



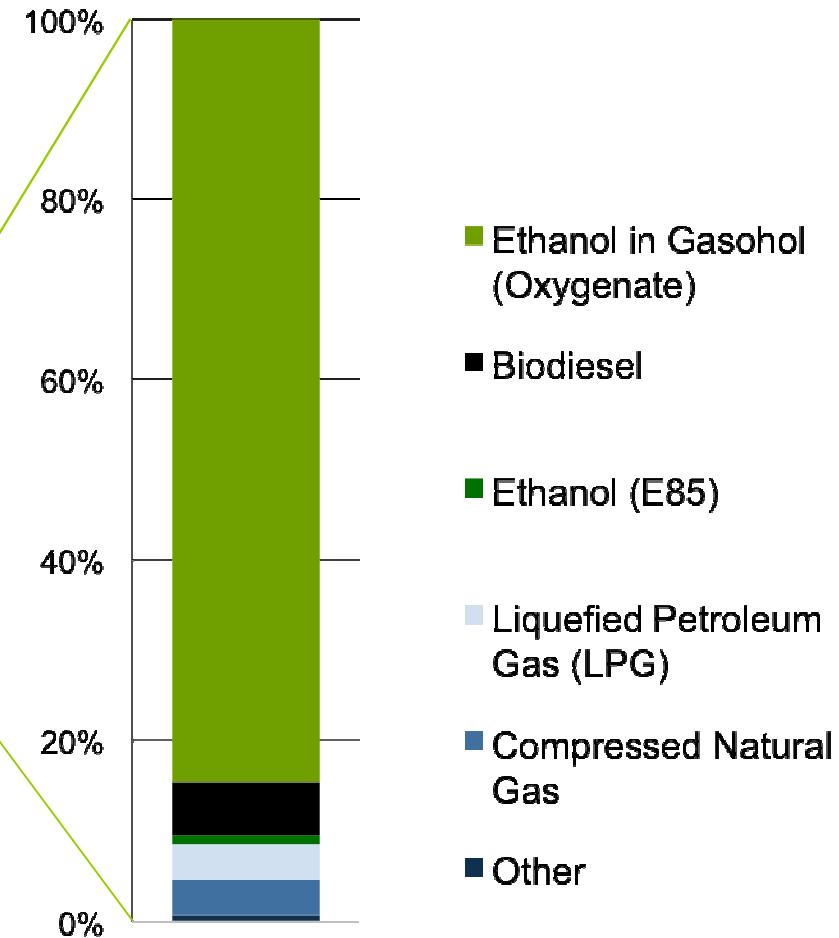
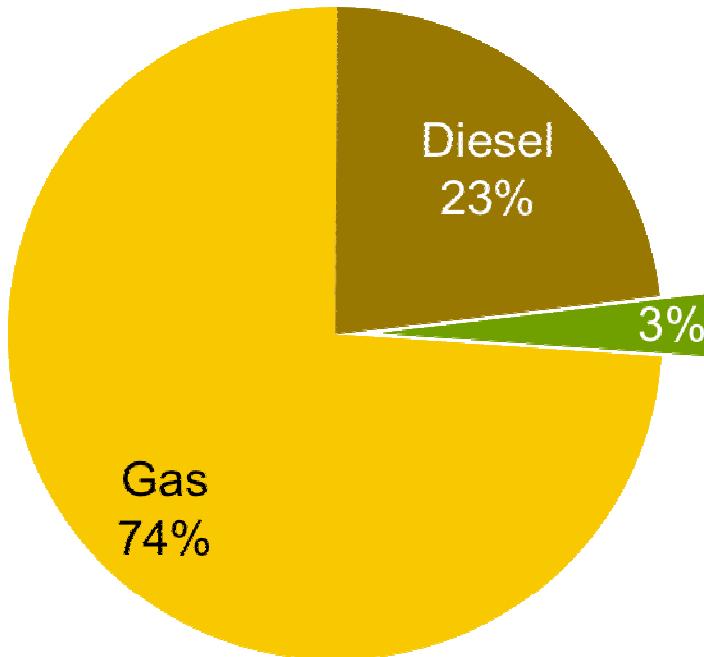
# SANDIA BIOFUELS OVERVIEW



# PETROLEUM DOMINATES TRANSPORT FUELS

## Fuel Consumption

% of Gallons Consumed, 2006



Source: Alternatives to Traditional Transportation Fuels, 2007, Release Date: April 2009  
Statistics: Estimated Consumption of Vehicle Fuels in the United States, by Fuel Type

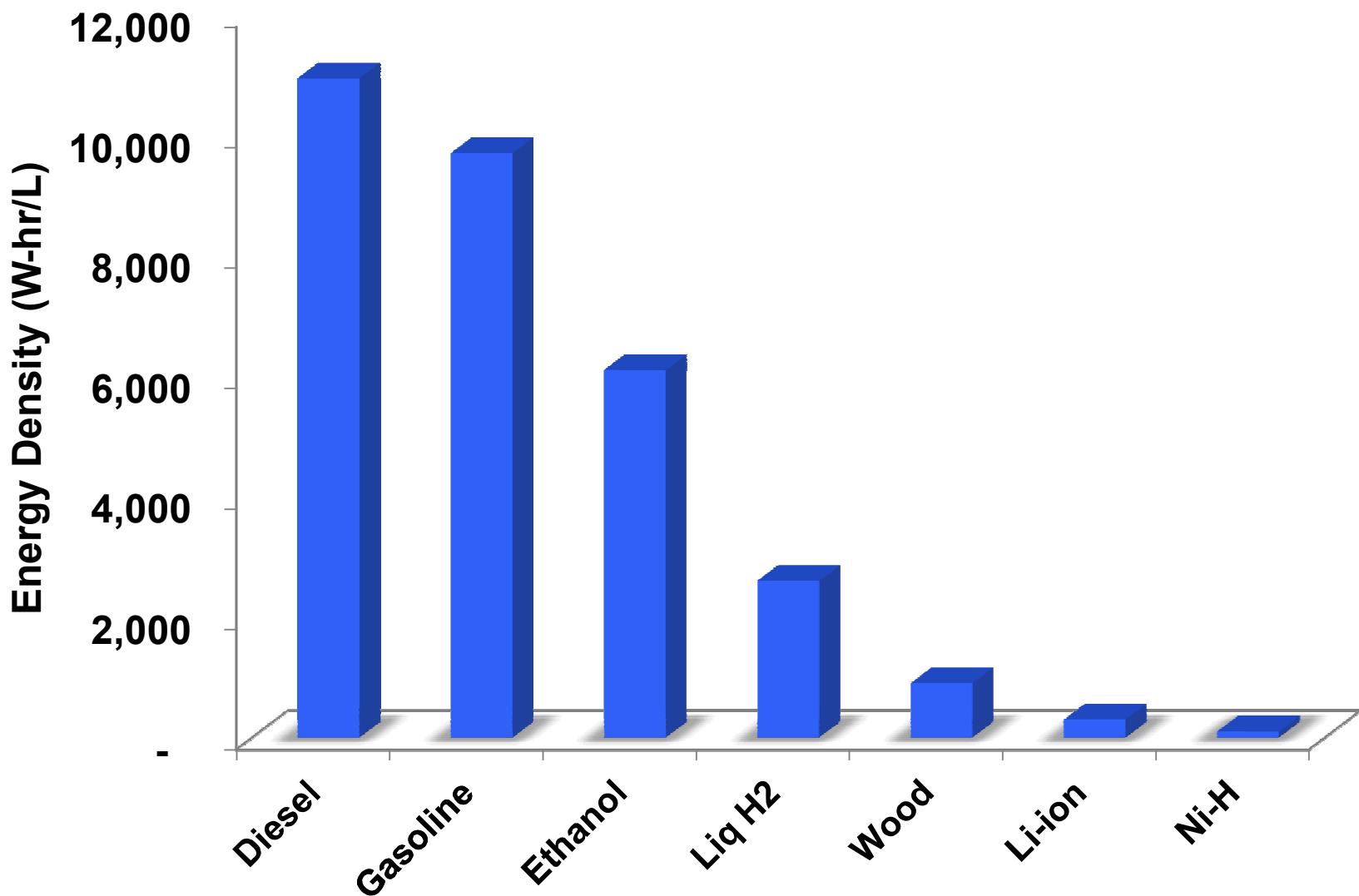
# PETROLEUM IS A WONDER RESOURCE

---



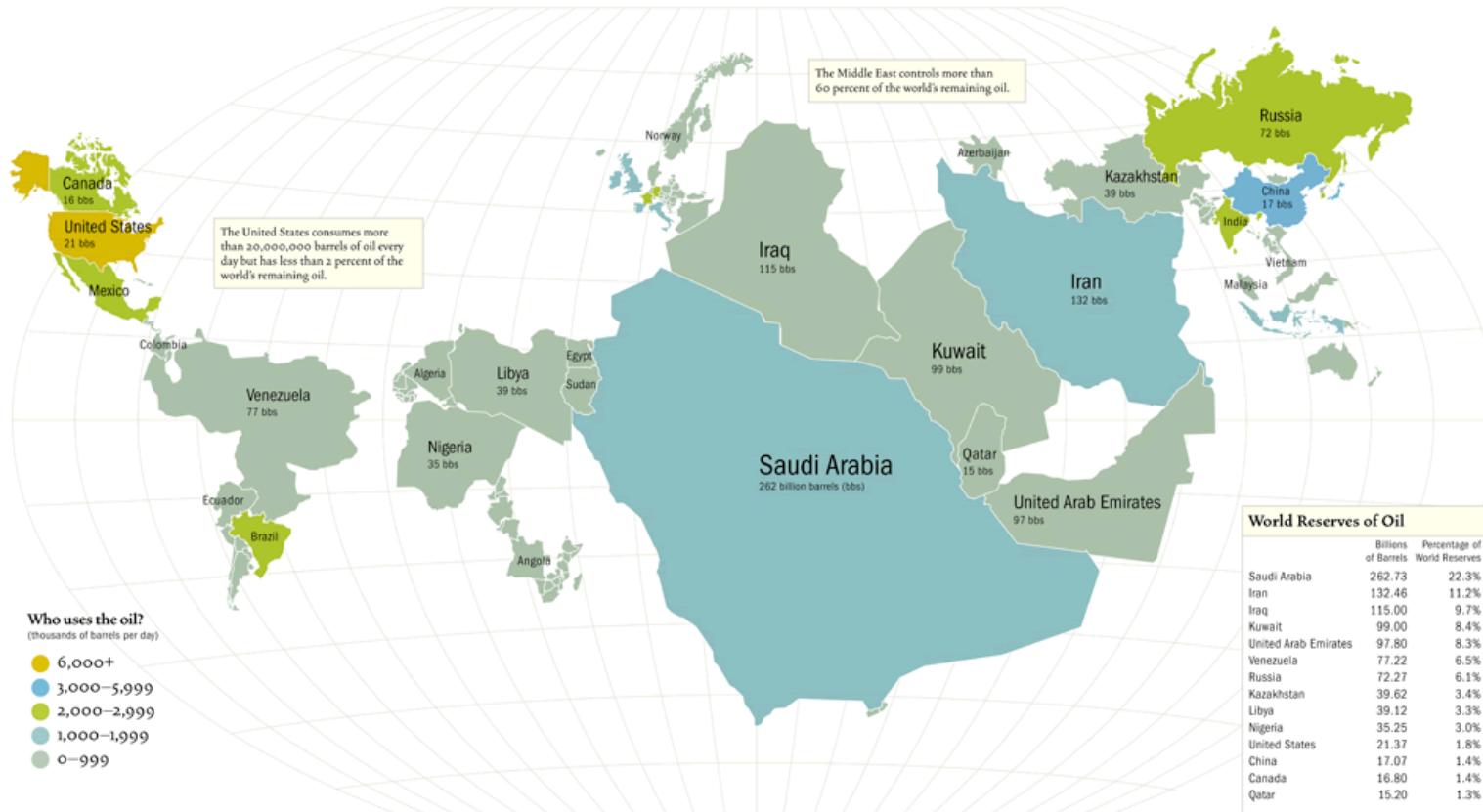
- Liquid
- Cheap
- Loaded with Energy

# PETROLEUM IS PACKED WITH ENERGY



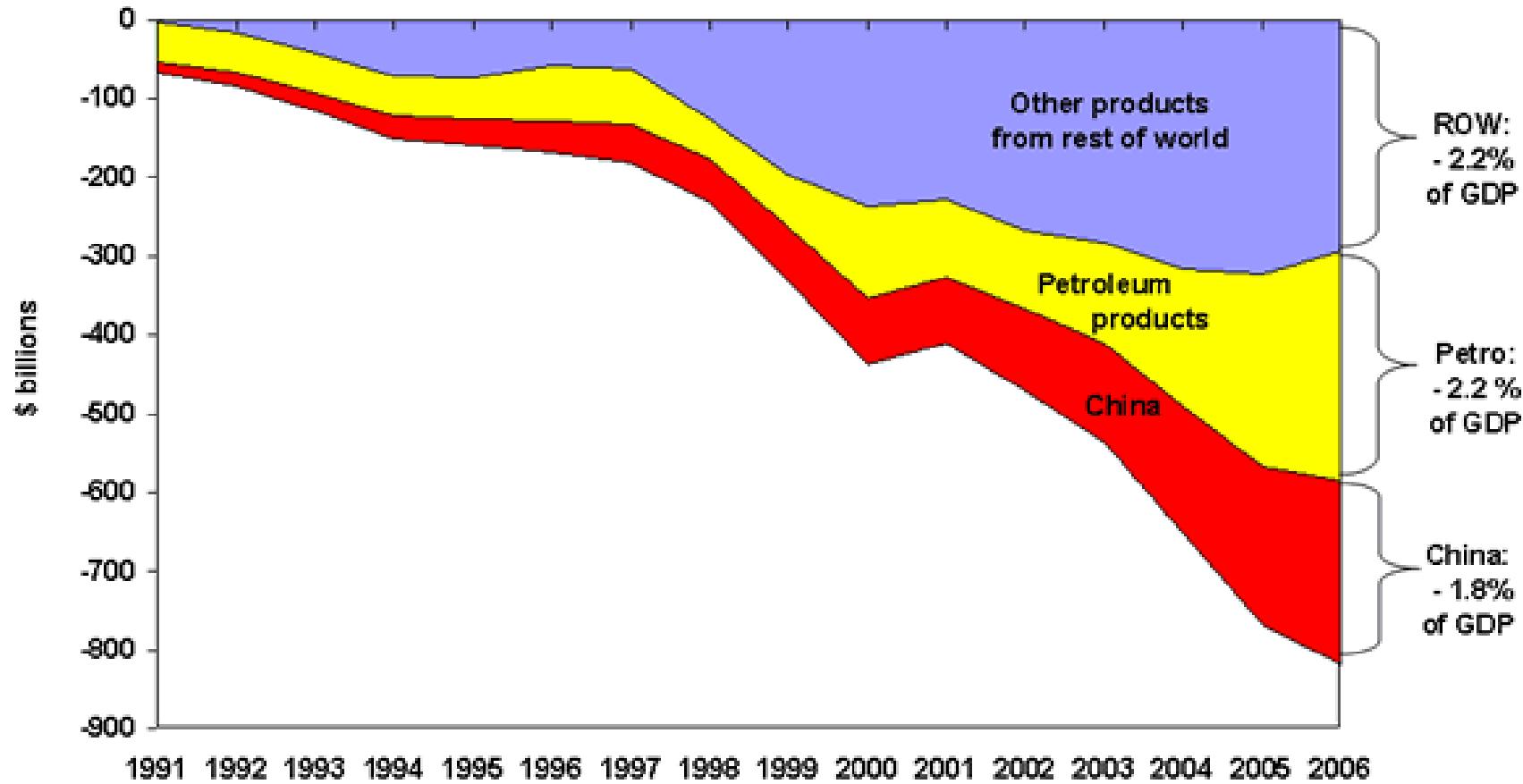
# PETROLEUM RESERVES LOCATED MOSTLY OUTSIDE US

Who has the oil?



