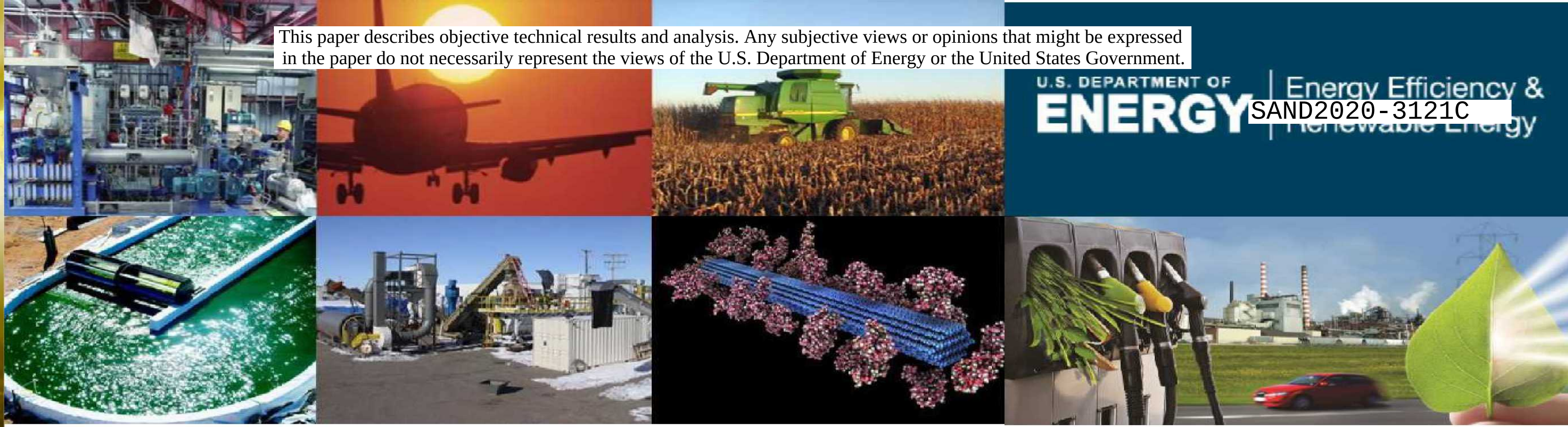

SAND2020-3121C

2020 ACS National Meeting & Expo
Philadelphia, PA

Algal biomass conversion to fusel alcohols and further upgrading as high performance drop-in fuels

Somnath Shinde

Sandia National Laboratories

This presentation does not contain any confidential or otherwise restricted information

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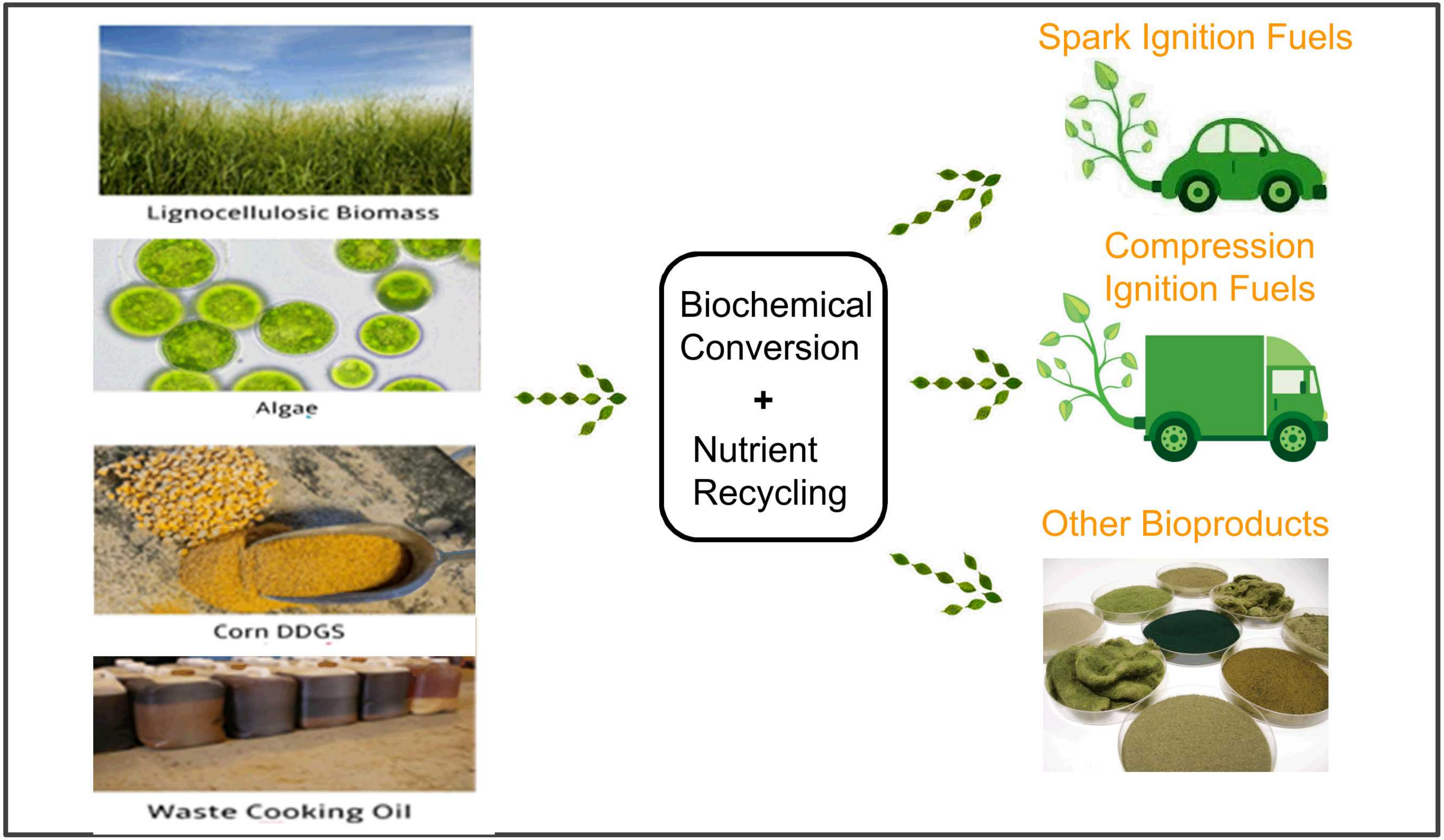
SANDIA BIOSCIENCE

Sandia's perspective on biofuel production



Sandia's perspective on biofuel production

High performance fuel products can strengthen the value proposition of biofuels

Biomass Production

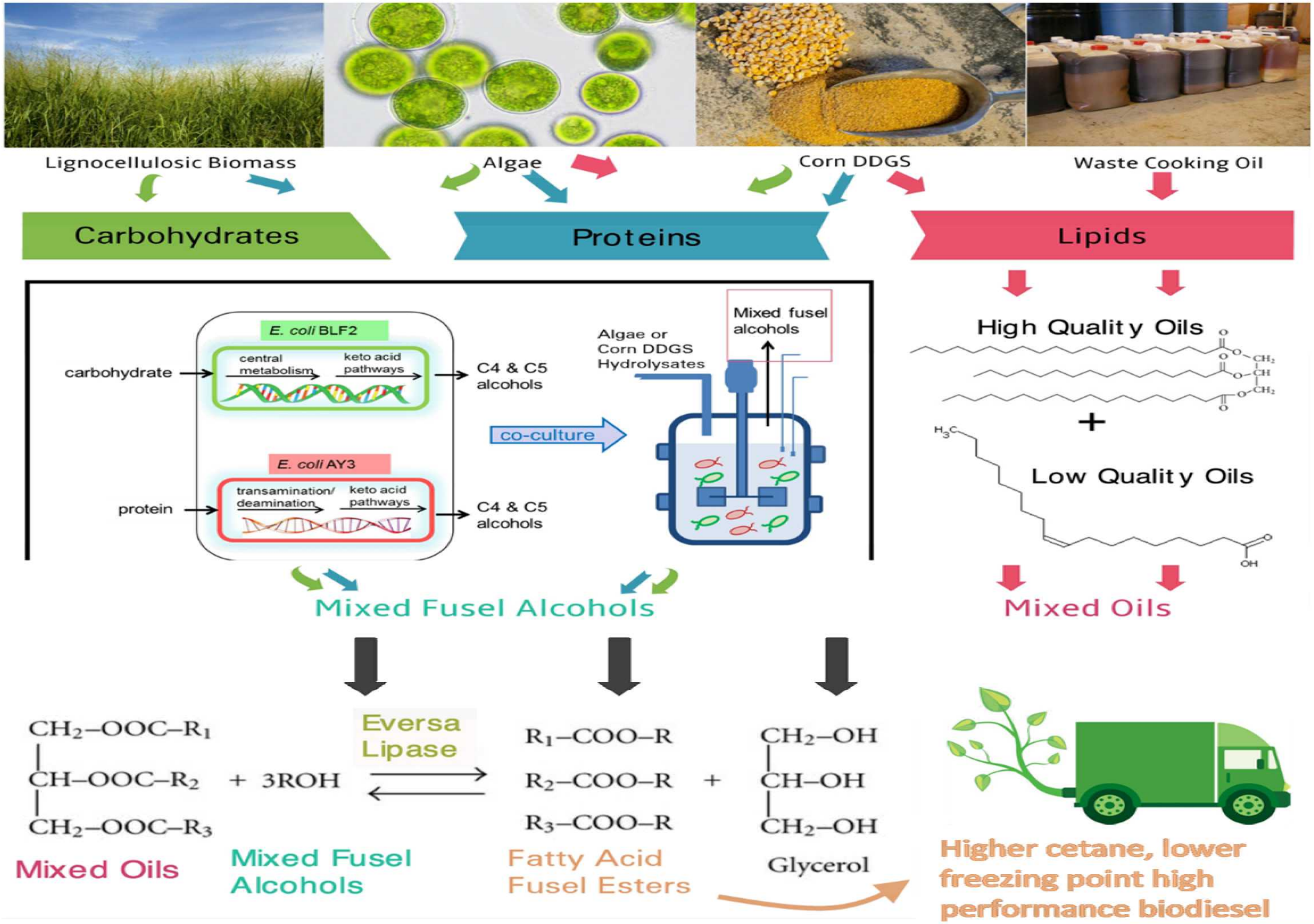
What can we grow?

