

“Sequence to Culture” Jamboree Agenda

VENUE: Desert Research Institute, Phase II Building - Rogers Auditorium

Thursday, November 6, 2025		
8:30-9:00	Informal Networking - BREAKFAST PROVIDED	Phase II Building Lobby
9:00-9:15	Opening Remarks (Brian, Tanja, Natalia) <i>“How do we get a billion \$ over 30 years for microbiology & cultivation like the Advanced Light Source did?”</i>	Rogers Auditorium
9:15-9:45	Understanding the gap via the Microbial Genome Census (Rekha, Nikos)	Rogers Auditorium
9:45-9:55	Part I Questions & Summary of online responses (Brian)	Rogers Auditorium
10:00-11:30	Part I Breakout Session, 3 assigned groups (Moderators: Brian, Ranjani, Bob, Frederik)	Breakout rooms
11:35-11:45	Group Photo in lobby (online for virtual attendees)	Phase II Building Lobby
11:45-1:00	Networking Lunch	Phase II Building Lobby
1:00-1:40	Part I Breakout group summary report, 10 min per group	Rogers Auditorium
1:40-2:00	Follow up discussion/aligning on priorities or solutions	Rogers Auditorium
2:00-2:15	Part II Questions & Summary of online responses (Natalia)	Rogers Auditorium
2:15-3:45	Part II Breakout Session, 3 assigned groups (Moderators: Brian, Nikos, Bob, Frederik)	Breakout rooms
3:50-4:30	Part II Breakout group summary report, 10 min per group	Rogers Auditorium
4:30-4:50	Follow up discussion/aligning on priorities or solutions	Rogers Auditorium
4:50-5:00	Announcements, Wrap up	Rogers Auditorium
Friday, November 7, 2025		
8:30-9:00	Informal networking - BREAKFAST PROVIDED	Phase II Building Lobby
9:00-9:15	JGI’s user programs (Tanja)	Rogers Auditorium
9:15-9:25	Part III Questions & Summary of online responses (Ranjani)	Rogers Auditorium
9:30-10:45	Part III Breakout Session, 3 assigned groups	Breakout rooms

	(Moderators: Brian, Rekha, Bob, Frederik)	
10:50-11:30	Part III Breakout group summary report, 10 min per group	Rogers Auditorium
11:30-11:45	Follow up discussion/aligning on priorities or solutions	Rogers Auditorium
11:45-12:00	Announcements, Wrap up and DISMISSAL	Rogers Auditorium

Jamboree Discussion Questions:

Part I. Current status of the microbial cultivation problem (Morning Thursday, November 6)

(Moderators: Brian (virtual), Ranjani, Bob, Frederik)

1. Are accessible, tractable microbial cultures (isolate/enrichments) needed? Or is it a near-obsolete technology, to be replaced by high-throughput in situ studies? [Part I](#)
2. What are best established practices for cultivating prokaryotes that should be broadly implemented but currently are not? Please fill in the [Cultivation Best Practices](#) google sheet to capture your ideas. [Part I](#)
3. Which are the “Most Valuable Prokaryotes” (MVPs) and why should those taxa be prioritized? Please fill in the [MVP hit list](#) to capture your ideas. How can we highlight MVPs to excite interest? [Part I](#)

Part II. Current and future of microbial cultivation (Afternoon Thursday, November 6)

(Moderator: Brian (virtual), Nikos, Bob, Frederik)

4. How can traditional culturing methods be adapted or combined with modern techniques (including high-throughput approaches) to make large-scale advancements? [Part II](#)
 - a. How to inform assembly of stable synthetic communities?
5. How can collaborative initiatives and pooled resources enhance efforts to cultivate new taxa? For example, what resources would be needed to play “matchmaker” between researchers to cultivate MVPs? [Part II](#)
 - a. Would it be useful to document and share ongoing, shelved, or failed attempts? (Would a perspective series on these experiences be useful?)
6. How can we better leverage growing datasets? What computational strategies, including AI/ML, can be deployed to guide cultivation using sequence data and/or environmental data? How can we improve reliability and staging of data to support efforts? [Part II](#)

Part III. Long-term outlook of the cultivation problem (Morning Friday, November 7)

(Moderator: Brian (virtual), Rekha, Bob, Frederik)

7. How can we train the next generation of “master cultivators” and ensure this expertise is valued and sustained and rewarded, especially when it is often perceived as slower and lower-throughput than purely computational projects? [Part III](#)
8. How do we stimulate downstream research into fundamental biology and in-depth characterization of new cultivated non-model organisms? What is the strategic pathway for elevating a novel isolate or defined co-culture into a tractable, genetically tractable model system? [Part III](#)
 - a. Is JGI’s [Community Science Program](#) responsive and appropriate for this task? Is there anything JGI can do to stimulate learning about novel non-model organisms?
9. Do you have any other high-priority ideas related to cultivation? [Part III](#)