Source: EIA and BP (2004)

# SIGNIFICANT WEALTH TRANSFERRED FROM U.S.

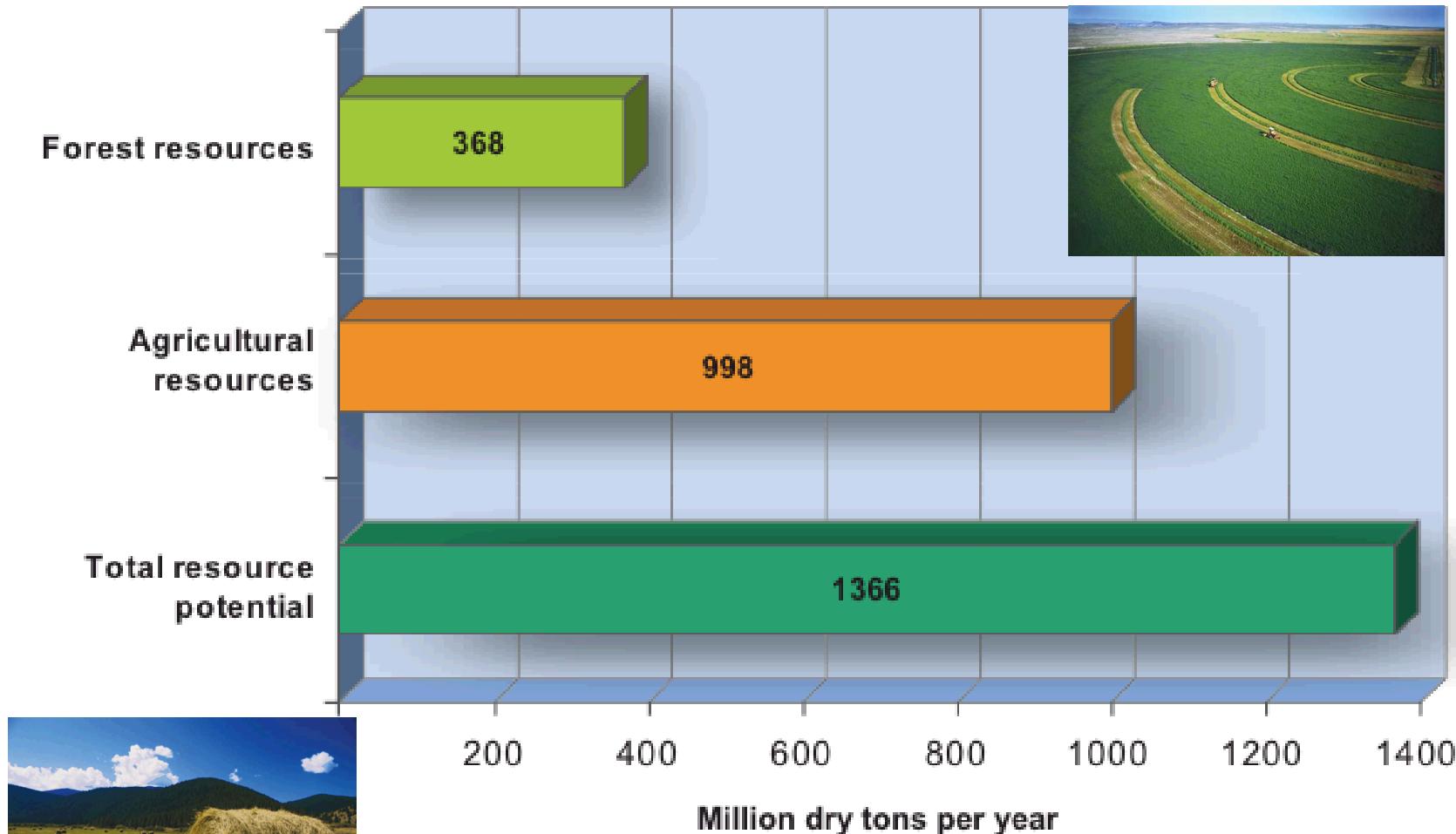


US Census Bureau

---

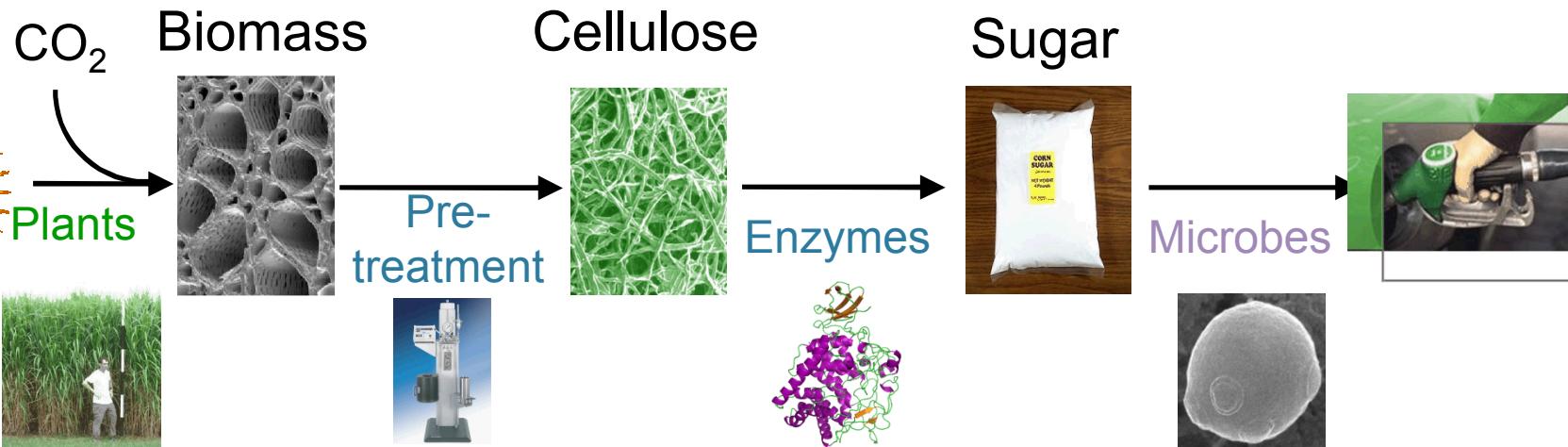
# **DISPLACEMENT OF PETROLEUM IS CRITICALLY NEEDED**

# 1.3 BILLION TONS/YR OF BIOMASS IN U.S.



DOE BILLION TON VISION (2005)  
- PERLACK ET AL.

# BIOFUELS FROM LIGNOCELLULOSIC BIOMASS



POTENTIALLY DISPLACING 30-40% OF U.S.  
TRANSPORTATION FUEL

# DEPT OF ENERGY INVESTING IN 27 LC BIOFUELS PROJECTS



# DEVELOPING NEXT GENERATION BIOFUELS: JOINT BIOENERGY INSTITUTE (JBEI)

## Unified Research & Operations

- \$134M, 5-year DOE OBER program
- Highly focused research agenda
- Single operation and facility



## Four Science Divisions

- Feedstocks
- Deconstruction
- Fuels Synthesis
- Cross-cutting Technologies

## Six Partners

- Three DOE National Laboratories
- Two Universities
- One Foundation

## Industry Partnership Program

- Underpin growth of biofuels industry
- Ensure technology transfer to the developing biofuels industry

# FEEDSTOCKS DIVISION

## Goal

- Establish scientific basis for breeding plants that can be economically and efficiently processed to produce fermentable sugars

## Approach

- Understand biosynthesis and function of matrix polysaccharides and lignin
- Use this knowledge to make targeted modifications of the plant cell wall

## Model Plant Systems

- *Arabidopsis*, rice, switchgrass



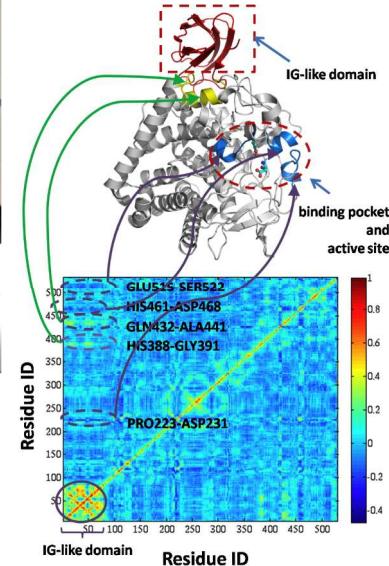
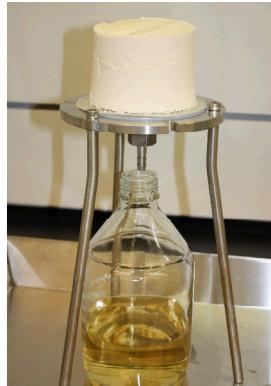
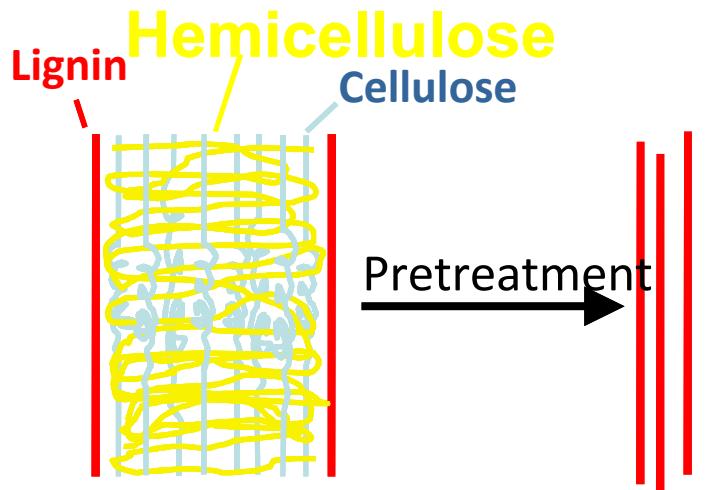
# DECONSTRUCTION DIVISION

## Goal

- Develop effective methods for biomass deconstruction

## Approach

- Understand chemical and structural changes to biomass during pretreatment
- Develop new, highly-effective solvent-based deconstruction



# FUELS SYNTHESIS DIVISION

## Goal

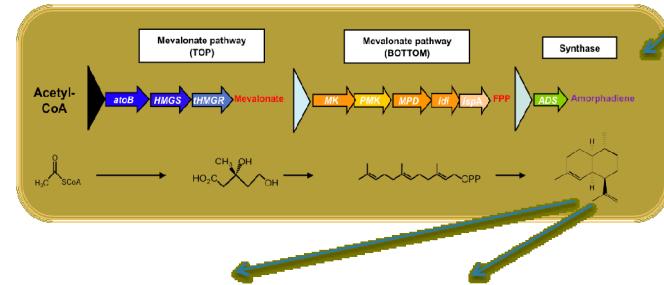
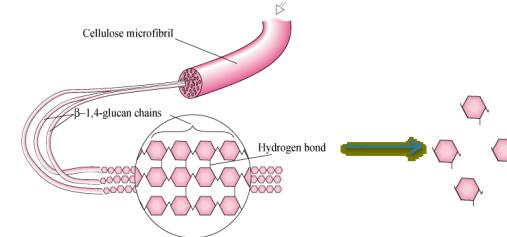
- Engineer microbes to produce advanced biofuels from biomass monomers

## Approach

- Develop tools for synthetic biology for biofuels production
- Engineer microorganisms to consume both C<sub>5</sub> & C<sub>6</sub> sugars
- Develop metabolic pathways for advanced biofuels
- Engineer organisms to produce and withstand high concentrations of biofuels