Conversion to Fuel Products

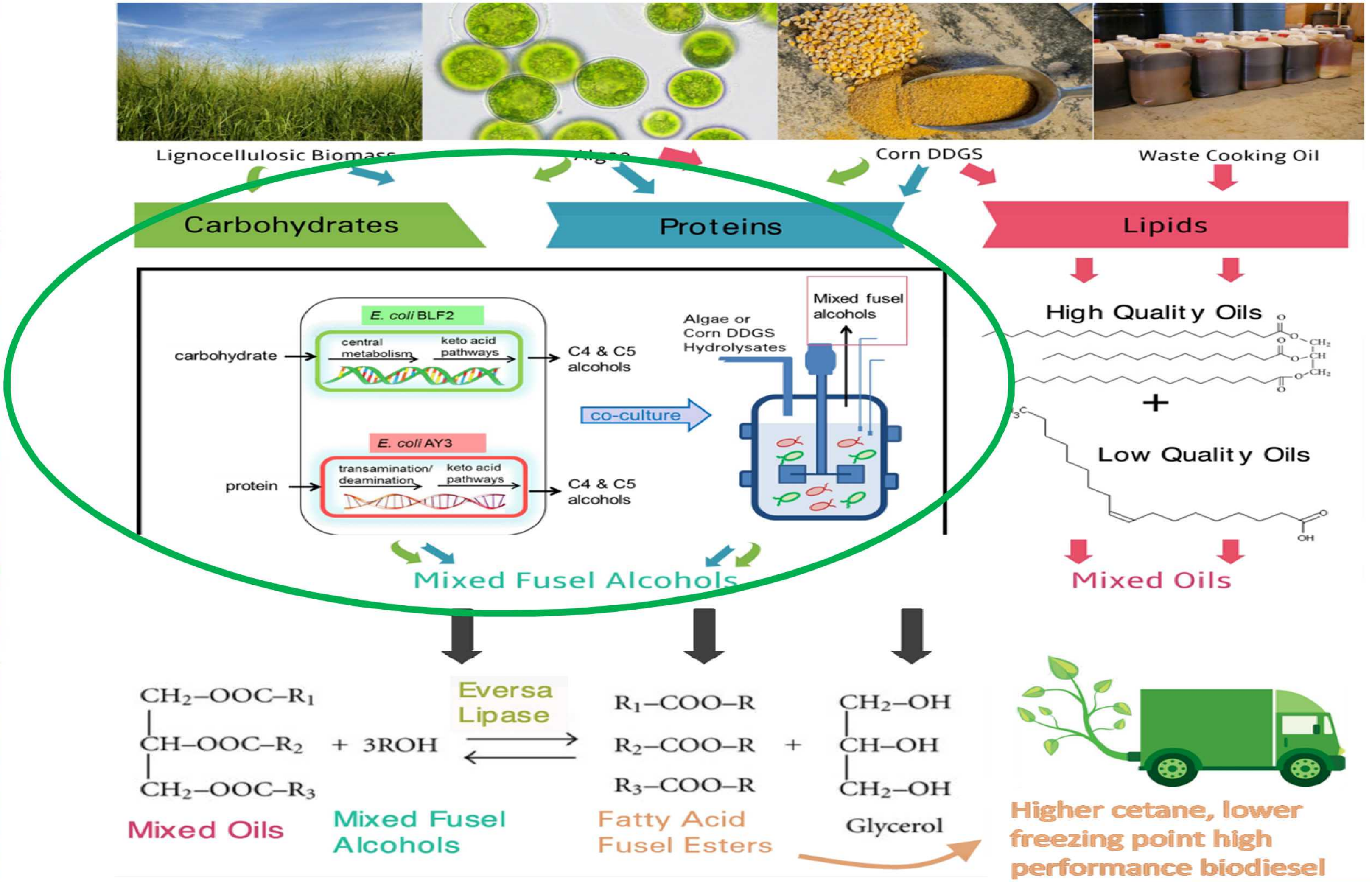
Co-optimization of Fuels and Engines

What is the best fuel?

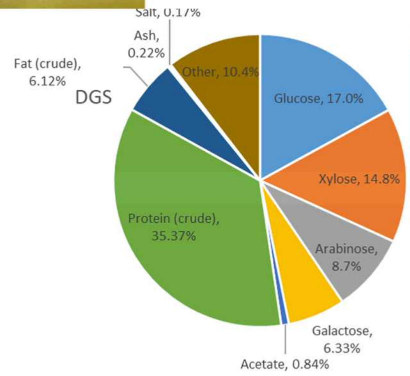
Our goal: a robust, feedstock agnostic bioconversion process to utilize this biomass

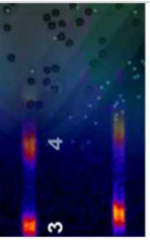


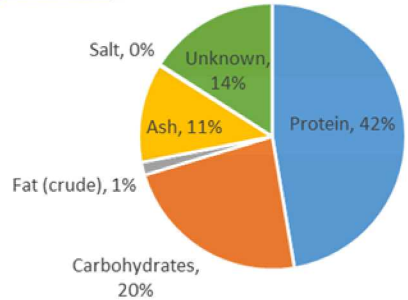
Our goal: a robust, feedstock agnostic bioconversion process to utilize this biomass



Development of *E. coli* strains for protein conversion and carbohydrate conversion to fusel alcohols in co-culture system







