oak Ridge National Laboratory – Correlating laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) and neutron activation analysis (NAA) for resolving the spatial variation in the Populus trichocarpa leaf ionome)
- 10:45-11:10 **Allison Ray** (Idaho National Laboratory – Impact of blending corn stover, switchgrass, and MSW grass on biochemical conversion performance and feedstock cost)
- 11:10-11:35 **Abhishek Singh** (North Carolina State University – Structural model of plant cellulose synthase and cellulose synthase complex)
- 11:35-12:00 **Marcus Foston** (Washington University in St. Louis – Unlocking the secrets to lignin conversion)

5:00-7:00pm Poster Session

**Wenhui Geng** (North Carolina State University – Hemicellulose extraction from switchgrass, pine and poplar and its effect on enzymatic convertibility of cellulose-rich residue)

**Arpa Ghosh** (Iowa State University – Production of soluble and hydrolyzable carbohydrates from biomass using thf/water co-solvent in the presence of acid catalyst)

**Jennifer Greenstein** (North Carolina State University – Two-step enzymatic conversion of algal triacylglycerides to hydrocarbons)

**Rhodri Jenkins** (Los Alamos National Laboratory – Facile hydrodeoxygenation of cellulosic biomass derived ketones using solid acid catalysts)

**John Jennings** (University of Kentucky – Tin beta zeolite for regioselective baeyer-villiger oxidation of lignin)

**Way Khor** (Ghent University – Production of medium chain fatty acids from grass)

**Alex Lewis** (Oak Ridge National Laboratory – Understanding the impact of flow rate and recycle on the conversion of a complex biorefinery stream using a flow-through MEC)

**Jake Lindstrom** (Iowa State University – Thermal deconstruction of cellulose with subsequent hydrolysis to fermentable sugars)

**Enshi Liu** (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Fractionation and characterization of lignin streams from engineered switchgrass)

**Cameron Moore** (Los Alamos National Laboratory – Two and three carbon bio-building blocks for fuel and chemical production)

**Robert Narron** (North Carolina State University – Towards specific description of autohydrolyzed lignin's chemical structures)

**Ydna Questell-Santiago** (École Polytechnique Fédéral de Lausanne – Stabilization of carbohydrates with formaldehyde during integrated biomass depolymerization)

**Kalavathy Rajan** (The University of Tennessee – Fractionation and characterization of switchgrass liquid autohydrolyzate)

**Tom Renders** (KULeuven – Catalytic reductive fractionation: effects of acidic and alkaline additives)

**Violeta Sánchez i Nogué** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Lipid production from biomass via oleaginous yeast)

**Li Shuai** (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – Quantitative depolymerization of uncondensed technical lignin at 120 °C with supported nickel catalysts)

**Mikhael Soliman** (University of Central Florida – Physical and chemical characterization of plants response to external mechanical and chemical stresses)

**Jingming Tao** (The University of Tennessee – Characterization of switchgrass extractives by supercritical fluid chromatography)

**Preenaa Venugopal** (The University of Tennessee – Fractionation of lignocellulosic biomass using ionic liquid 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium acetate ([EMIM][CH<sub>3</sub>COO]))

**Xuefeng Zhang** (Mississippi State University – Synthesize and characterization of graphene nanomaterials from kraft lignin)

7:00pm-9:00pm Conference Dinner

Keynote speaker: **Bruce Dale** (Michigan State University – Bioenergy and biofuels: getting to very large scale- sustainably)

## 7:00am-8:00am Breakfast

## Session 4A:

## Thermochemical Transformations of Biomass

- 8:00-8:25 **Susan Habas** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – A facile route to nanostructured metal phosphide catalysts for hydrodeoxygenation of bio-oil compounds)
- 8:25-8:50 **Manuel Garcia-Perez** (Washington State University – Bio-oil refining: challenges and opportunities)
- 8:50-9:15 **Jesse Hensley** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Chemicals and high octane hydrocarbons produced from bio-dimethyl ether using a copper modified zeolite)
- 9:15-9:40 **Jason Hicks** (University of Notre Dame – Catalytic properties of molybdenum-based bimetallic phosphides for deoxygenation reactions of phenolic model compounds)

## 9:40am-10:10am Coffee Break

- 10:10-10:35 **Seonah Kim** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Computational and experimental studies of metal-doped zeolites in catalytic fast pyrolysis)
- 10:35-11:00 **Maria Auad** (Auburn University – Polymeric bio-resins based on fast pyrolysis bio-oil)
- 11:00-11:25 **Zaikuan Yu** (Purdue University – Fast pyrolysis of  $^{13}\text{C}$ - and  $^{18}\text{O}$ -labeled cello-oligosaccharides: probing the mechanisms of fast pyrolysis of carbohydrates)
- 11:25-11:50 **Joshua Schaidle** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – From catalyst design to technology validation: the role of model compound and whole biomass vapor experiments in catalytic fast pyrolysis research and development)

## Session 4B:

## Biochemical Transformations of Biomass

- 8:00-8:25 **Barry Goodell** (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Biocatalysis in the brown rot fungi)
- 8:25-8:50 **Benedikt Möllers** (University of Copenhagen – Light-driven enzymatic degradation of lignocellulose)
- 8:50-9:15 **Ananda Amarasekara** (Prairie View A&M University – Artificial cellulase type ionic liquid catalysts for cellulose hydrolysis)
- 9:15-9:40 **Davinia Salvachua** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Lignin depolymerization by fungal secretomes is enhanced with a bacterial sink)

## 9:40am-10:10am Coffee Break

- 10:10-10:35 **Janet Westpheling** (University of Georgia – Direct conversion of plant biomass to ethanol by engineered *Caldicellulosiruptor bescii*)
- 10:35-11:00 **Nancy Nichols** (National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, USDA Agricultural Research Service – Production of xylitol from biomass using an inhibitor-tolerant fungal strain)
- 11:00-11:25 **Shijie Liu** (State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry – Co-production of ethanol and xylose from woody biomass)
- 11:25-11:50 **Eric Karp** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Scalable methods for recovery of carboxylic acids from fermentation broth)

## 11:50am-12:30pm Box Lunch