## Model organisms

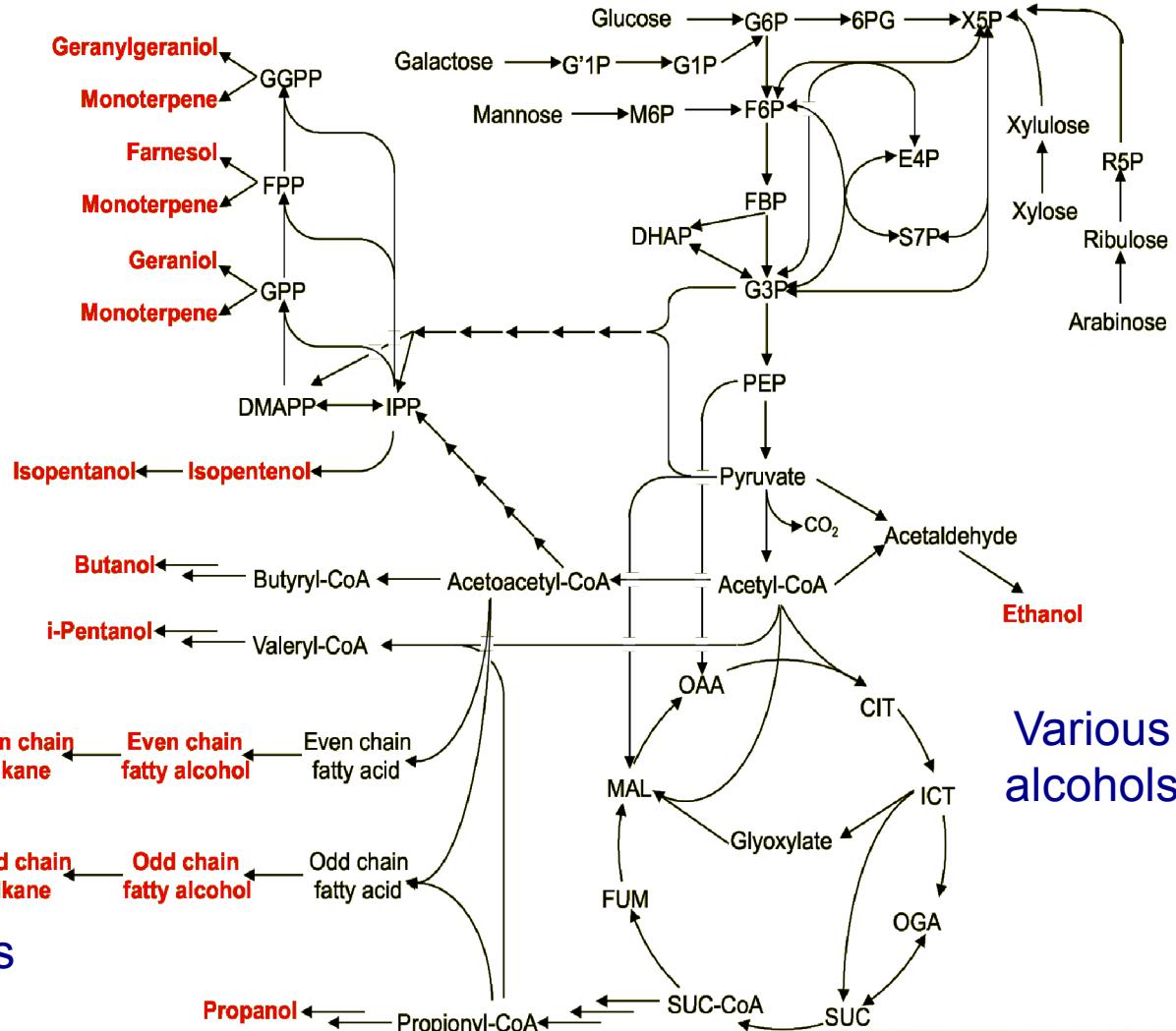
- *Escherichia coli*
- *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
- *Sulfolobus sulfataricus*



# SOME ALTERNATIVES TO ETHANOL

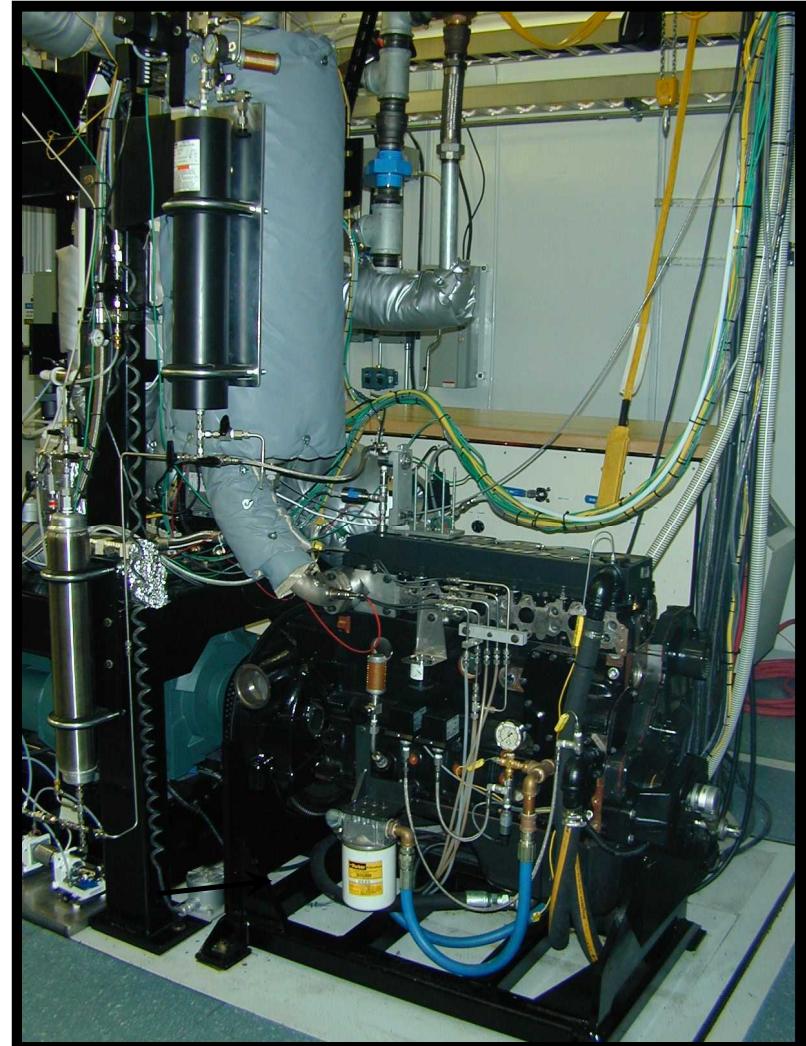
- Potential fuels from central metabolites
  - Alkanes
  - Alcohols
  - Esters
- Bio-gasoline
- Bio-jet fuel
- Bio-diesel

## Isoprenoids



# ADVANCED BIOFUEL TESTING IN ADVANCED ENGINES

- Biofuel tests conducted in a Homogeneous Charge Compression Ignition (HCCI) engine.
  - HCCI is an advanced low-temperature combustion (LTC) process that can provide high efficiency and ultra-low NOx and particulate emissions.
  - HCCI is being widely studied by R&D groups worldwide as a candidate for future high-efficiency engines.
  - Results are also indicative of performance in spark-ignition and diesel engines.



# JBEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

---

- 115 Publications
- 270 Presentations
- 43 Technical Disclosures
- 18 Patent Applications; 2 Software Copyrights Registered
- Hosted 8 Visiting International Researchers (Chile, Brazil, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand)
- 34 Student Interns and 13 Graduate Students
- Hosted two high school student summer outreach programs
- Participated in Cleantech to Market Program at Haas School of Business 2008-2010

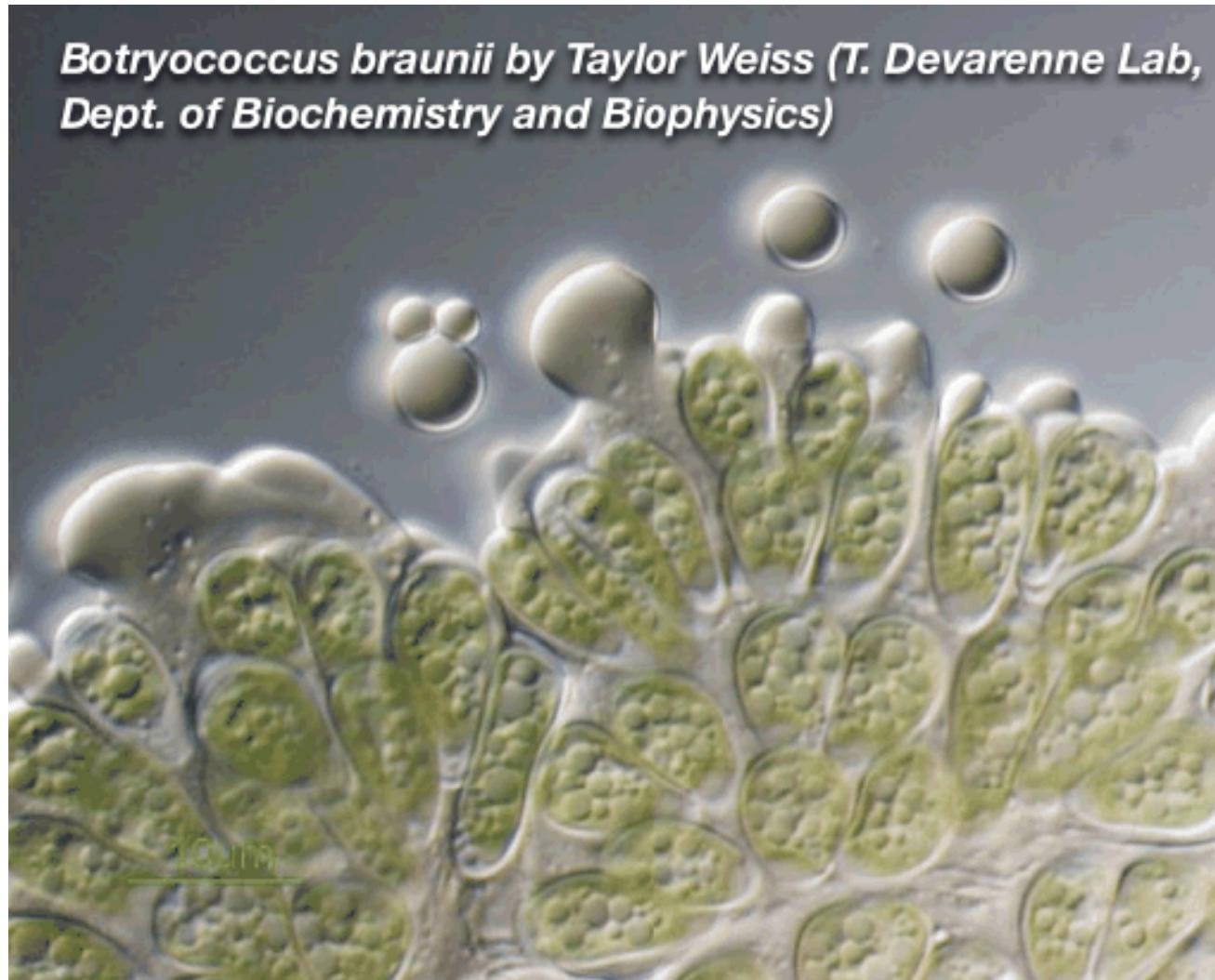
---

# **LIGNOCELLULOSIC BIOFUELS POTENTIALLY DISPLACES 30-40% OF US TRANSPORTATION FUEL**

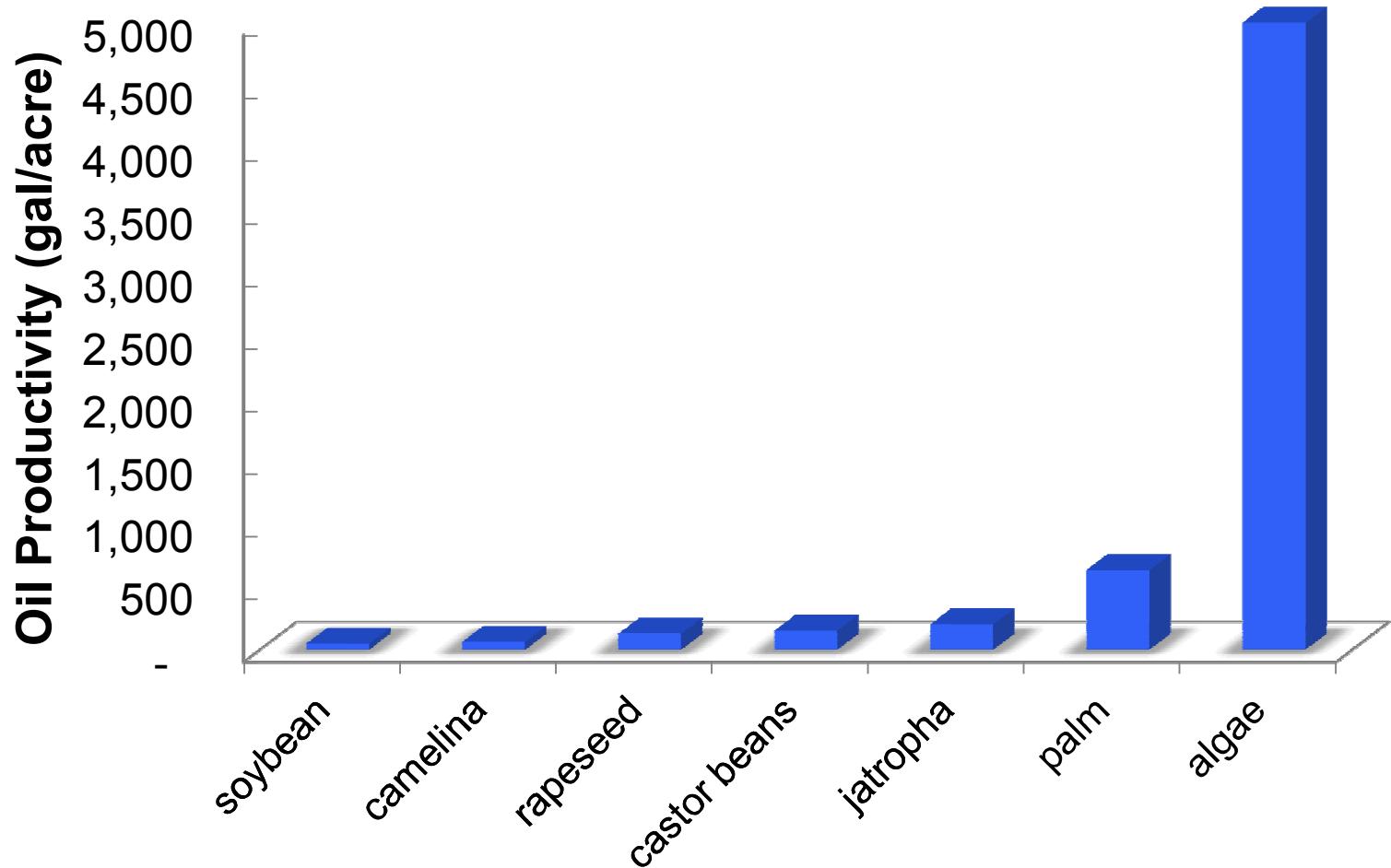
## **WHAT NEXT?**

# RENEWABLE OIL FROM ALGAE

*Botryococcus braunii* by Taylor Weiss (T. Devarenne Lab,  
Dept. of Biochemistry and Biophysics)



# SPECTACULAR PRODUCTIVITIES



Algae productivity from Kristina Weyer, "Theoretical Maximum Algal Oil Production", 2008 Algae Biomass Summit. Other data taken from Joshua Tickell, "From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank" (2003)

# ALGAE CONVERSION TO DROP-IN FUELS

	<i>Petroleum ULSD</i>	<i>Biodiesel (FAME)</i>	<i>Green Diesel</i>
Oxygen Content, %	0	11	0
Specific Gravity	0.84	0.88	0.78
Sulfur content, ppm	<10	<1	<1
Heating Value MJ/kg	43	38	44
Cloud Point, °C	-5	-5 to +15	-30 to -10
Distillation, °C	200 to 350	340 to 355	265 to 320
Cetane	40	50-65	70-90
Lubricity	Baseline	Good	Baseline
Stability	Baseline	Poor	Baseline

Jennifer Holmgren - UOP LLC, "Refining Biorenewables with the UOP/ENI Ecofining™ Process" (2007)

# ALGAE DO NOT NEED FRESH WATER

---



Brackish water for  
algae



Fresh water for crops

# ALGAE DO NOT NEED ARABLE LAND

---



Non-arable lands for  
algae



Arable land for crops

# ALGAE STATE OF TECHNOLOGY



NBT (Israel) – founded in 1975



Earthrise (CA) – founded in 1976

- 10,000 tons/year of algae produced globally for nutraceuticals and food
- Production costs \$5-30/kg algae

# TOP CHALLENGES FOR ALGAE

---

- Produce cheap oily algae (~\$0.50/kg)
  - Mitigate pond crashes
    - Forensics to identify etiological agents
    - Diagnostics for early detection
  - Maximize biomass production
    - CFD modeling guides reactor design and operations
- Harvest algae inexpensively
  - Effect bioflocculation through mechanistic understanding of triggers
- Oil extraction from wet algae
- Maximize value of co-products
  - Algae residue conversion to fuels and nutrients

# SANDIA CORE CAPABILITIES IN ALGAE

---

- **Spectroscopy** for broad area interrogation of algae pond productivity and health.
- **Applied Biology** for GMOs, nutrient and CO<sub>2</sub> use, and laboratory to pond scale-up.
- **Metabolic Engineering** for enhanced biofuel production.
- **Harvesting, De-watering, and Extraction** technologies.
- **Techno-Economic Modeling** to inform technical and policy decisions.