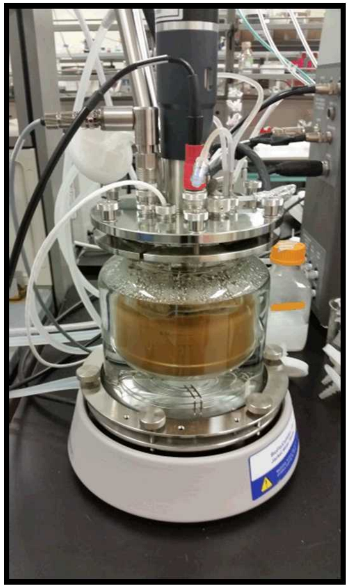
Biomass

Carbohydrates

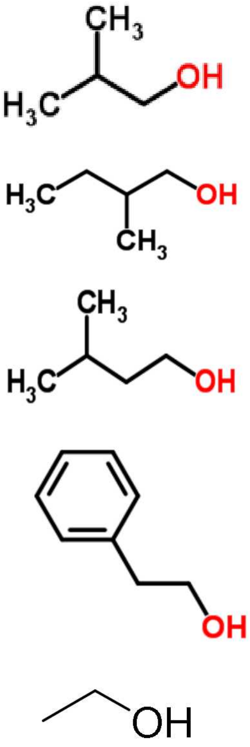
Proteins

Pretreatment

Fermentation



Fusel Alcohol Product Mix



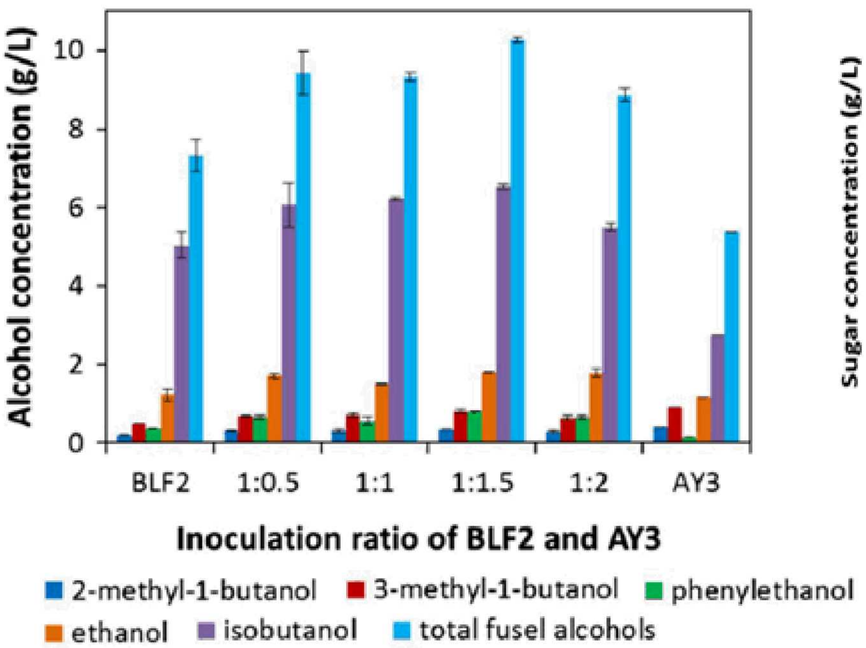
Huo et al Nature Biot. 2011

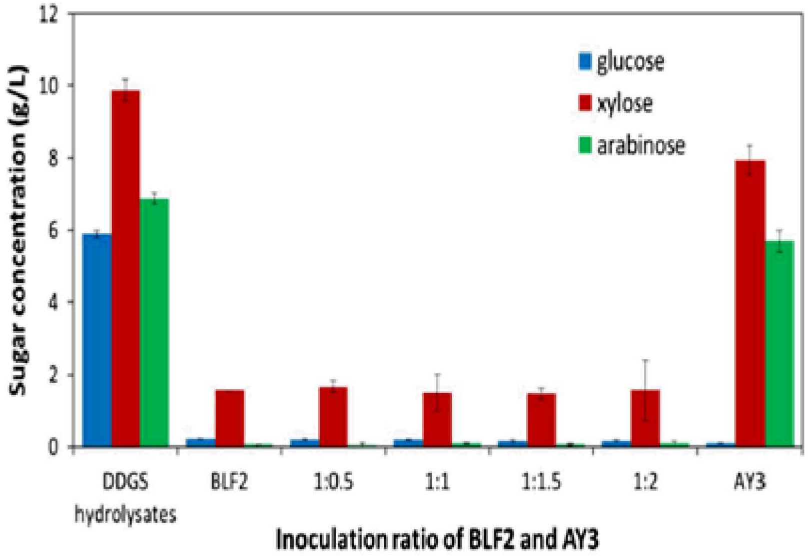
Wu et al Algal Res 2016

Wu and Davis *Algal Res* 2016

Liu et al Microbial Cell Factory 2017

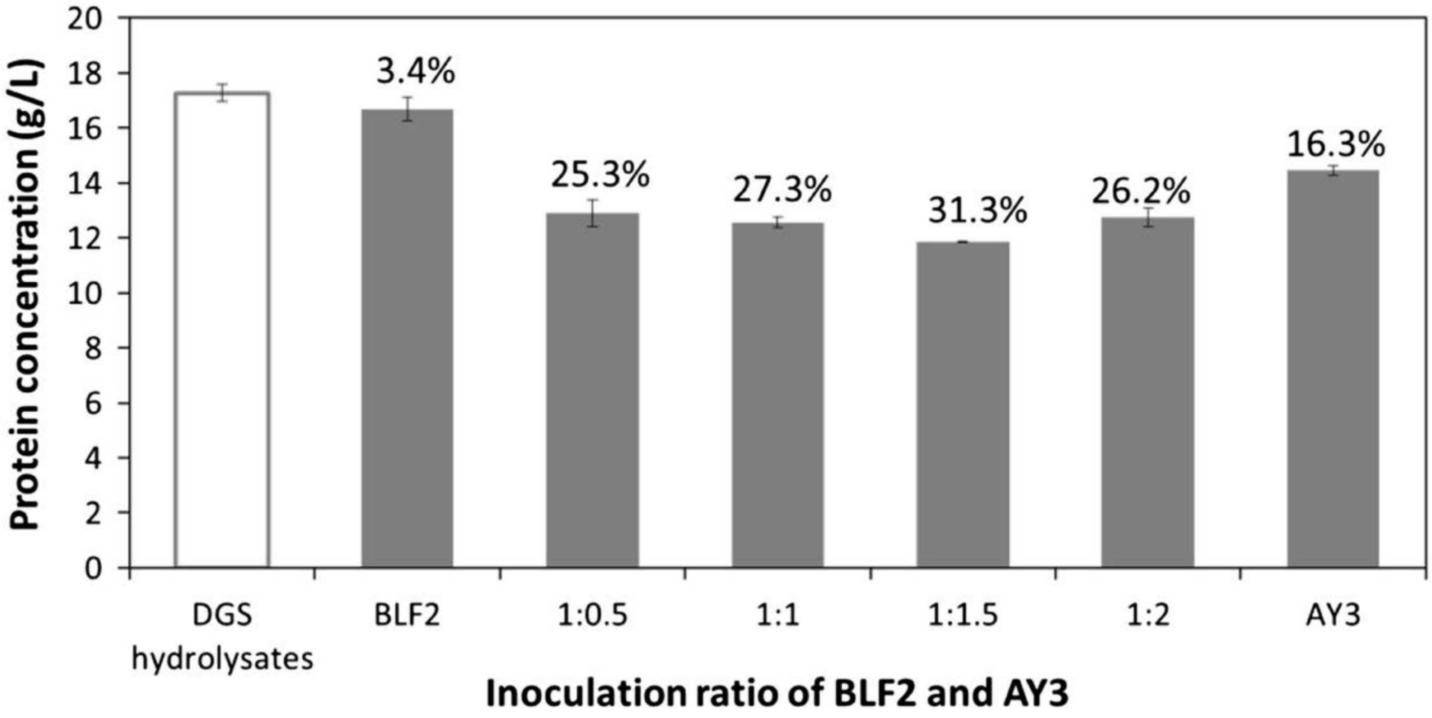
Fusel alcohols production from DGS





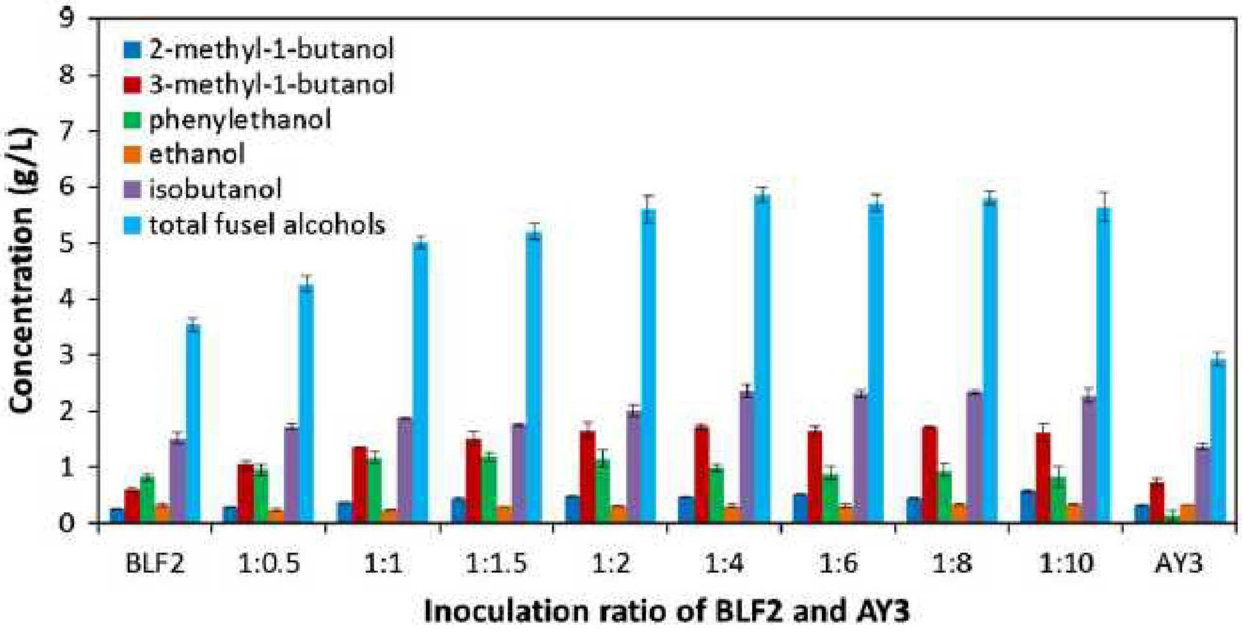
- The co-culture with an inoculation ratio of 1:1.5 of *E. coli* BLF2 and AY3 achieved the highest total fuel titer of up to 10.3 g/L from DGS hydrolysates.

Fusel alcohols production from DGS



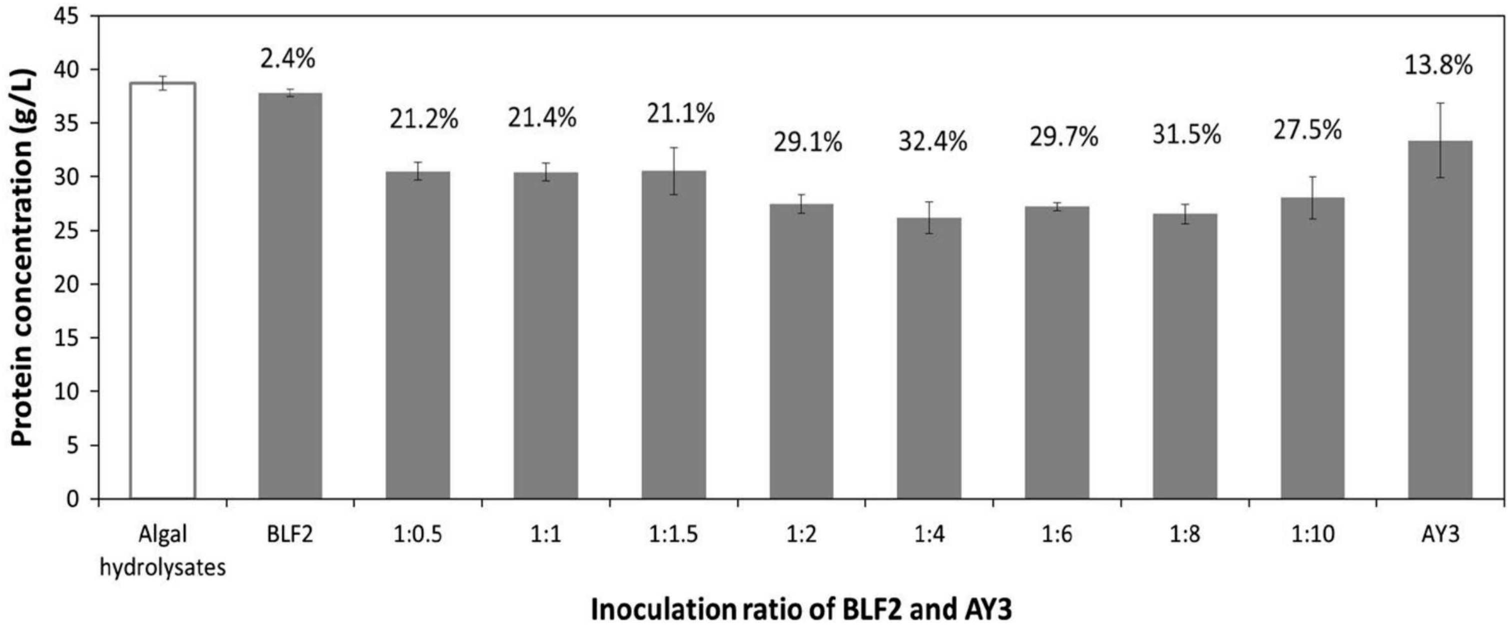
- Up to 31.3% of the initial 17.5 g/L proteins in the DGS hydrolysates were converted by the co-culture with an inoculation ratio of 1:1.5

Fusel alcohols production from *Nannochloropsis sp.* algae hydrolysates



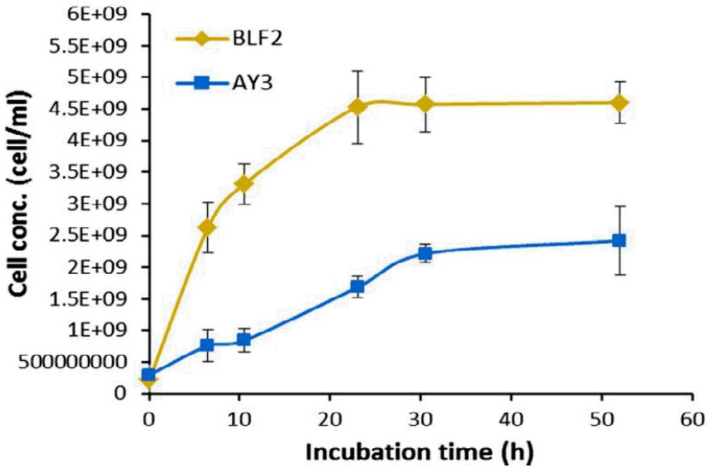
- The composition of the fusel alcohols products from algae hydrolysates included isobutanol (40.3% (w/w)) and mixed isopentanols (2-methyl-1-butanol and 3-methyl-1-butanol (37.3% (w/w)), indicating significant enrichment of the C5 alcohols compared to the product spectrum produced from DGS, where isobutanol was the major product (63.1% (w/w))

Fusel alcohols production from *Nannochloropsis sp.* algae hydrolysates

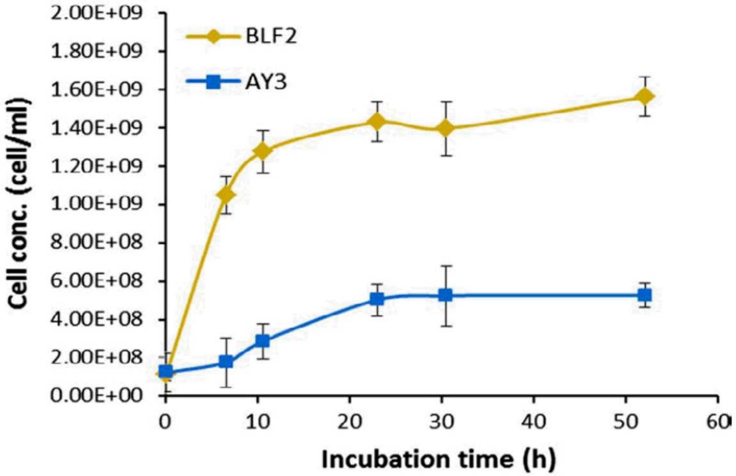


- Up to 32.4% of the initial 38.7 g/L proteins in the algae hydrolysates were converted by the co-culture with an inoculation ratio of 1:4