# SCALE MATTERS IN ALGAE PRODUCTION



Ideal  
Conditions



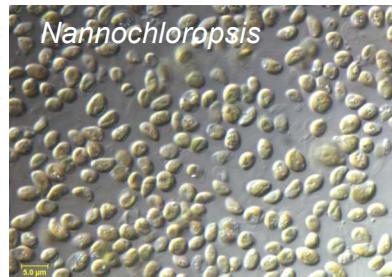
Reality

Reality introduces:

- Predators
- Light intensity variations
- Temperature cycles (daily and seasonal)
- Mixing

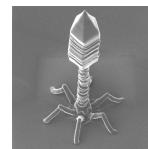
# CHALLENGES BEING BOTTOM OF THE FOOD CHAIN

## Algae



## Etiological Agents

*Virus*



+

*Bacteria*



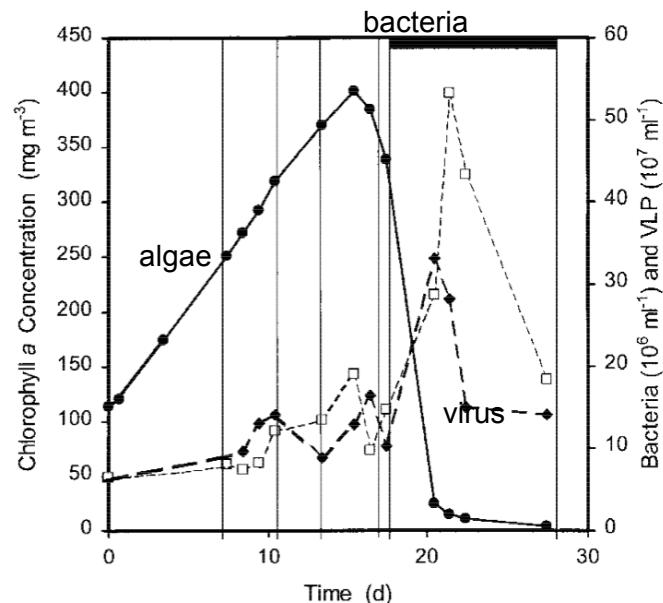
*Zoo-plankton*



*Environment*  
(Temp, salinity,  
pH, CO<sub>2</sub>,  
nutrients)



## Collapse



Herman Gons et al., *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek*, 81: 319-326, 2002.

*“Perhaps the most worrisome component of the large-scale algal cultivation enterprise is the fact that algal predators and pathogens are both pervasive and little understood.”*

*- DOE Draft Algal Biofuels Technology Roadmap*

Lane et al.  
(2010)

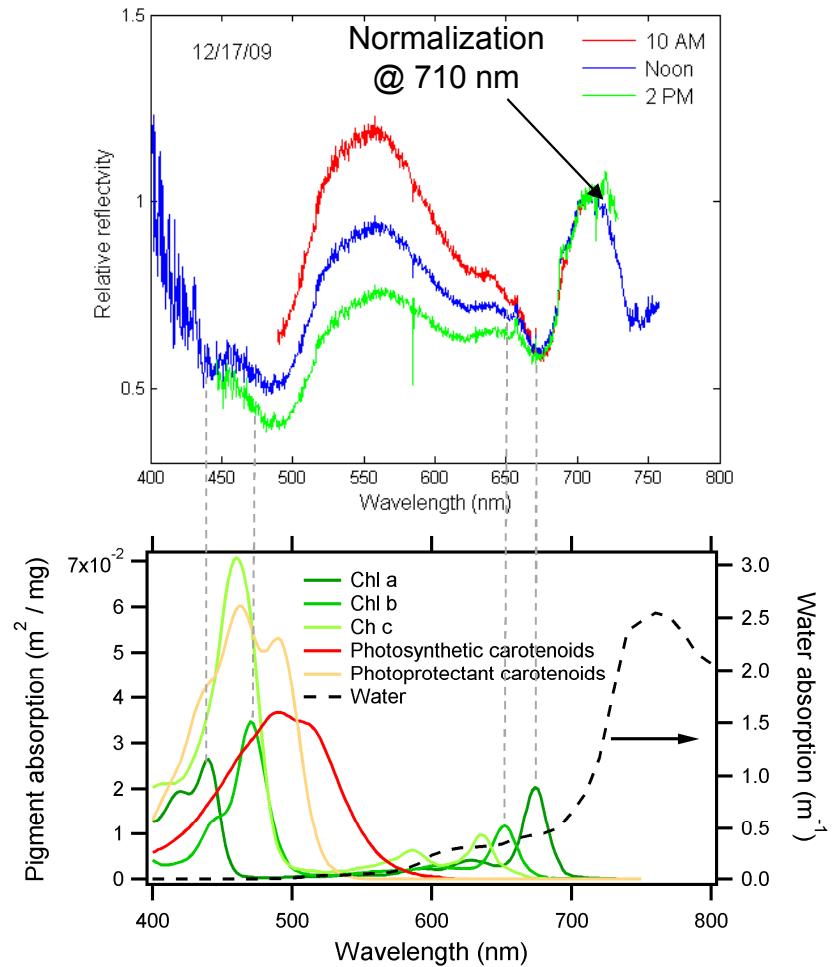
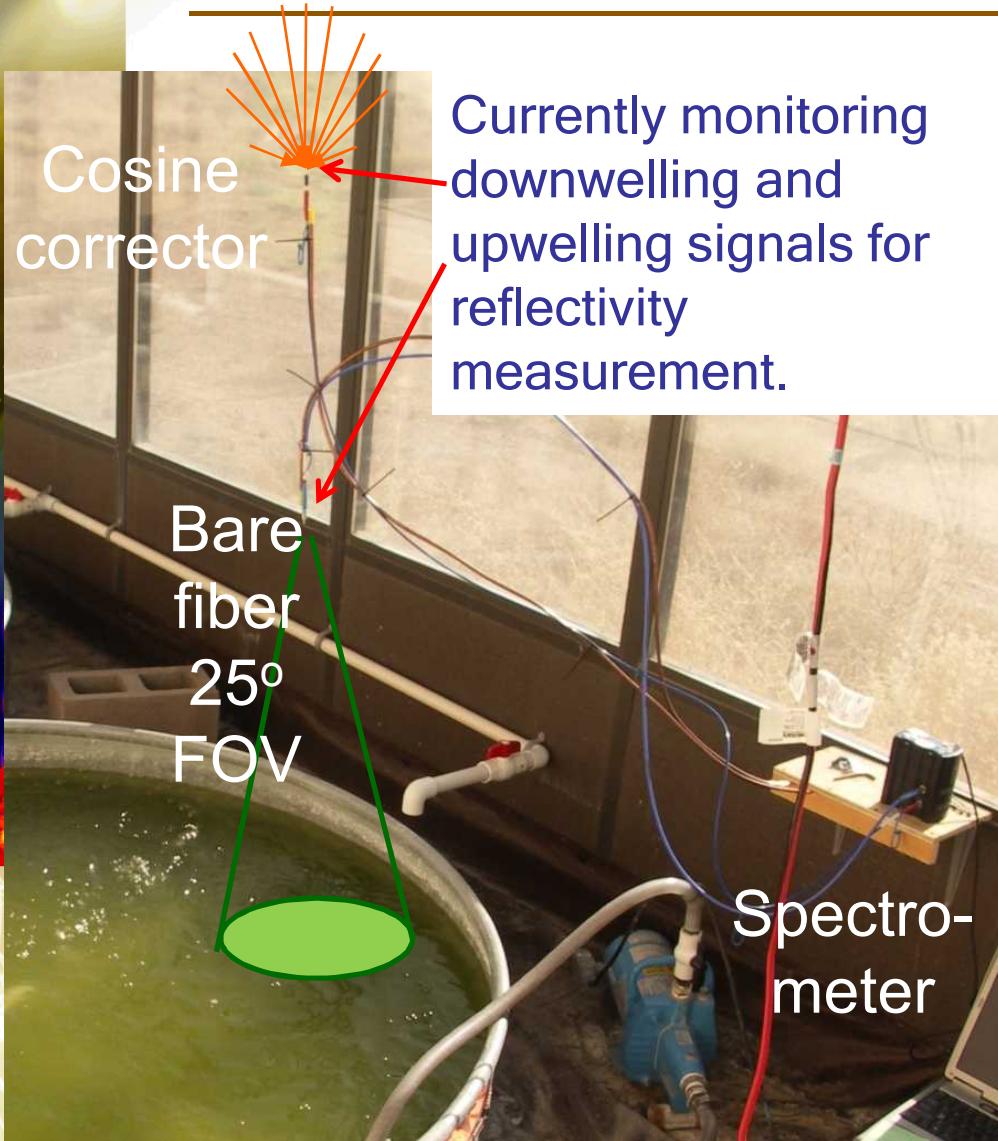
# SANDIA HAS LAB-SCALE CULTIVATION SYSTEMS THAT ENABLE ALGAE BIOLOGY AND SCALE-UP RESEARCH



## Species being grown:

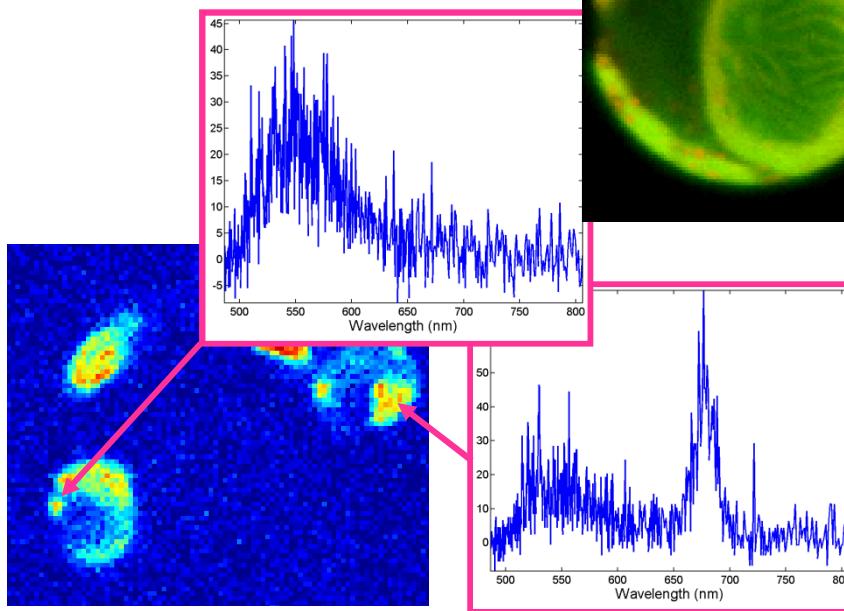
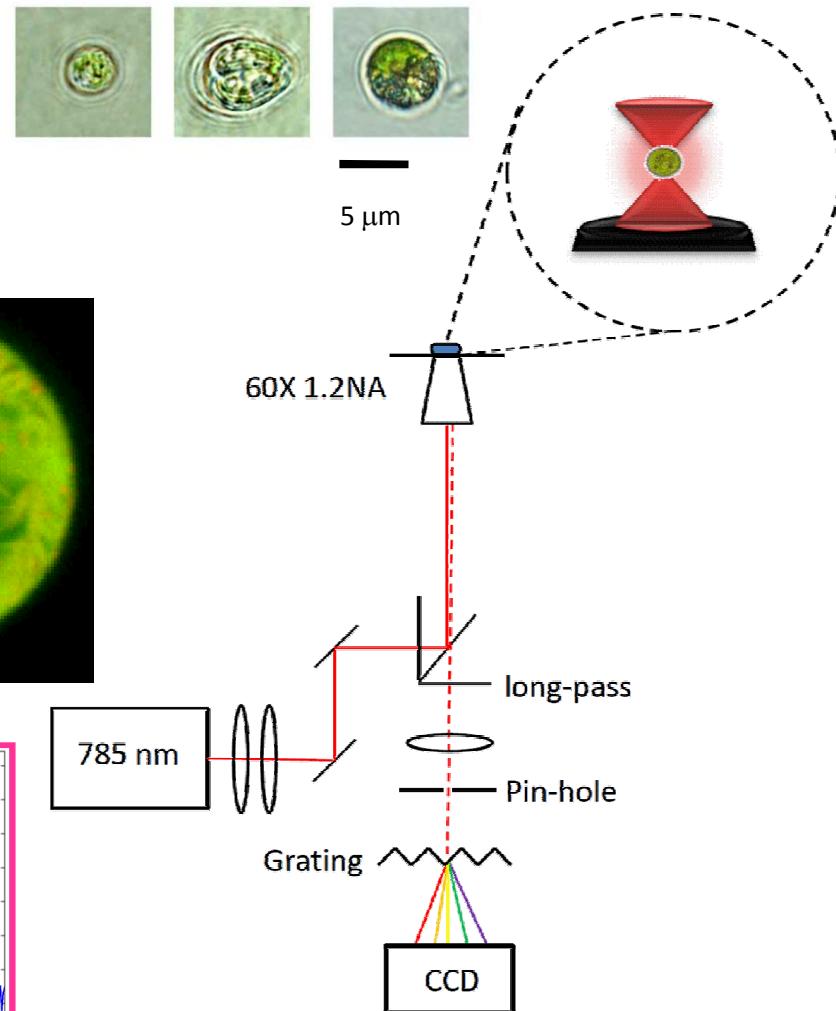
- *Botryococcus braunii*
- *Neochloris oleoabundans*
- *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*
- *Thalassiosira pseudonana*
- *Nannochloropsis*