Growth dynamics of individual populations in the co-culture



DGS hydrolysate with a BLF2/AY3 inoculation ratio of 1:1.5

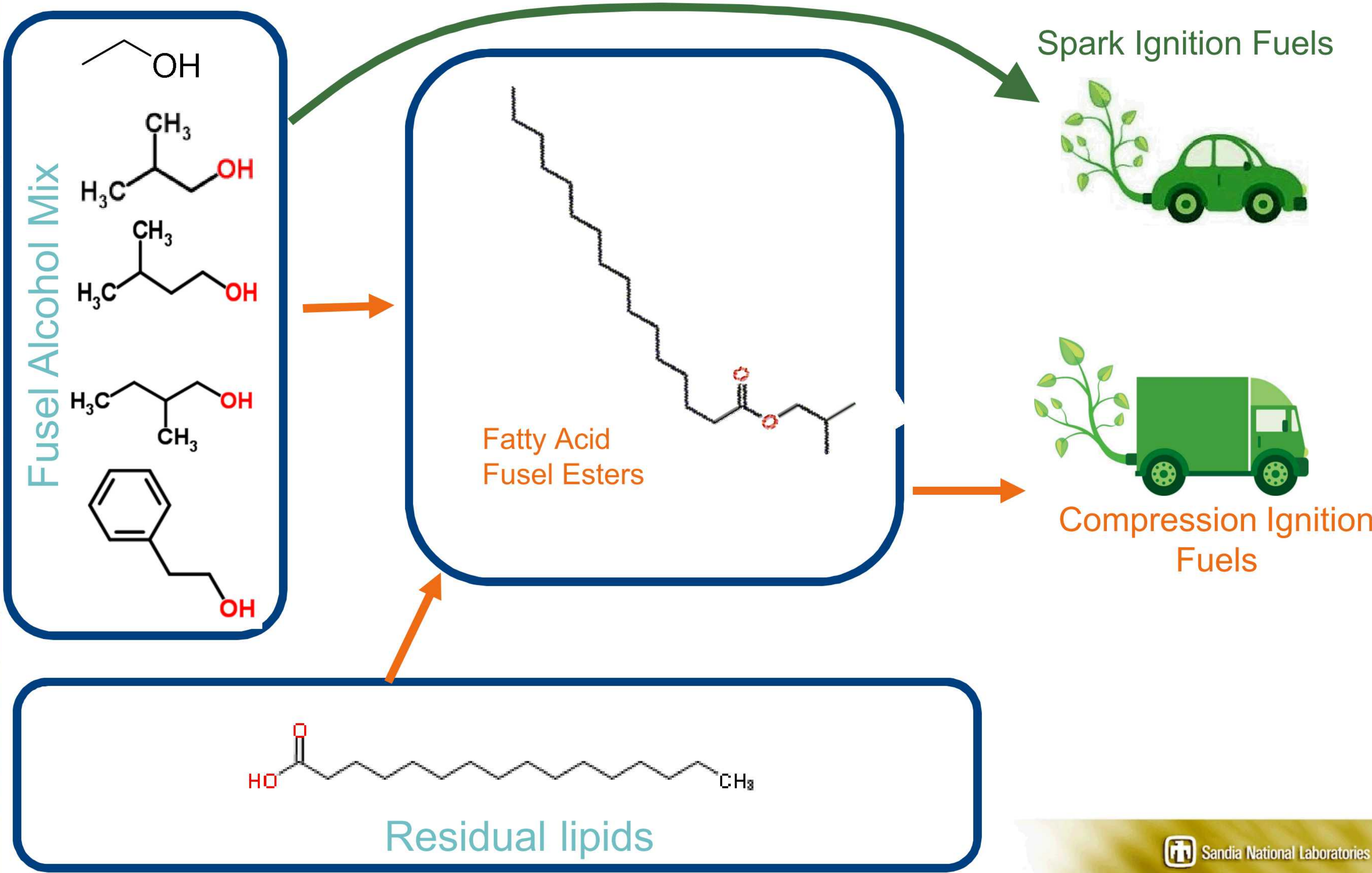


Algae hydrolysate with a BLF2/AY3 inoculation ratio of 1:4

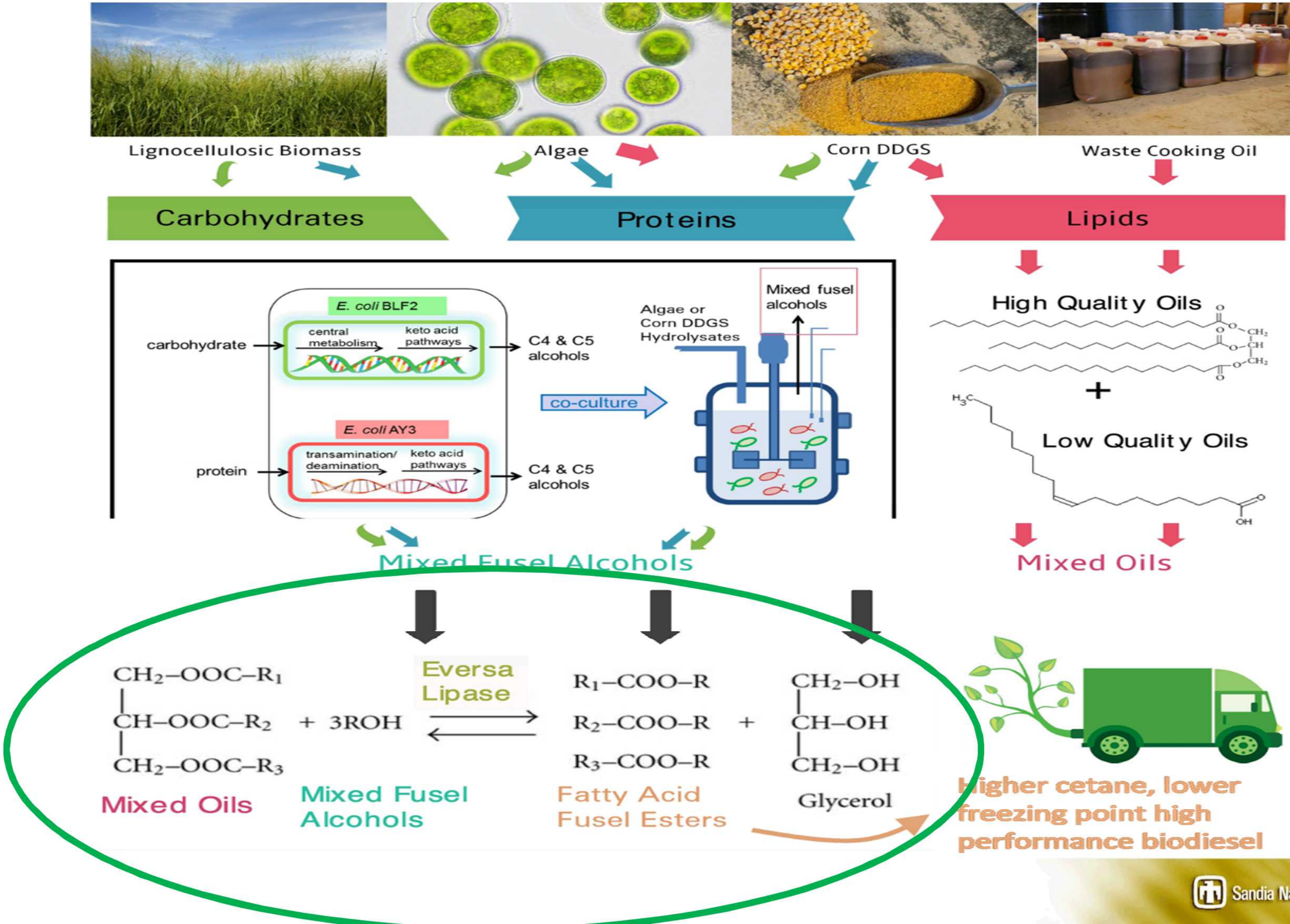
- In both of the hydrolysates, the cell number of the two strains continuously increased until reaching plateau, which indicated that despite the growth rate difference between the two strains, the co-culturing didn't adversely affect the growth of each strain.

- The final cell numbers of AY3 in the co-cultures at proper inoculation ratios of BLF2/AY3 were no less than the cell number of AY3 monoculture in the hydrolysates.

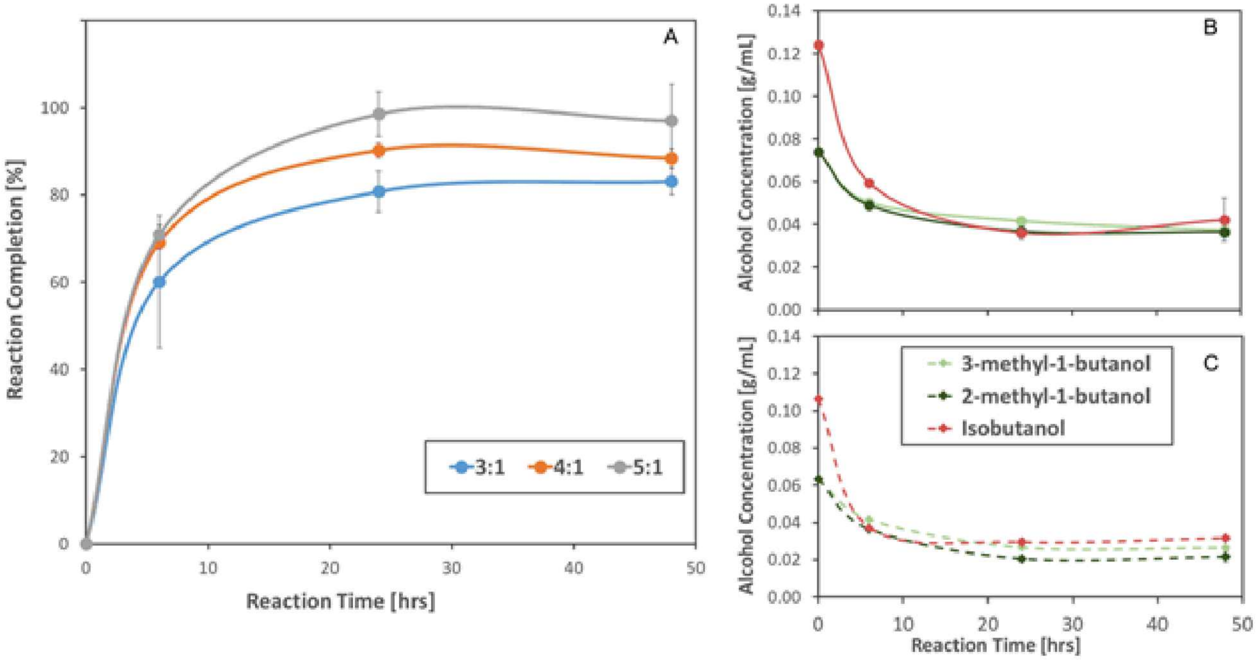
Fusel Alcohols as a platform for a diverse suite of high performance fuels



Our goal: a robust, feedstock agnostic bioconversion process to utilize this biomass



Fatty Acid Fusel Esters



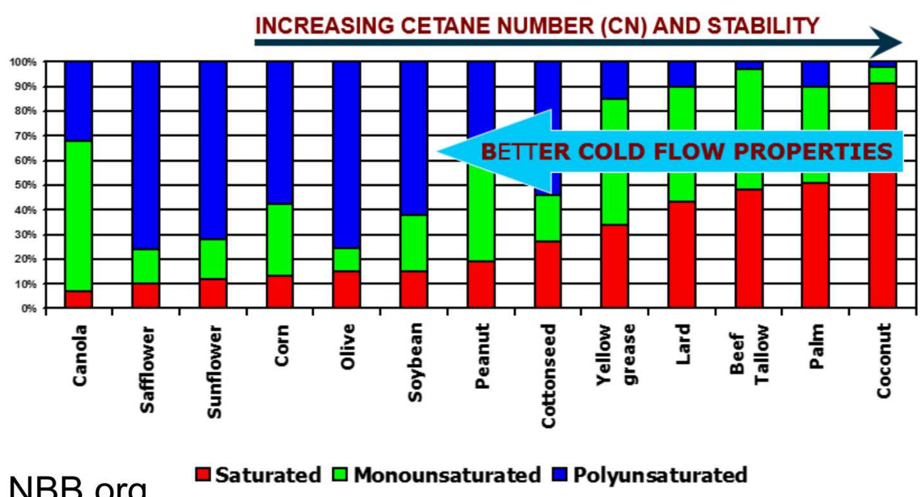
- >97% Yield after 24 hrs using 5:1 molar ratio of alcohol:oil and fusel alcohol mixture.

Understanding what makes a biofuel good

Evaluating a fuel is about more than just combustion

Compression Ignition Fuels

Criteria	Greatly Exceeds	Exceeds Criteria	Meets Criteria	Barriers Exist
Cetane	>50	46 to 50	40 to 45	<40
LHV (MJ/Kg)	>40	31 to 40	25 to 30	<25
Flash Point (◦C)	>70	61 to 70	52 to 50	<52
Melting Point (◦C)	<-50	-50 to -26	-25 to 0	>0
Water Solubility (mg/L)	<5	5 to 501	500 to 1000	>1000
YSI	<50	50 to 151	150 to 200	>200



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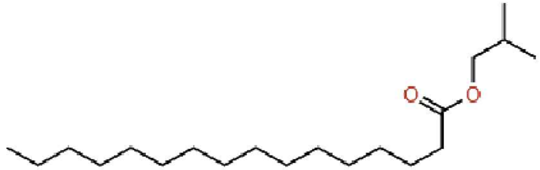
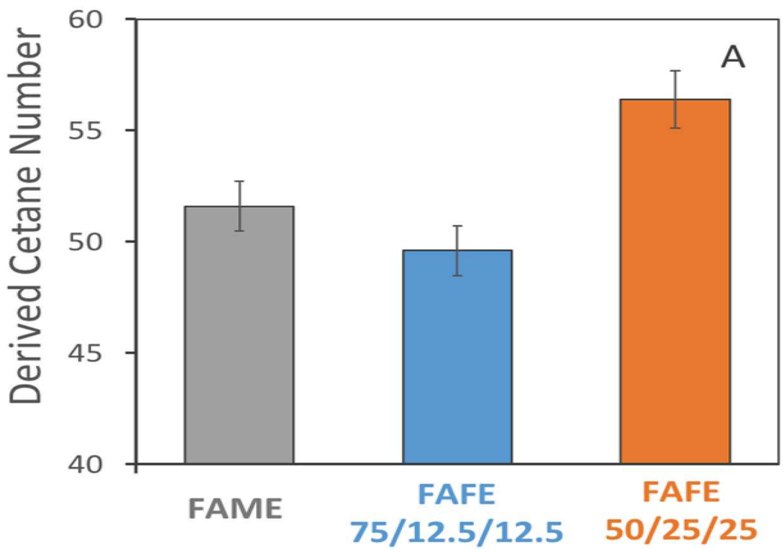
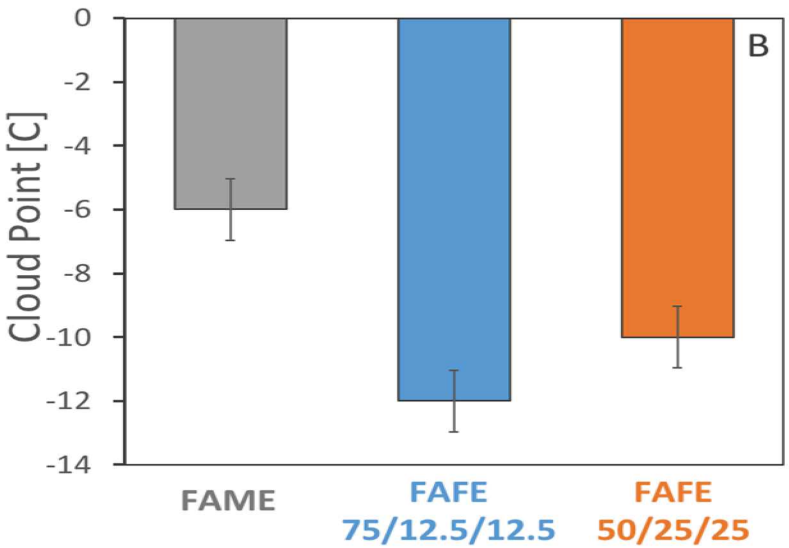
FAFEs as high performance compression ignition fuels

- FAFE 50/25/25 having a 4.8 higher DCN than FAME, while FAFE 75/12.5/12.5 was not significantly different than FAME.
- FAFE 50/25/25 and FAFE 75/12.5/12.5 demonstrating a 4 ◦C and 6 ◦C lower no-flow point respectively when compared to FAME.

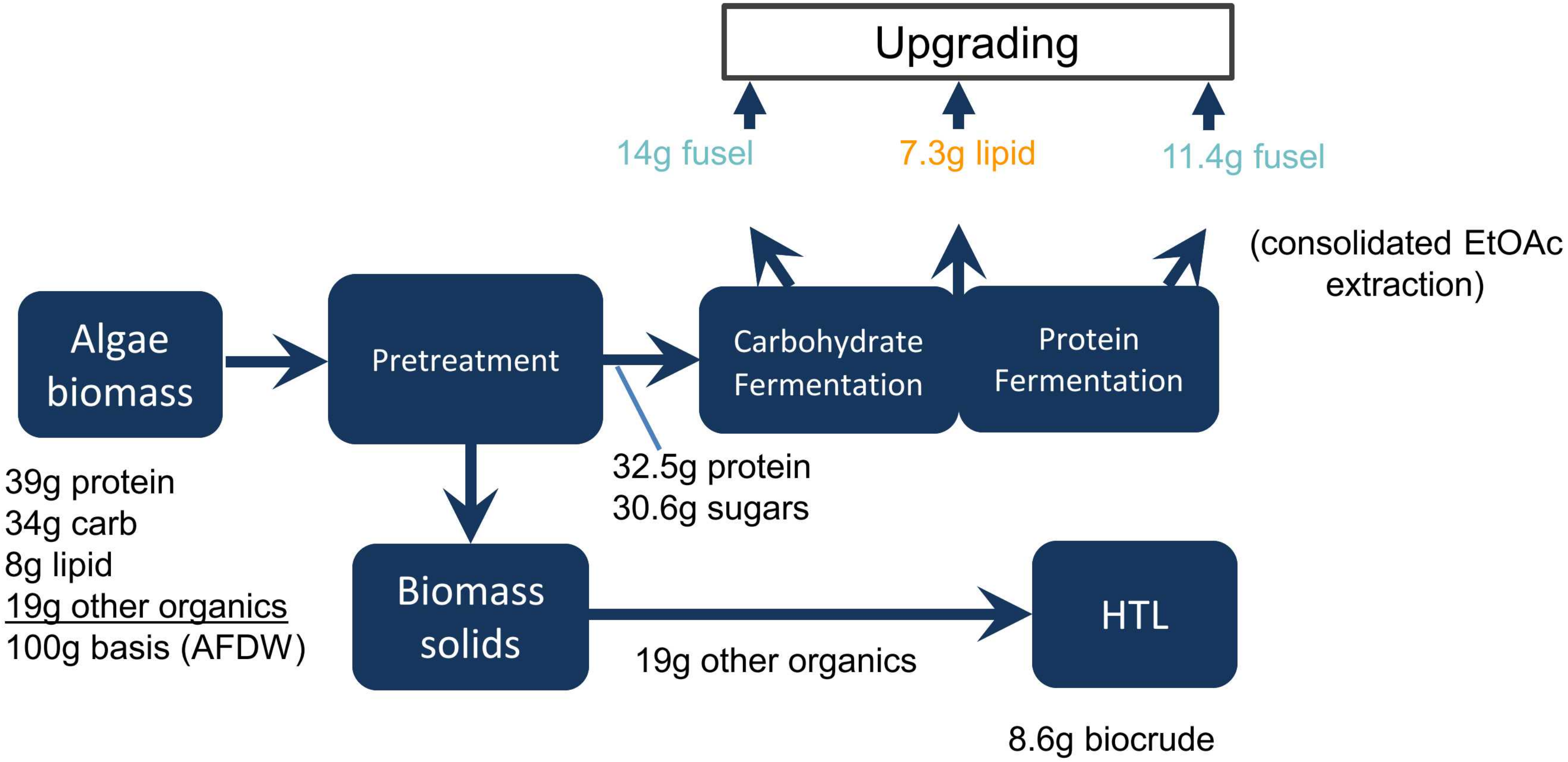






Monroe et al., Fuel, Volume 268 (2020) 117408

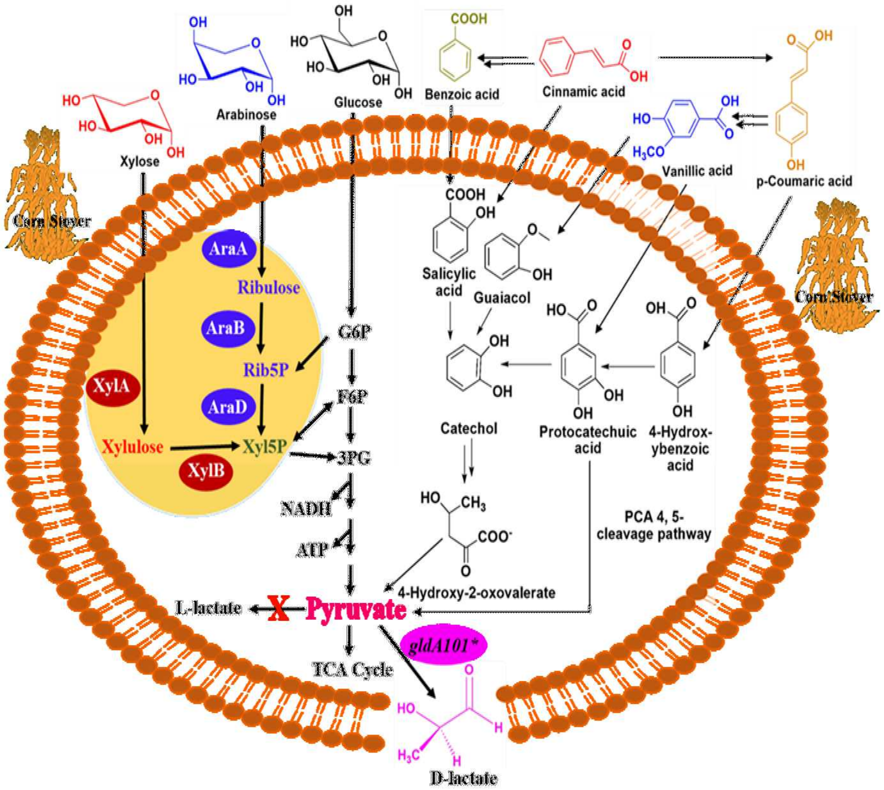
Is the loop closed and what biomass is going where?