# LABORATORY AND REMOTE SENSING SPECTRA ARE BEING USED TO DEVELOP EMPIRICAL CORRELATIONS FOR SCALE-UP



# WE HAVE DEVELOPED NOVEL LIPIDOMICS CAPABILITIES

We have developed laser trapping Raman spectroscopy unit for single cell observations of lipid accumulation

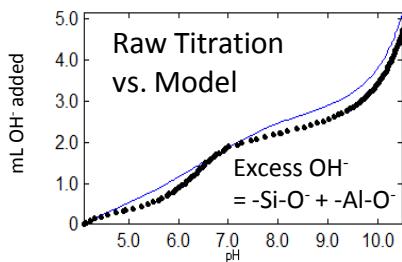


**LDRD PI: Seema Singh**

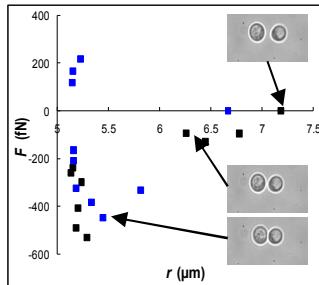
**NSF SBIR w/BaySpec**

# WE ARE DEVELOPING NOVEL ALGAL DEWATERING TECHNOLOGIES

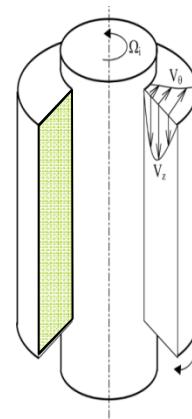
## Surface potential measurements



## Surface interaction force measurements

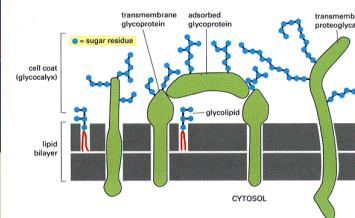


## Controlled flow population dynamics measurements

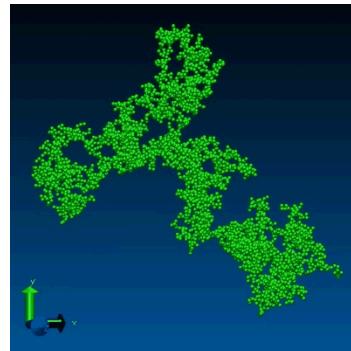


Predicting and optimizing floc dynamics at scale

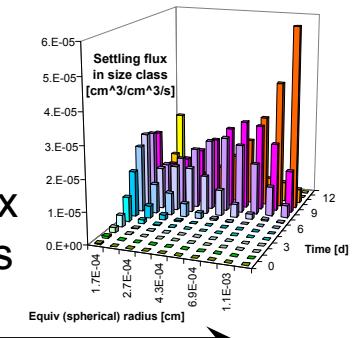
## Surface complexation models



## Floc aggregation simulations



Predict size and flux distributions



nanometer

micrometer

millimeter

meter

LDRD PI: John Hewson

# SUMMARY

---

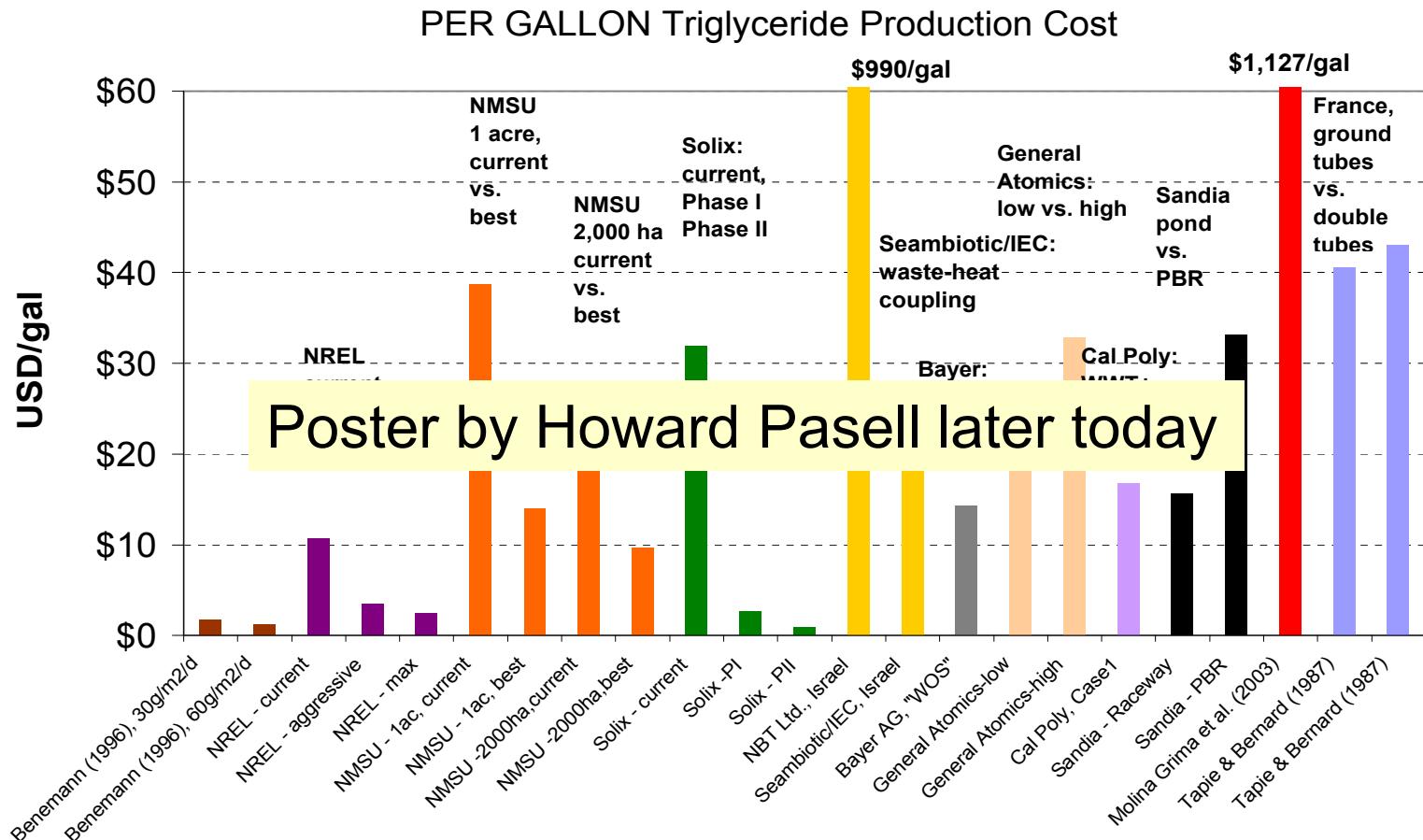
- Biofuels represent an enormous potential for displacing petroleum
- Technical and economic challenges remain for both lignocellulosics and algae
- Sandia plays an integral role in overcoming these barriers

# Back-up Slides

---



# NO CONSENSUS EXISTS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ALGAL BIOFUELS



Average = \$ 109 USD/gal

Variability is wide, Std. Dev. = \$ 301 USD/gal

# BIOFUELS PROGRAM

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FY10

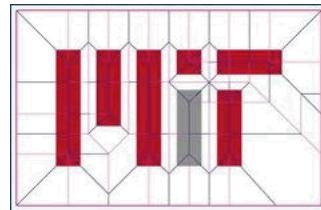
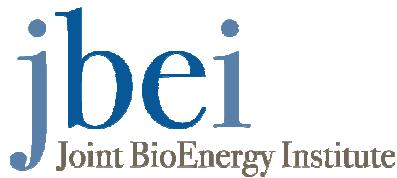
- Continuing scientific success at JBEI; related program growth and recognition
- JBEI received “Top Government Funded Research Institution in Biofuels” Award – Biofuels Digest, December, 2010
- Sustainable Algal Biofuels Consortium funded at \$6M (ASU-led), \$1.2M to SNL
- Algal pond crash forensics project funded by DOE OBP at \$800k over two years
- Participation in algal biofuels EFRC
- Awarded NSF SBIR on algal lipidomics with BaySpec
- New start LDRD (\$1M/yr for 3 years) on establishing a link between biofuels and combustion science



Poster by Rajiv Bharadwaj later today



# BIOFUELS PROGRAM: STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS AND PROGRAMS



GE imagination at work



# Identify etiological agents and abiotic factors to limit crashes

- Limited success using
  - Extremophiles
  - Photobioreactors
  - GMO
- Our approach
  - Early detection
  - ID genetic signatures
  - Isolate agent(s)
  - Confirm crash in lab
  - Develop mitigation strategy

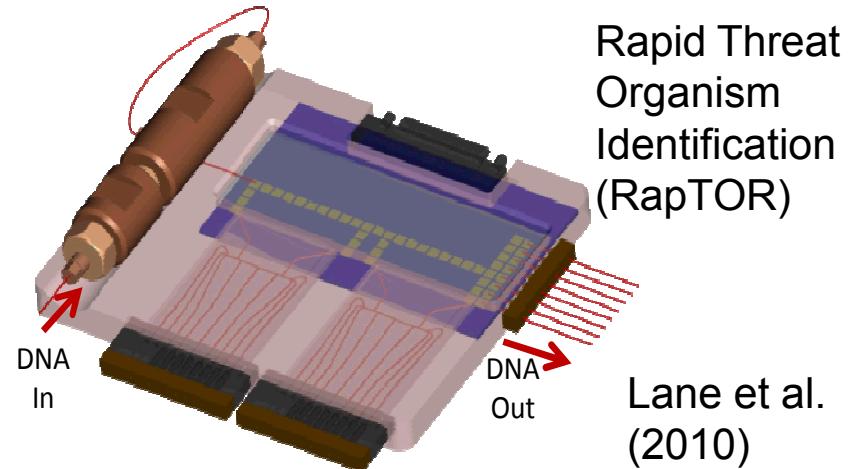
*Solix Enclosed PBRs*



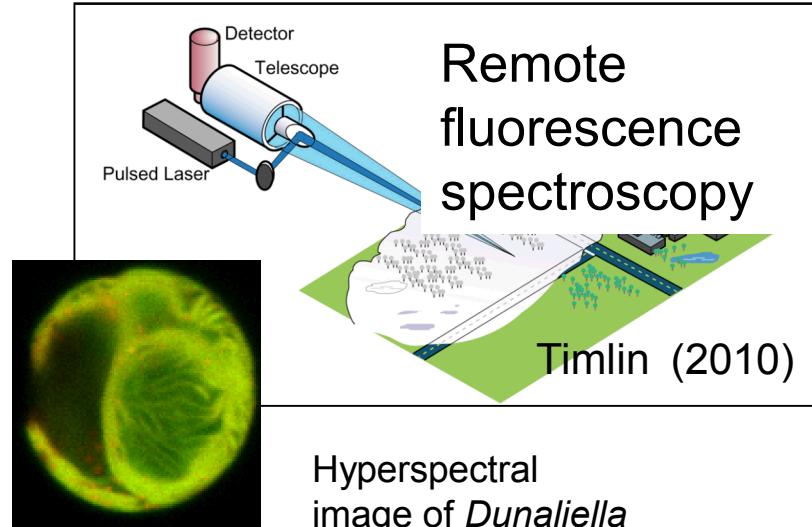
Lane et al.  
(2010)

# Adv. diagnostics for early agent detection and identification

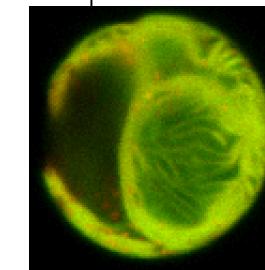
- Microfluidics for ID of agents in complex samples
- Spectroscopy for stand-off culture diagnostics
- Early detection and ID of agents is critical



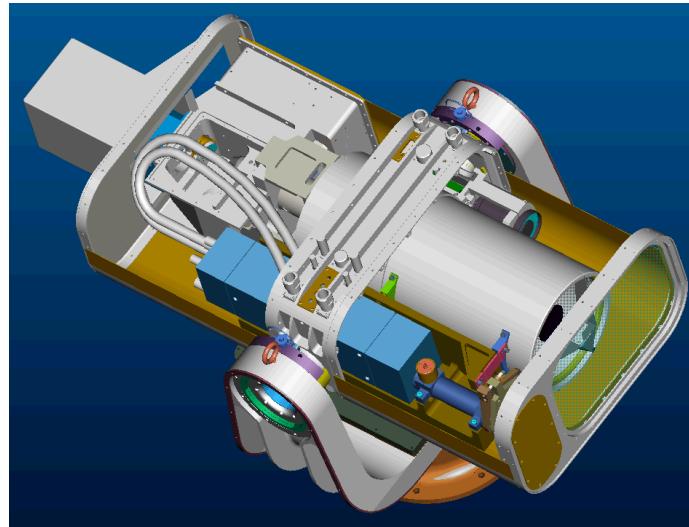
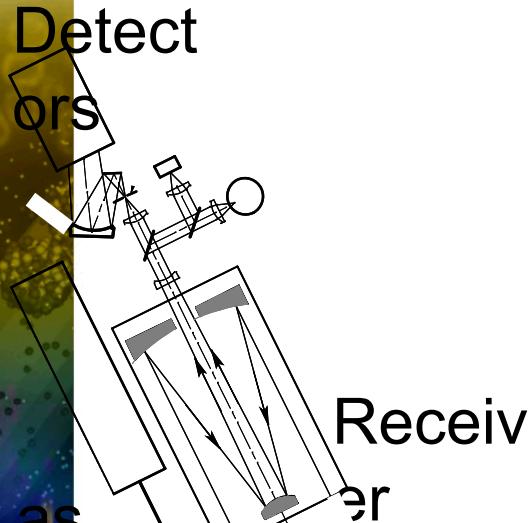
Lane et al.  
(2010)



Hyperspectral  
image of *Dunaliella*



# Evaluating Utility of Deploying Fluorescence Lidar Instrument

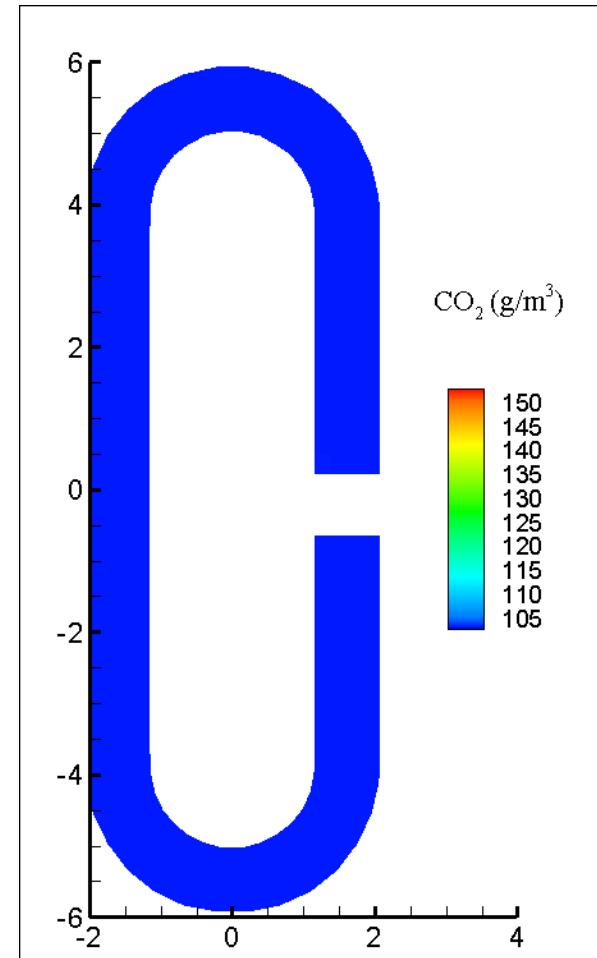


# CFD modeling to improve algae production

- Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC)
- CE-QUAL couples kinetics with 22 variables

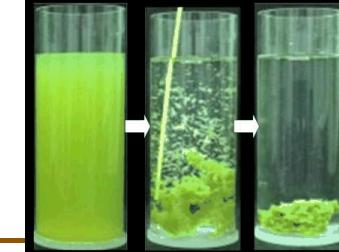
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} B(\mathbf{x}, t) = \left( P - B_M - P_R - W_S \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) B(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

- Inform engineering design, farm operations, and strain selection to maximize productivity at each site



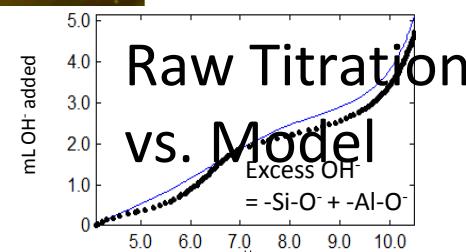
James and August (2010)

# Flocculation mechanics

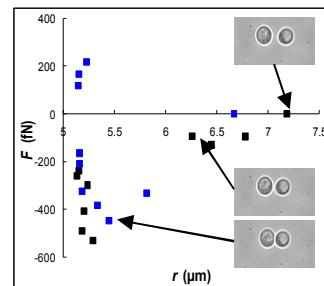


Wageningen University

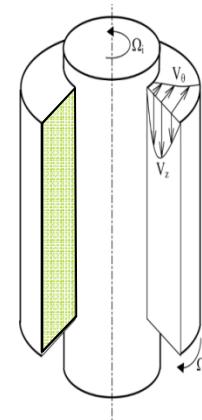
Surface potential measurements



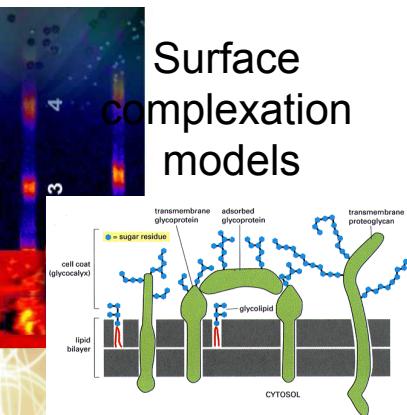
Surface interaction force measurements



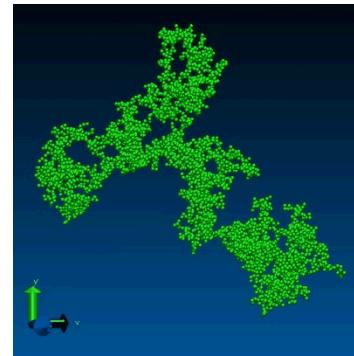
Controlled flow population dynamics measurements



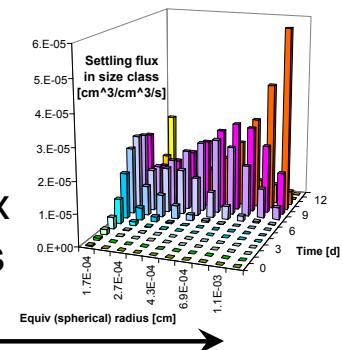
Predicting and optimizing floc dynamics at scale



Floc aggregation simulations



Predict size and flux distributions

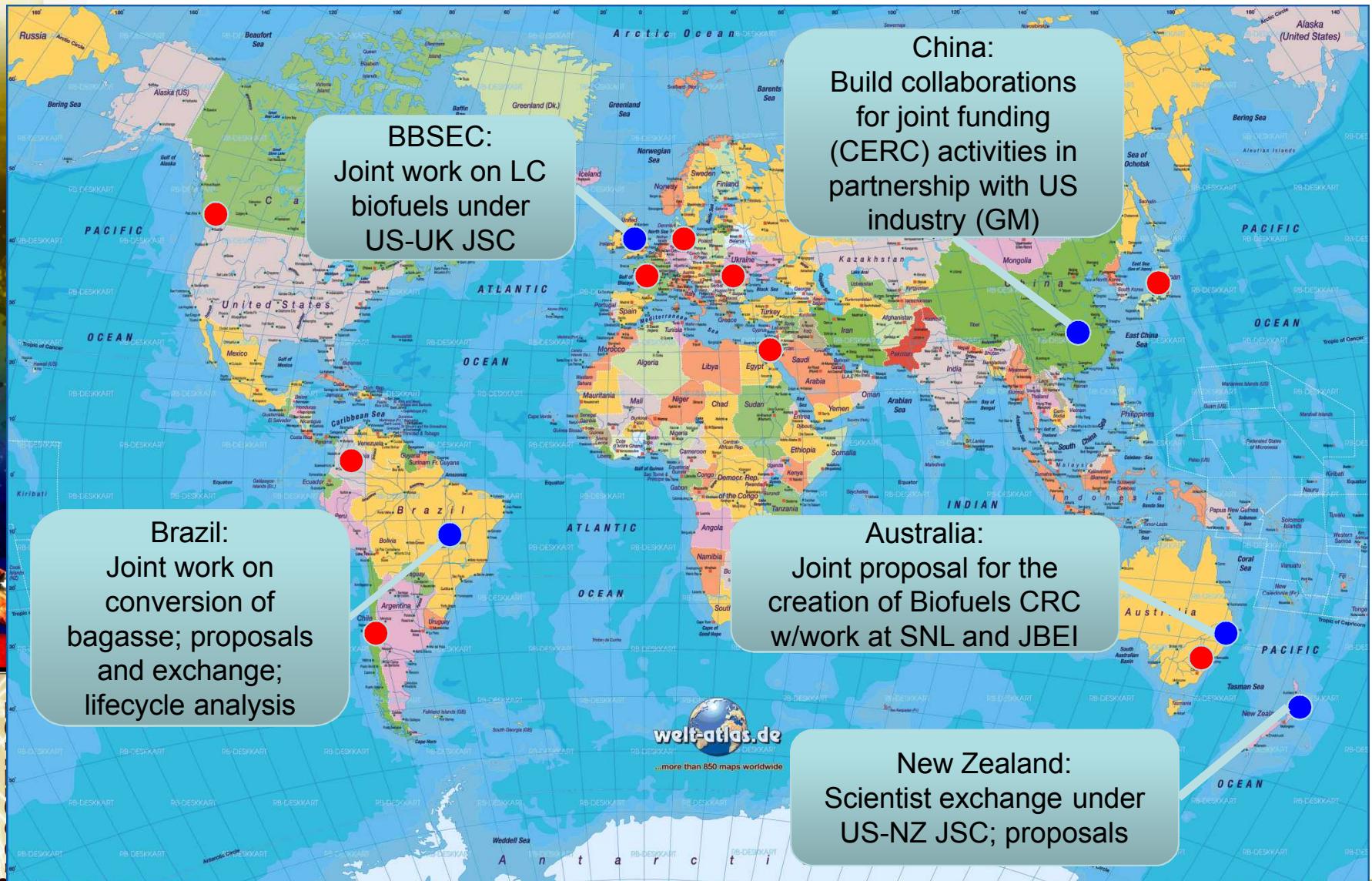


# SNL Algae Projects

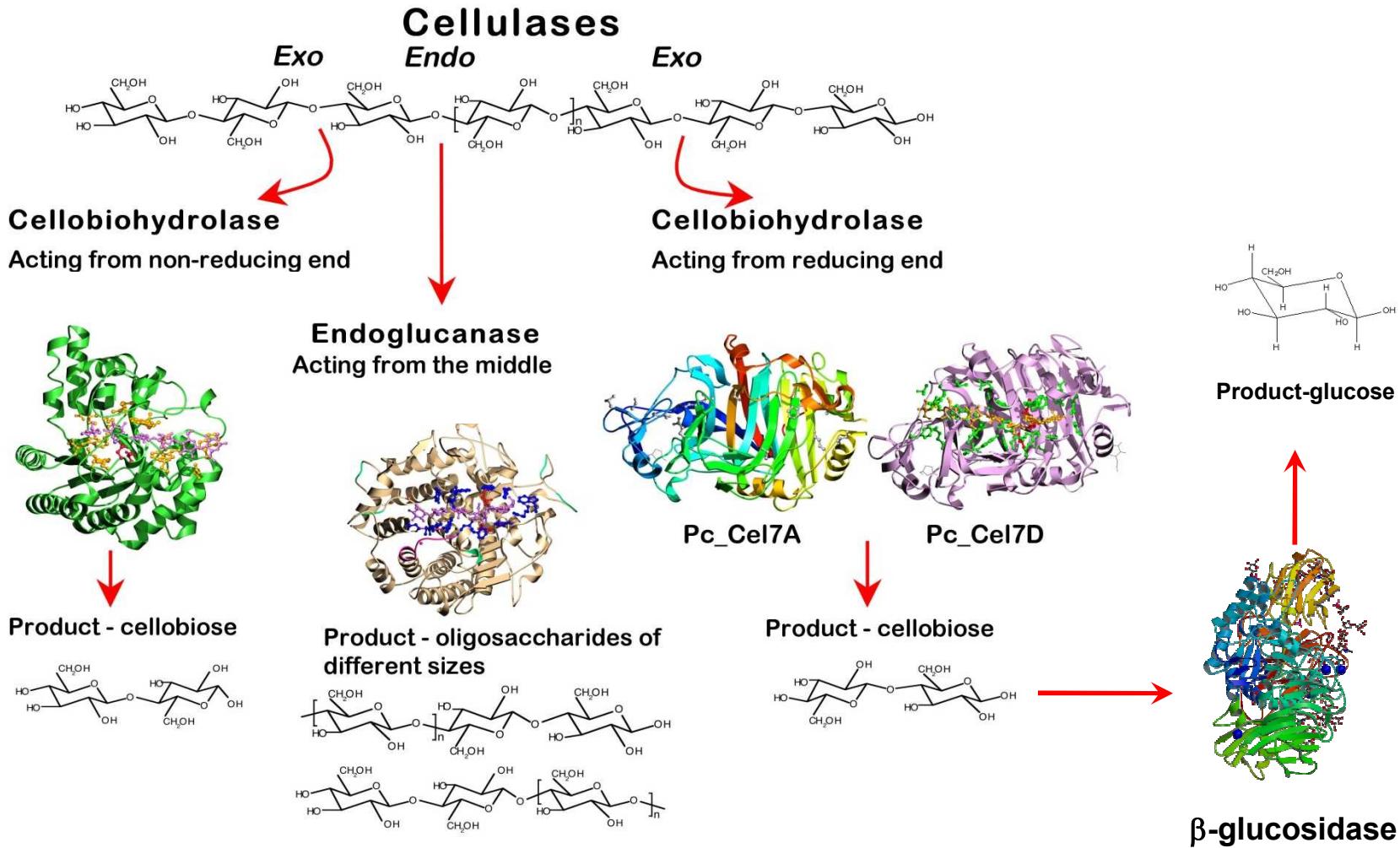
---

- Pond crash forensics (DOE)
- Integrated Biorefineries (Sapphire)
  - CFD Modeling, pond diagnostics, and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction strategies
- Sustainable Algae Biofuels Consortium (SABC)
  - Biochemical conversion of algal residue and fuel testing
- Lab Directed Research and Development
  - Bench to raceway
  - Algae flocculation mechanism
  - Algae lipidomics
  - Algae growth kinetics modeling
  - Metabolic engineering of cyanobacteria and diatoms

# KEY SNL GLOBAL BIOFUEL PARTNERSHIPS



# CELLULASES ACT SYNERGISTICALLY TO HYDROLYZE CELLULOSE TO GLUCOSE



# CELLULASE RESEARCH AT JBEI

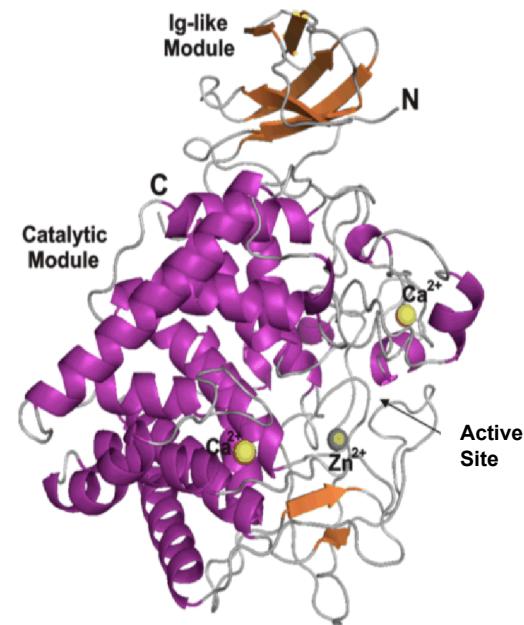
## Objectives:

- Identify, discover and characterize cellulases that function in relevant biorefinery environments (e.g., high T, low pH).
- Optimize performance of individual cellulases.
- Optimize performance of recombinant cellulase cocktails.