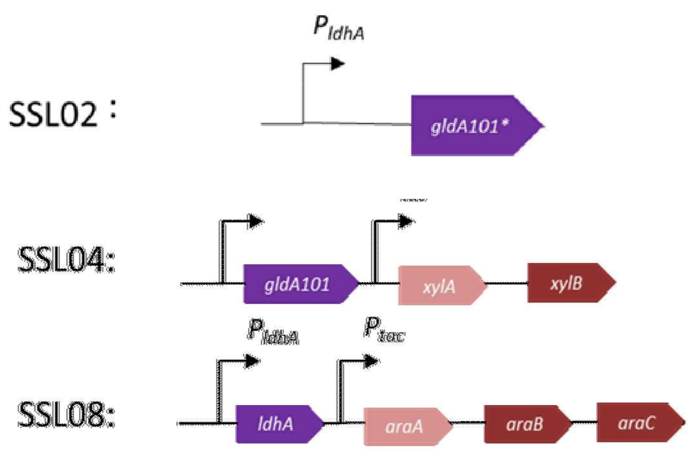


- High yields from consortium fermentations
- Titers > 10 g/L
- TEA Modeling underway

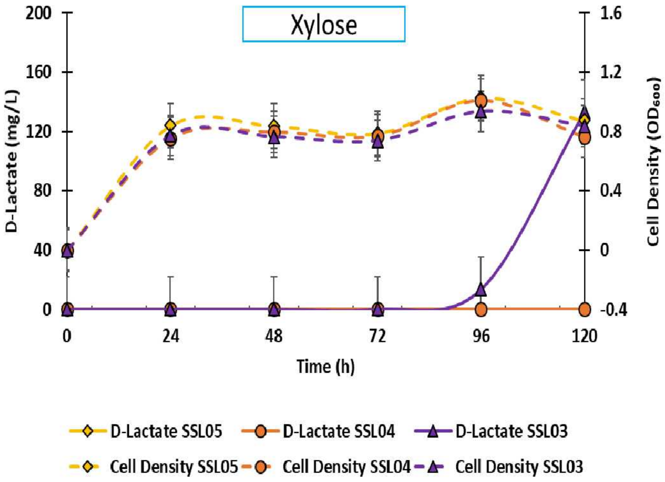
Bioprocessing of biomass-derived diverse carbon substrates into D-lactate by a substrate promiscuous bacterium

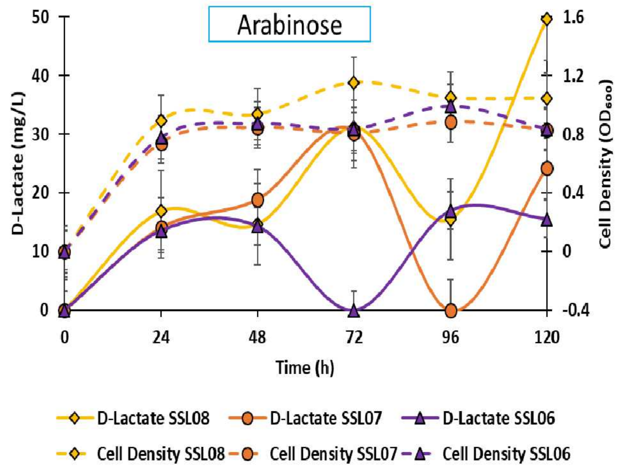
Metabolic Engineering strategy

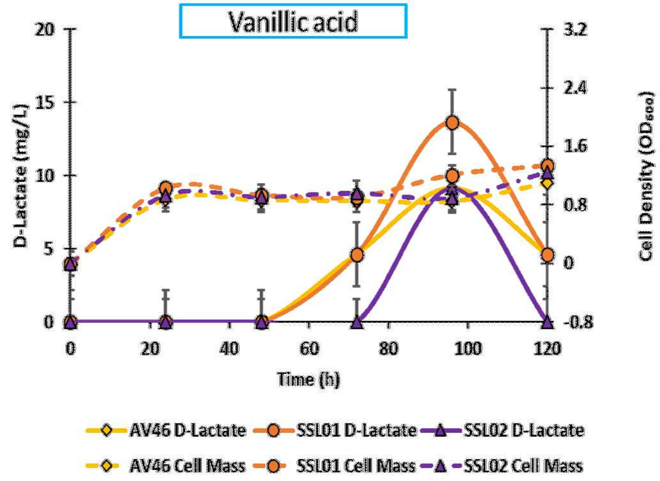


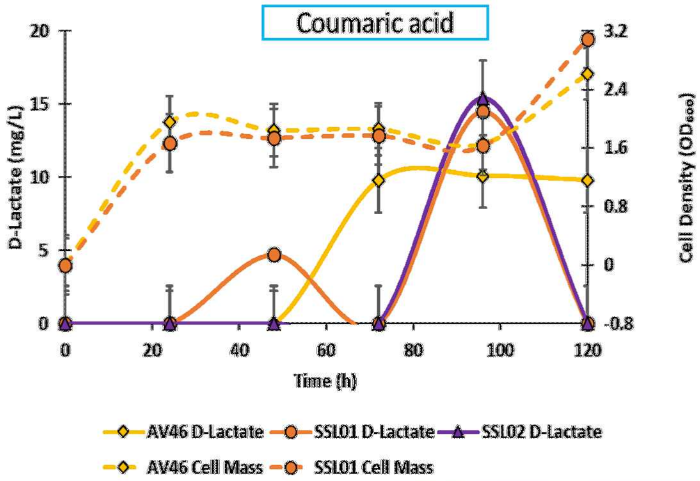


Bioprocessing of biomass-derived diverse carbon substrates into D-lactate by a substrate promiscuous bacterium





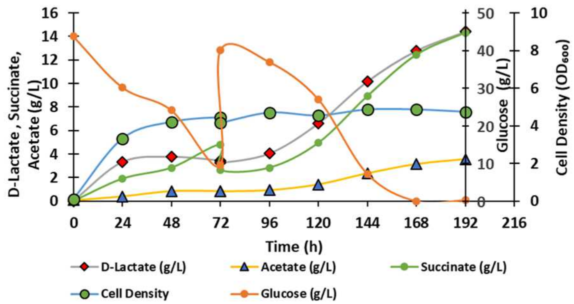




Bioprocessing of biomass-derived diverse carbon substrates into D-lactate by a substrate promiscuous bacterium

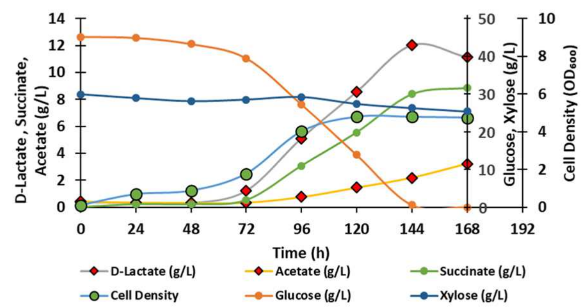
Batch and Fed batch studies on D- lactate production

D-lactic acid production from Glucose



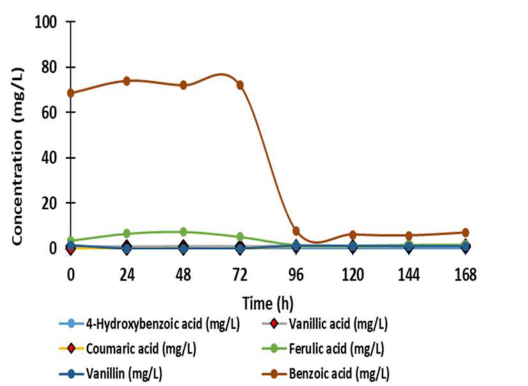
Conditions: Anaerobic, fed-batch: 40 g/L (0 h) + 30 g/L (72 h), pH 7, SSL02, BTM2

D-lactic acid production from DMR hydrolysate



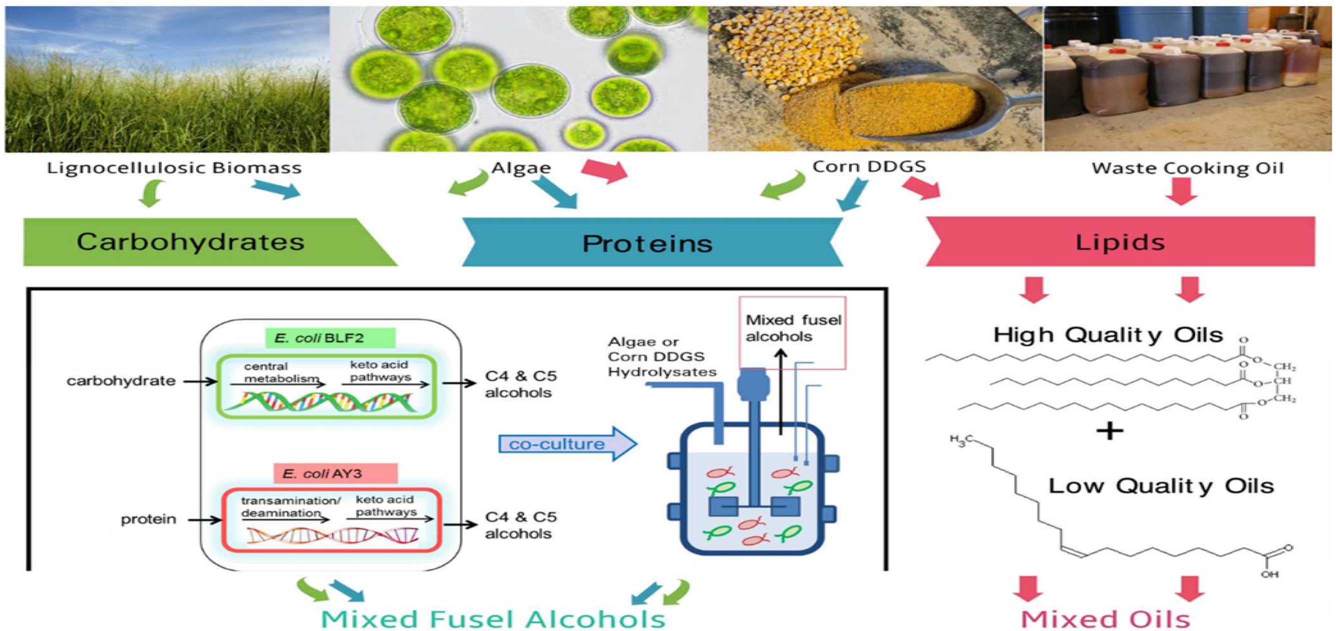
Conditions: Anaerobic, batch, pH 7, SSL09, DMR hydrolysate