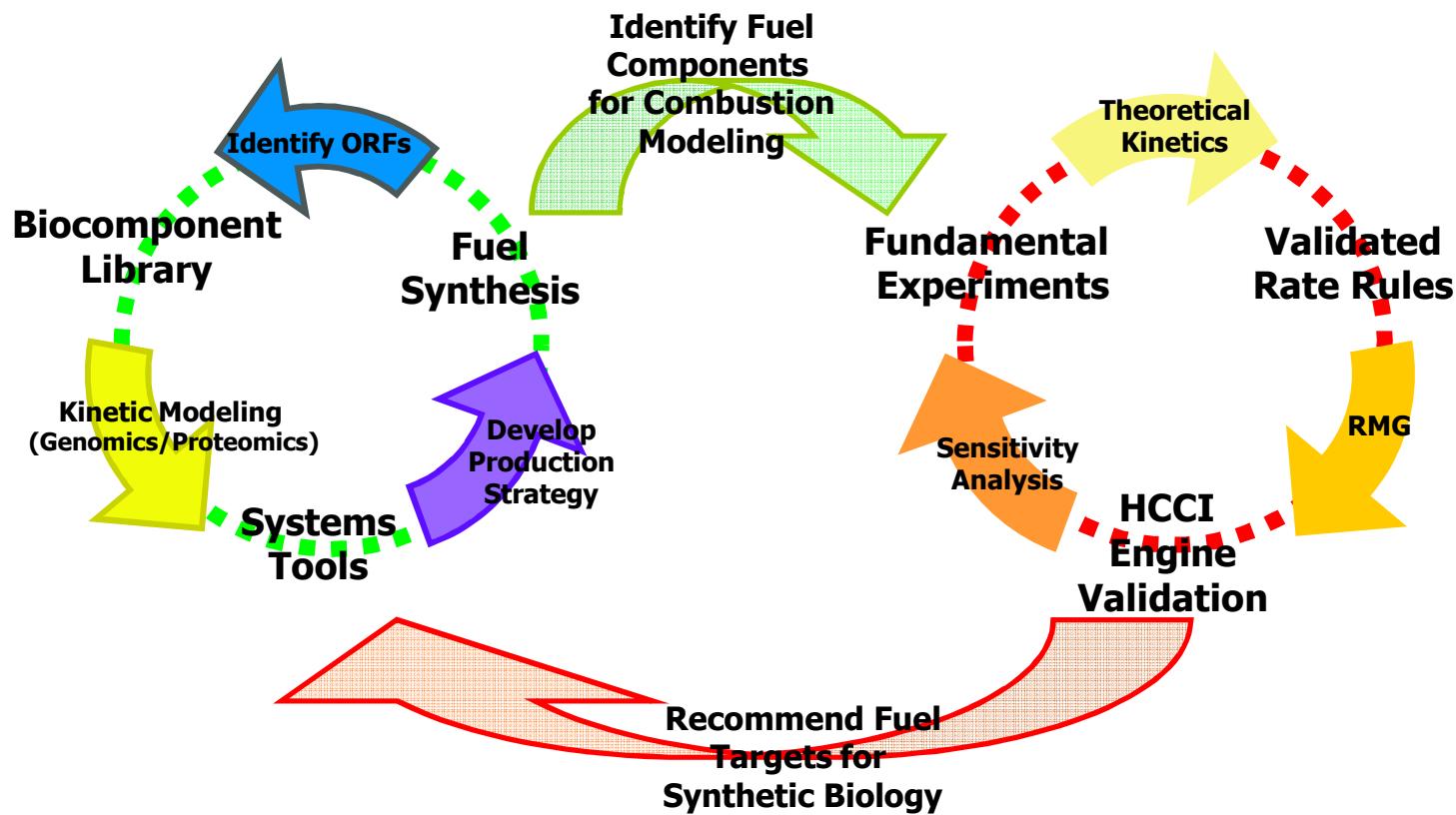
## Example:

Cel9A from *Alicyclobacillus Acidocaldarius*

- Structure Determination
- Structural Characterization
- Structure Based Design
- Dynamics



# TECHNICAL GOALS OF LDRD ARE INTERCONNECTED BUT MODULAR

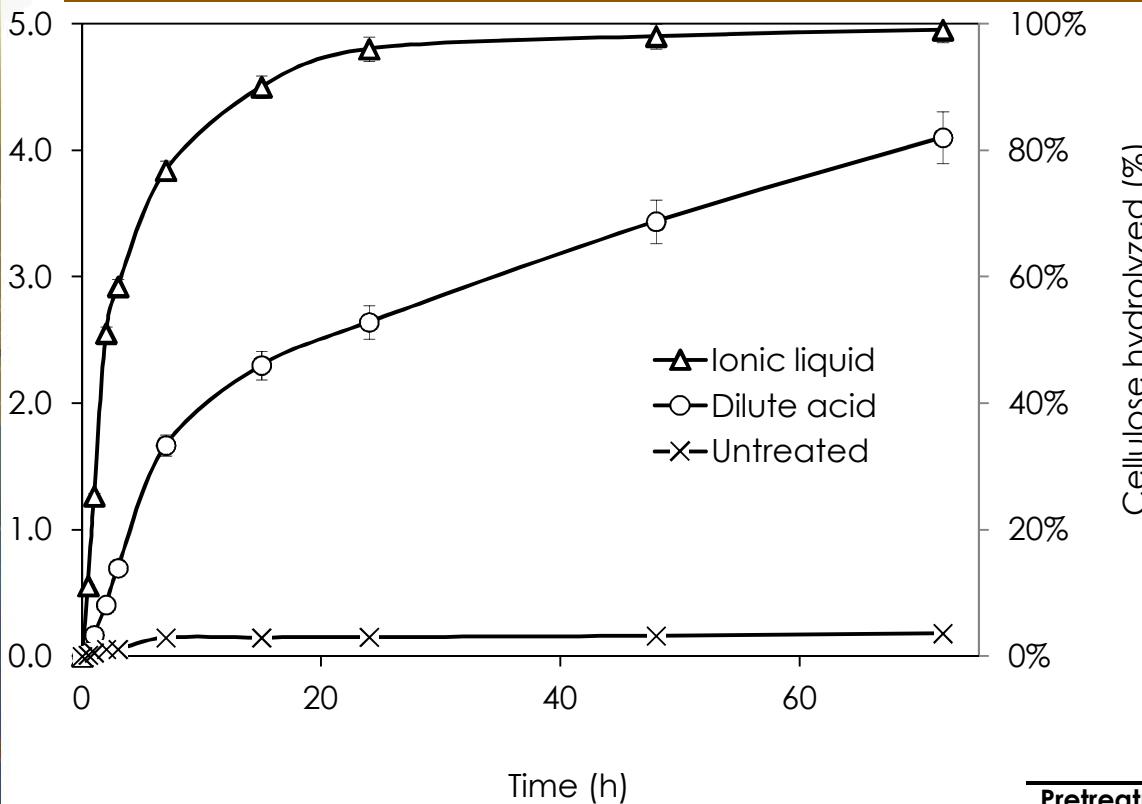


Starting points already set for both sides

Specific strategy in any area can be modified if necessary  
– “links” are transferable

# SWITCHGRASS HYDROLYSIS AFTER IL PRETREATMENT HAS IMPROVED KINETICS

Reducing sugar (mg/mL)



**Hydrolysis yield of 90% in ~16 hours after IL pretreatment**

**>90 hours to reach same level after dilute acid pretreatment**

Novozymes commercial cellulase cocktails:

5g glucan/L biomass loading

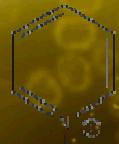
50mg protein/g glucan of cellulase (NS50013)

5mg protein/g glucan of  $\beta$ -glucosidase (NS50010)

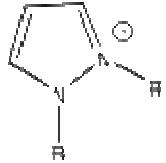
Pretreatment method	Initial enzymatic rate (mg/L/min)	Rate enhancement
Untreated	$0.34 \pm 0.03$	-
Dilute acid	$1.11 \pm 0.12$	3.3
Ionic liquid	$18.50 \pm 1.56$	54.4

# IONIC LIQUIDS AS LIGNOCELLULOSE SOLVENTS

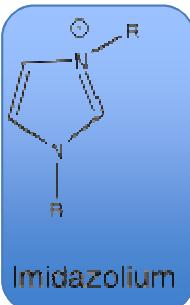
## CATIONS



Pyridinium

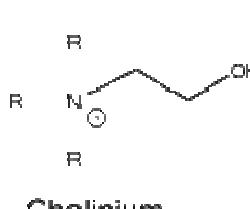


Pyrazolium



Imidazolium

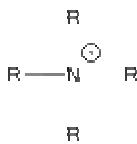
Room Temperature, Molten Salts



Cholinium



Phosphonium



Ammonium

Cation determines:

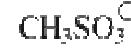
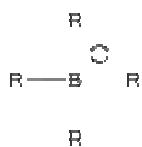
- stability
- properties

Water immiscible



Water miscible

## ANIONS



Anion determines:

- chemistry
- functionality

1-ethyl-3-methyl imidazolium acetate, [C2mim][OAc], dissolves > 20 wt% cellulose

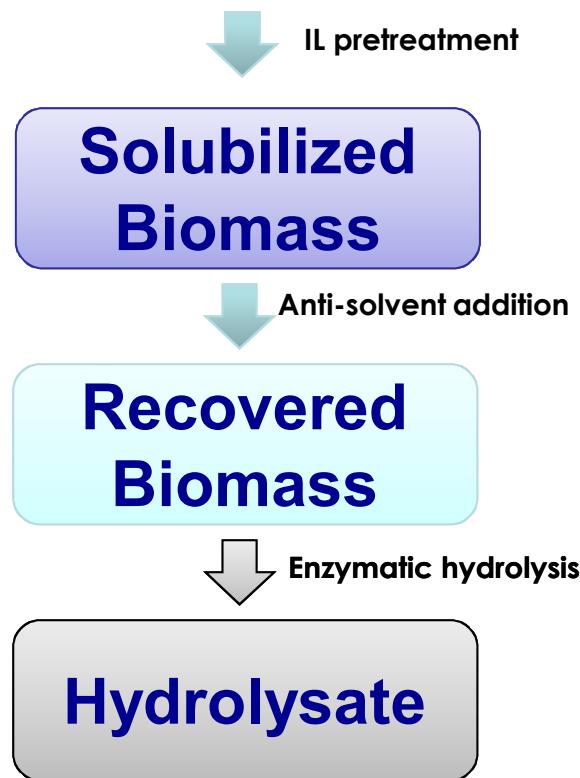


Sandia National Laboratories

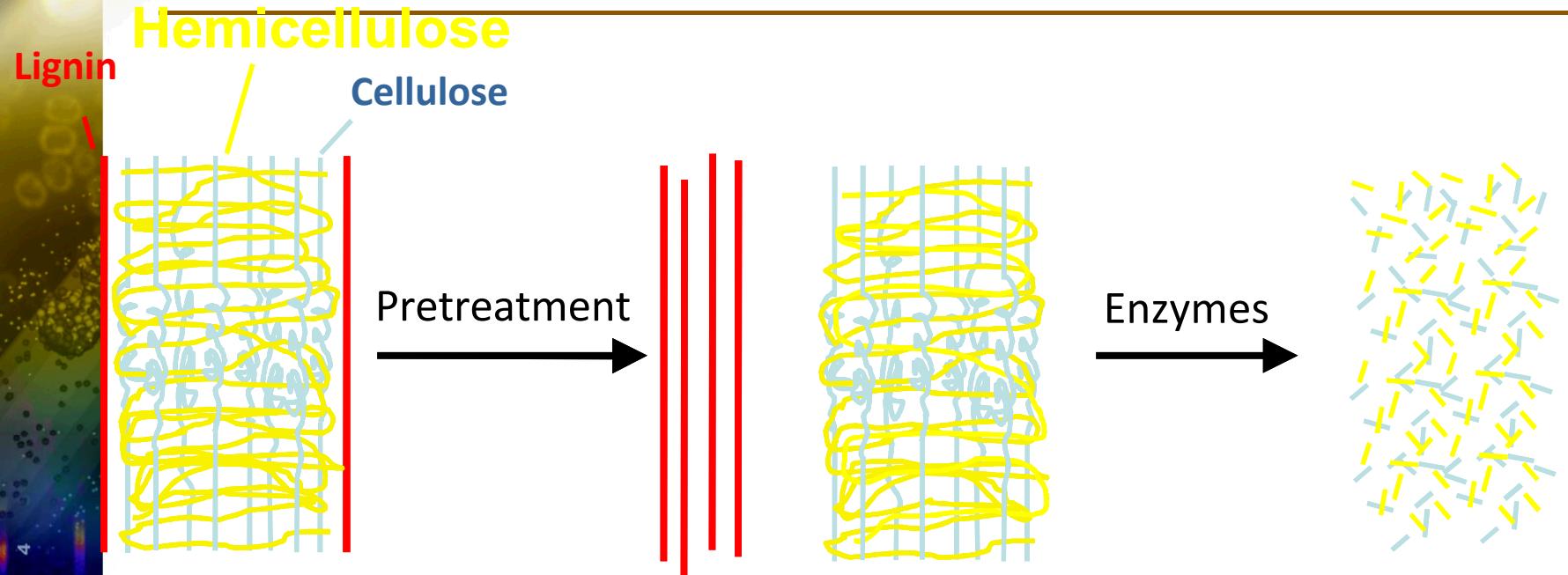
# UNDERSTANDING BIOMASS DECONSTRUCTION



Feedstocks  
Division and  
USDA

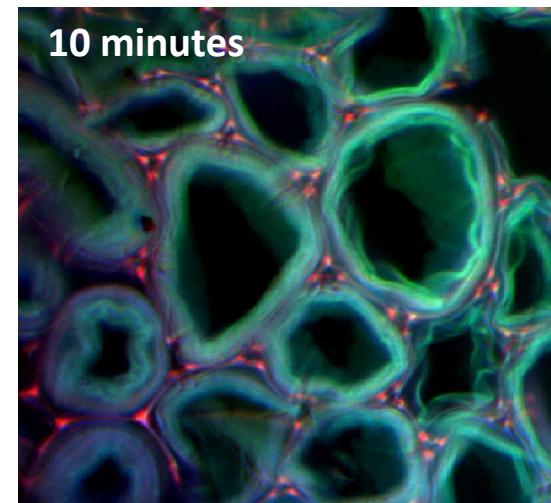
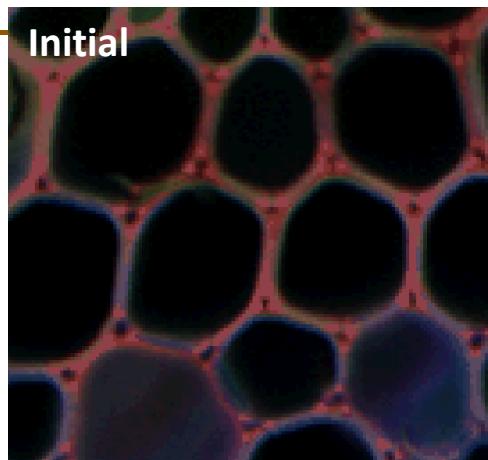
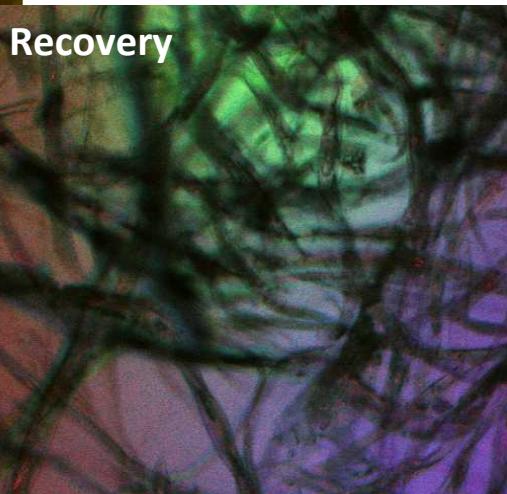


# DECONSTRUCTION GOALS

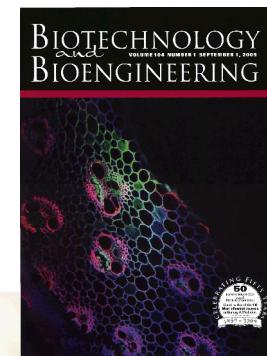
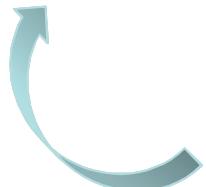
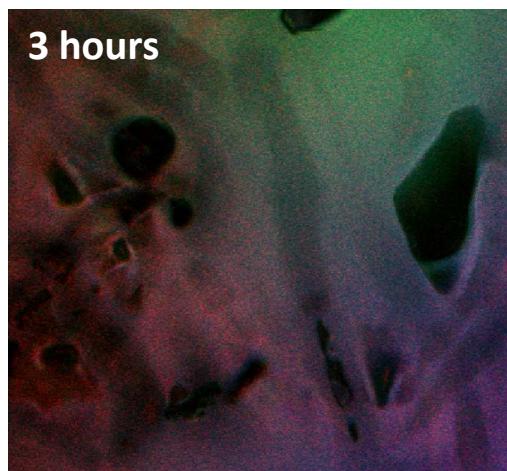


- Effective pretreatment that:
  - Delignifies biomass
  - Produces amorphous cellulose
- Improved lignocellulolytic enzymes:
  - Specific industrial environments
  - Targeted discovery of enzymes from microbial communities

# CONFOCAL FLUORESCENCE PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO IL PRETREATMENT



Switchgrass + [C2mim][OAc]

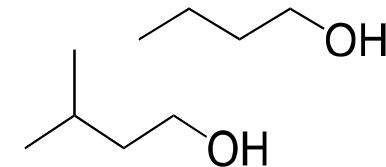


# INITIAL JBEI BIOFUEL TARGETS



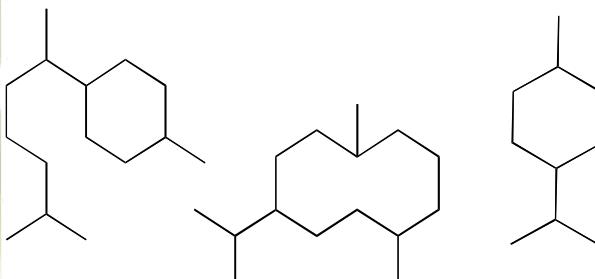
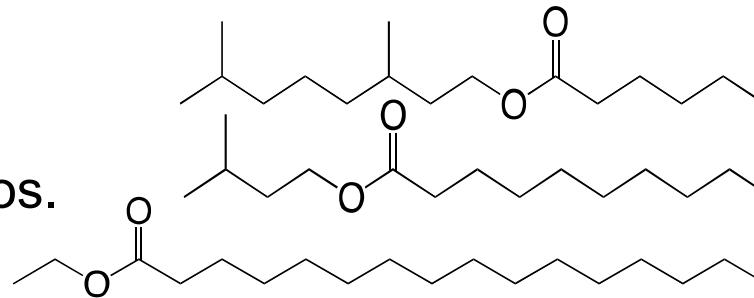
## Alcohols

- Low miscibility with water
- High octane
- Appropriate vapor pressure



## Esters

- Diesel replacements
- Appropriate cetane nos.

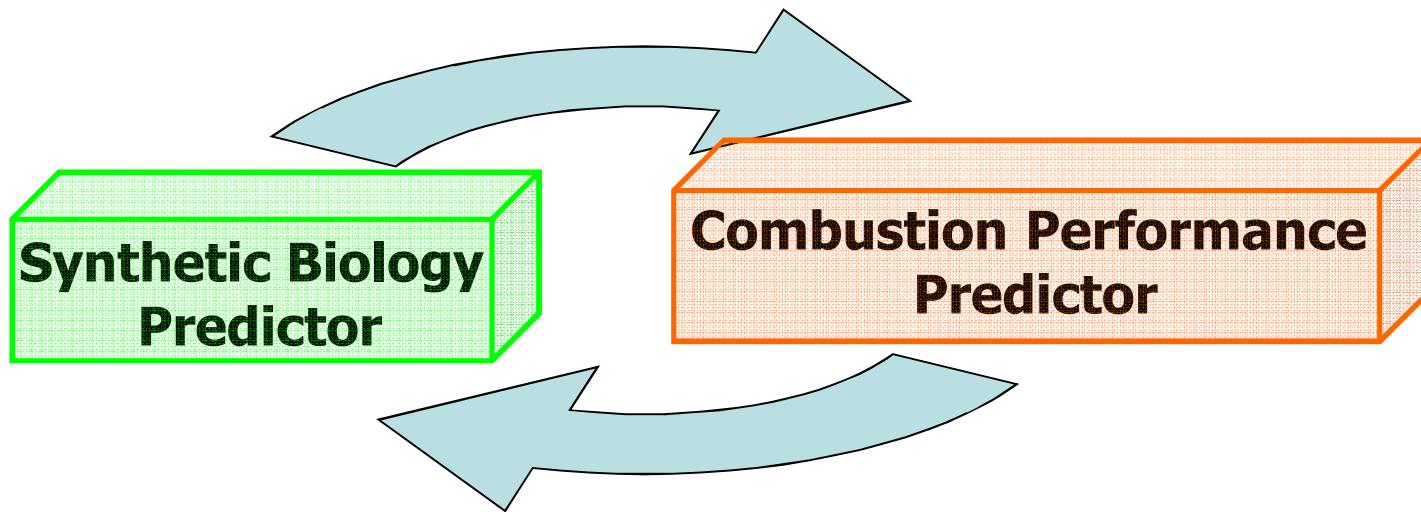


## Cyclic alkanes/alkenes

- Jet fuel replacements
- Low freezing point

# TAILORING NEXT-GENERATION BIOFUELS AND THEIR PERFORMANCE IN ADVANCED ENGINES LDRD

- No trick to get multiple researchers to take money from the same pot – key is to structurally enforce co-development
- “Ideal Program”:



- *Predicting combustion is a big problem!*
  - *We'll concentrate on one crucial part – ignition chemistry*
- *Predicting synthetic biology is a big problem!!*
  - *We'll concentrate on novel and flexible biosynthetic platform(s)*

# US-CHINA CERC PROJECT: CHARACTERIZATION, OPTIMIZATION, AND COMBUSTION OF BIOFUELS

**Task PIs:** Blake Simmons (SNL/JBEI), Jay Keasling (JBEI), Angela Violi (UM)

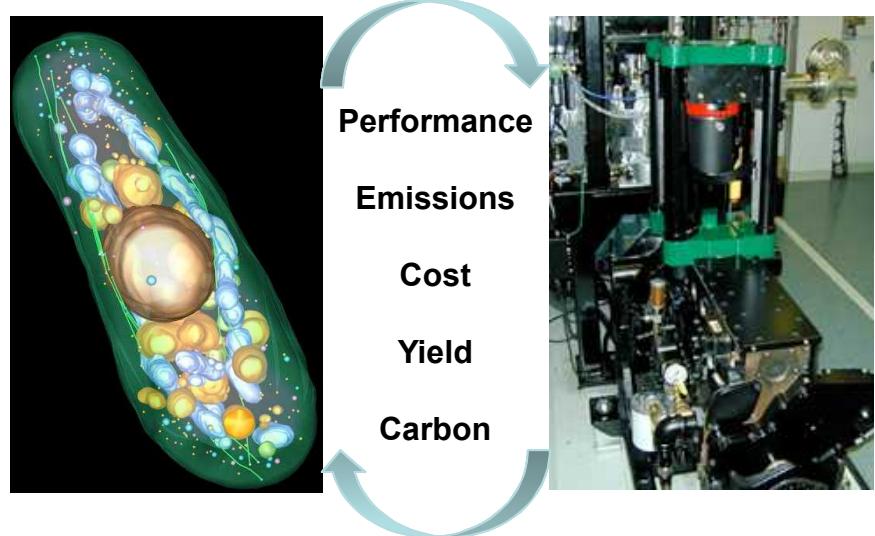
## Objectives

Evaluate advanced biofuels produced by JBEI in engines and provide performance feedback

## Critical path

Identify most promising biofuel candidates at JBEI

Evaluate biofuels in a wide range of combustion platforms



## Deliverables

Isoprenoid and sesquiterpene biofuel evaluation

Down selection to optimized biofuels for advanced engines based on performance

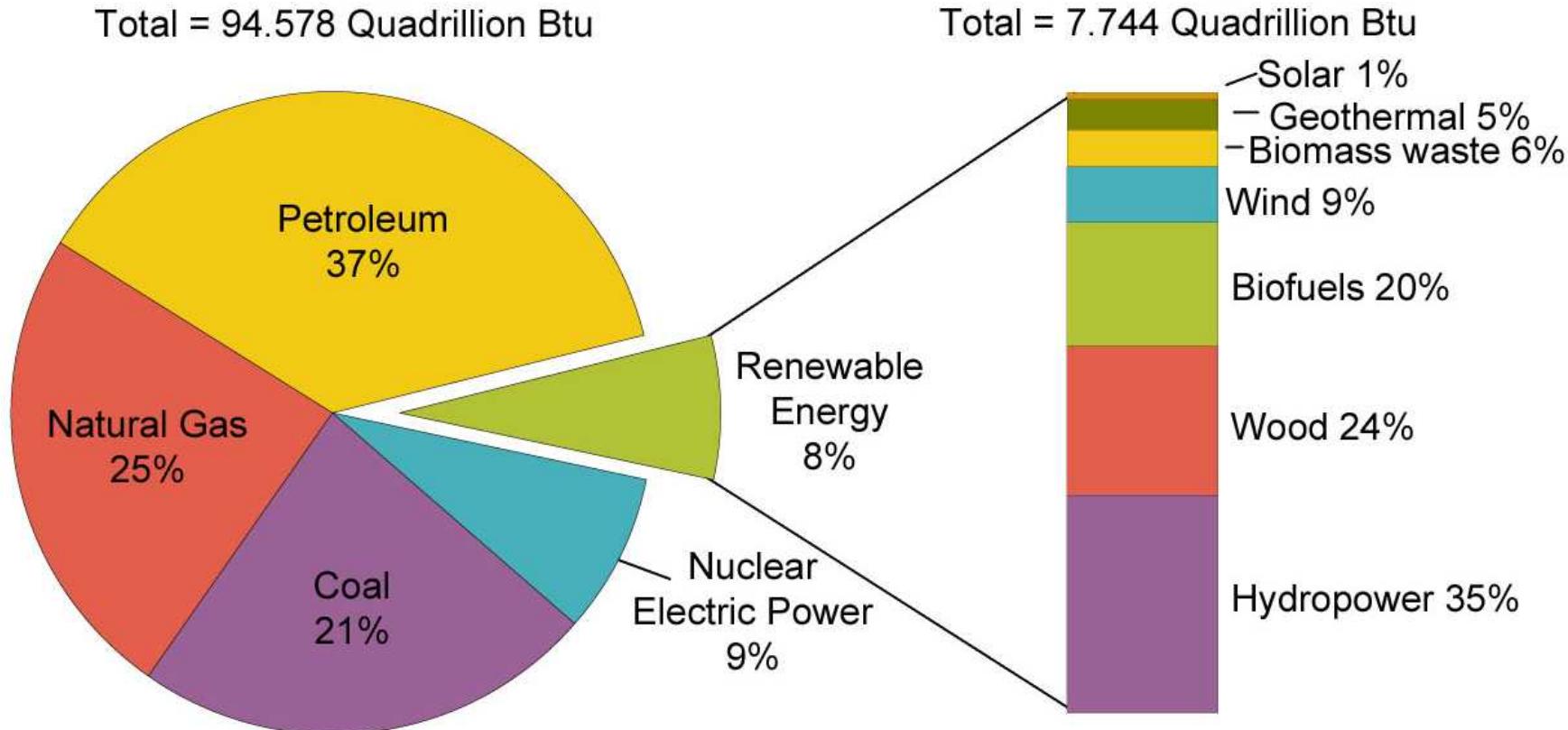


# OTHER LIGNOCELLULOSE BIOFUELS PROJECTS

---

- **Monsanto CRADA**
- **DSM CRADA**
- **Trojan Horse LDRD – ended FY10 – business development mode**
- **Mobile Biorefinery CRADA w/CPC (DoD funded)**
- **Sustainability and LCA efforts**

# US ENERGY CONSUMPTION (2009)



(Keasling, 2011)

# SANDIA IS A KEY PARTNER IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ALGAE PROGRAMS



**Sustainable Algal Biofuels Consortium**  
*cultivating energy solutions*

*DOE OBP: Biochemical Conversion of Algal Residuals in Fuel Production and Testing*



*DOE OBP Integrated Biorefinery:  
Scaling algal biofuels*

## International Programs

*DOE OBP: Systems Analysis and Techno-Economic Modeling for Canada and Israel*

## Internal Investments:

- *Metabolic Engineering in Biodiesel Feedstocks: Cyanobacteria and Diatoms (PI: Anne Ruffing)*
- *From Algae to Oilgae (PI: Seema Singh)*
- *Cultivation Scale-up: From Benchtop to Raceways (PI: Jeri Timlin)*
- *First Principles in Flocculation of Algae (PI: John Hewson)*
- *Modeling Algae Growth in Raceways (PI: Patricia Gharagozloo)*