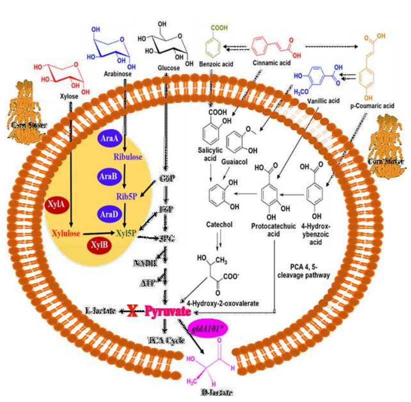
Aromatics utilization

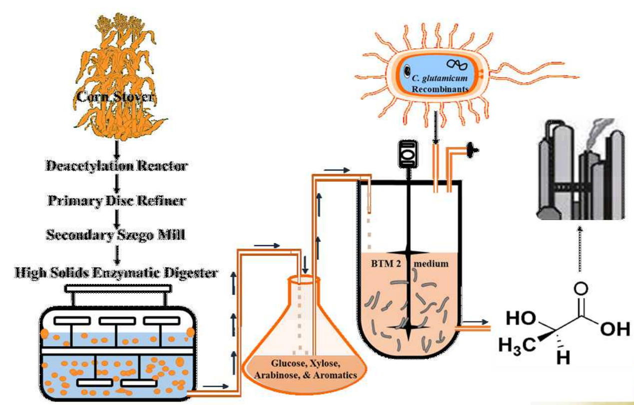


- Demonstrated the conversion of diverse biomass substrate to D-lactate, a bioplastic precursor of PDLA, in an industrial bacteria *C. glutamicum*.
- Effective utilization of coumaric acid demonstrated by U-13C fingerprinting demonstrates promising perspectives for lignin utilization
- Production of D-lactate from hydrolysate in *C. glutamicum* opens the possibility of production of other chemicals.

The Lactate and Fusel Alcohol Platform







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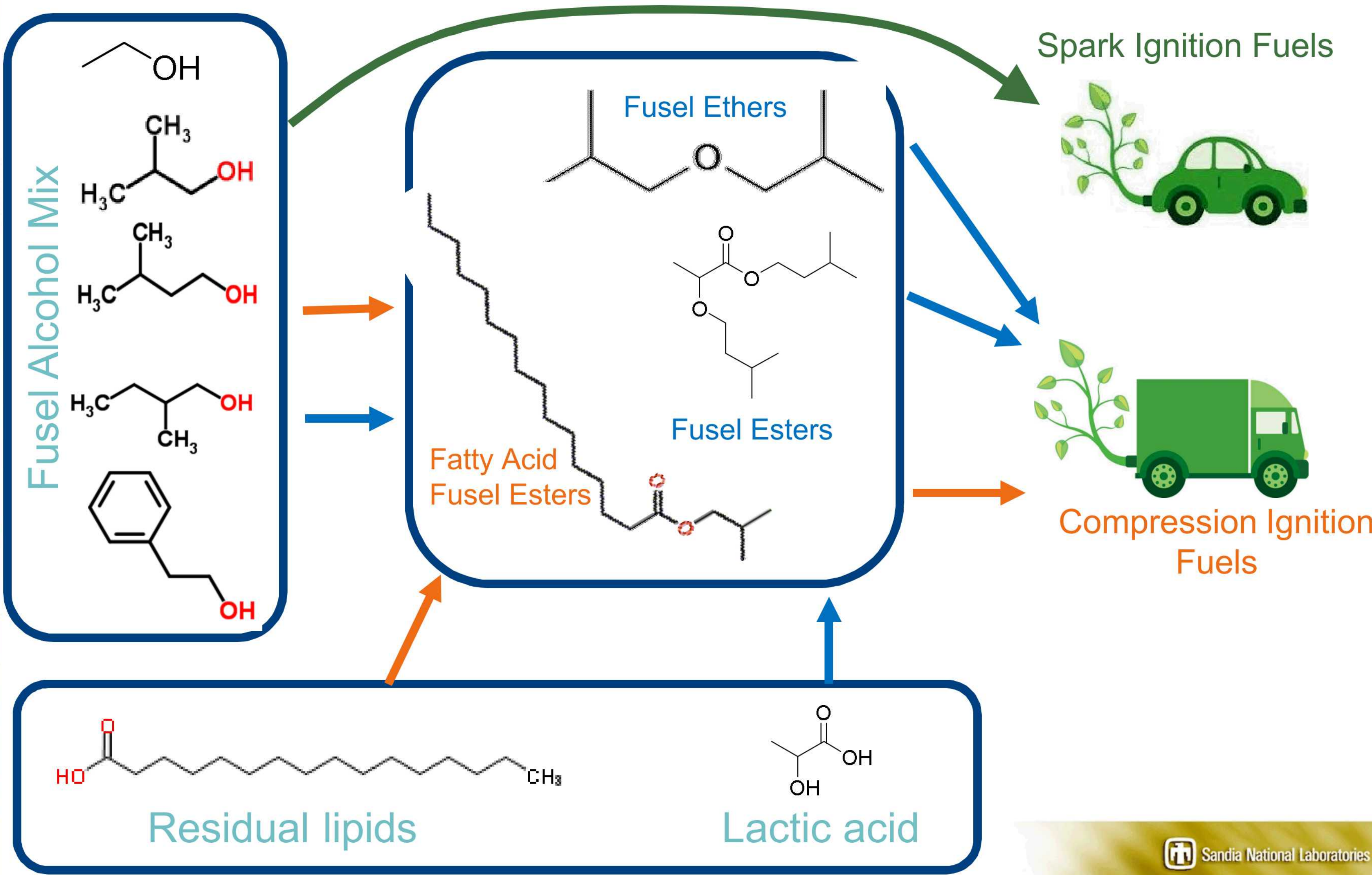
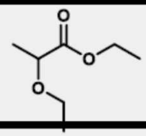
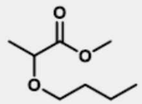
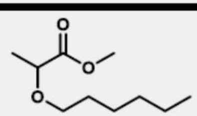
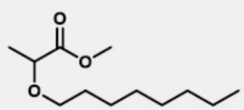
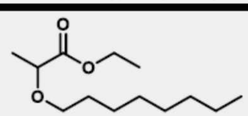
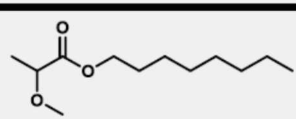
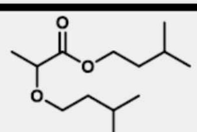
The Lactate and Fusel Alcohols platform for a diverse suite of high performance fuels



The Lactate and Fusel Alcohols platform for a diverse suite of high performance fuels

Trend	Chemical Structure	C:O ratio	DCN	LHV (MJ/kg)	Flash Pt (° C)	YSI	M.P. (° C)	B.P. (° C)
C2, C2		2.33	23.1	25.48	TBD	21.7	<-50	167
		2.67	46.3	TBD	89	29.9	<-60 (CP)	189.8
		3.33	35.4	TBD	64.5	42.9	<-60 (CP)	235.6
Increasing **Ether** Carbon Length		4.00	59.4	30.79	TBD	56.0	TBD	281
		4.33	62.2	TBD	117.5	60.8	<-60 (CP)	281.4
Increasing **Ester** Carbon Length		4.00	57.5	31.71	TBD	56.0	TBD	281
Increased Branching		4.33	43.6	34.5	TBD	85.8	<-50	N/A

Conclusions

- A key bottleneck for large-scale biofuel feasibility is sustainable growth of high productivity biomass, which often means high protein and carbohydrate fractions.
- We have developed a proof of concept “one-pot bioconversion” with engineered *E. coli* and *C. glutamicum* for efficient production of mixed fusel alcohols and D-lactate from a wide variety of biomass sources, respectively.
- These fusel alcohols show promise as drop in fuels or as blending agents with gasoline for SI engines with properties comparable or better than ethanol.
- Fusel alcohols and lactate can further be upgraded to other high performance fuel compounds or reacted with residual lipids to utilize all major biochemical components of the biomass and “close the loop” allow for tunablity to different engine architectures.
- **Fusel alcohols and lactic acid represent one example of this, but the co-optima effort has identified a variety of biofuel molecules that each have slightly unique value propositions as industrial fuels.**

Acknowledgments

- Ryan W. Davis (Sandia)
- Anthe George (Sandia)
- Eric Monroe (Sandia)
- Joseph Carlson (Sandia)
- Robert McCormick (NREL)
- Fang Liu (Sandia)
- Alexander Landera (Sandia)
- Amit Jha (Sandia)
- Mysha Sarwar (Sandia)
- John Gladden (Sandia, JBEI)
- Mary Tran (Sandia)

Co-Optimization of Fuels & Engines

This research was conducted as part of the Co-Optimization of Fuels & Engines (Co-Optima) project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Bioenergy Technologies and Vehicle Technologies Offices. Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

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Thank you

Exceptional service in the national interest