

Opportunities for Facility-Enabled Science at the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI)

Yasuo Yoshikuni, Ph.D. Head, DNA Synthesis Science Program 12/20/2024



Overview of Research Focus Areas

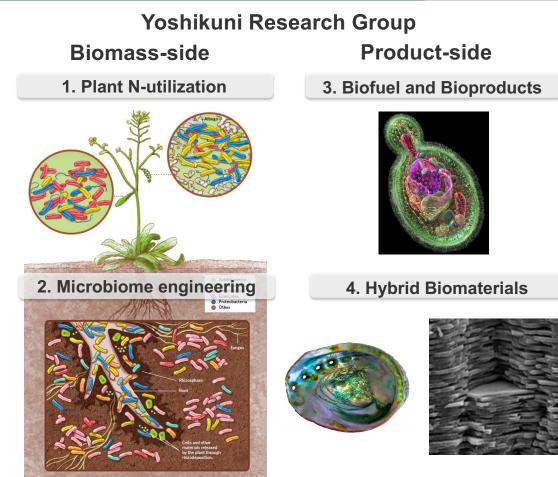


2

DNA Synthesis Science Program







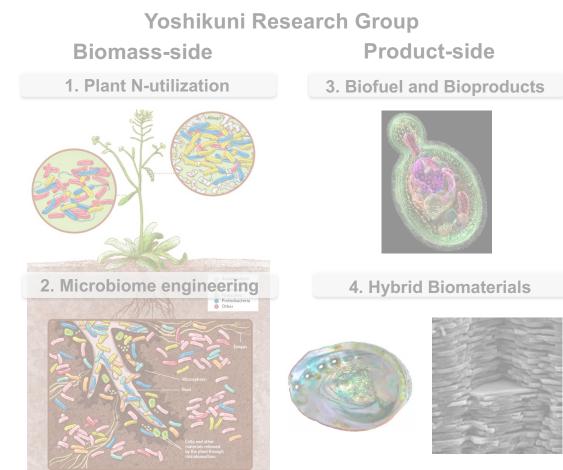
Overview of Research Focus Areas



DNA Synthesis Science Program







The DOE Joint Genome Institute





JGI MISSION:

To provide the global research community with *free access* to the most advanced integrative genome science capabilities in support of the DOE energy & environmental research mission







BioSciences



U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science User Facility

- JGI established in 1997, User facility from 2004
- Located at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- ~285 staff; \$91.6 M annual funding
- 2,038 Global Primary Users; >10,000 Data Users



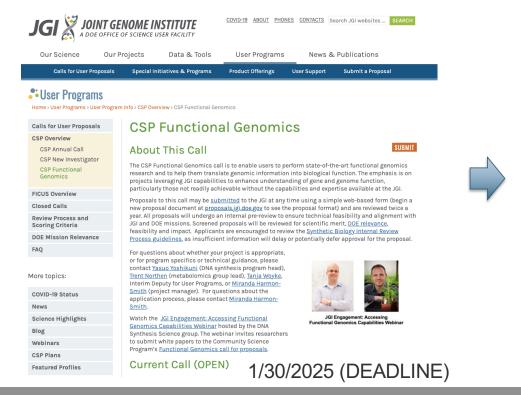


DNA Synthesis Science Program



Mission Statement

To harness the power of DNA synthesis, strain engineering, and biosystems design for DOE mission relevant discovery and applications



Large-scale synbio projects

- 500 kbp DNA synthesis, construct assembly
- Fast-track metabolic engineering
- sgRNA library
- Strain engineering

etc....

Key achievements

- > 300 projects
- > 200 publications

Including Nature, Science, Nature Sister Journals



Strategic Focus Areas – Implementation of 2018 Plan

1. Genomes to structure and function

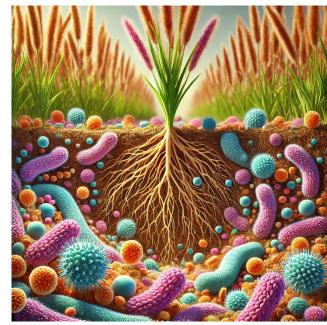


2. High-throughput functional genomics



3. Microbe-microbe and plant-microbe interactions

JGI

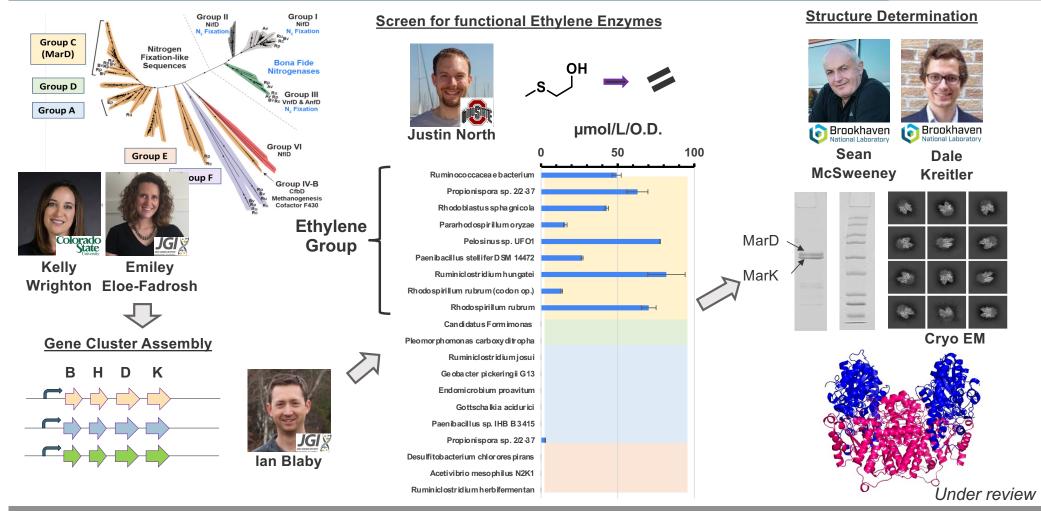


The program oversees scientific communications with Users and facilitate capability integration **User-Driven** BER **Structural Biology** Sequence Data **Functional DNA Synthesis Data Mining** Analysis & Selection & Bioimaging Characterization I JGI 🐰 IMG/MER VAN V Platform **Metabolomics** SL Argonne 🛆 Brookhaven EMSL CAK RIDGE Simon Natalia lan Trent Katherine Roux Blaby Northen Ivanova Louie

Science Portfolio 1 Genomes to Structure and Function

Science Portfolio 1 Discovery of Ethylene Enzymes for Bioplastics





Science Portfolio 1 Other Examples



Challenge: Integration of capabilities across facilities

Results: Demonstrated the power of capability integration



COOH

Intersubunit Coupling Enables Fast CO₂-Fixation by Reductive Carboxylases

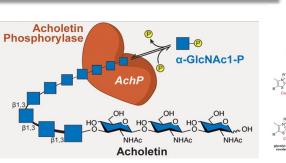
Hasan DeMircit[®] Yashas Rao, Gabriele M. Stoffel, Bastian Vögeli, Kristina Schell, Aharon Gomez, Alexander Batyuk, Cornelius Gati, Raymond G. Sierra, Mark S. Hunter, E. Han Dao, Halil I. Ciftci, Brandon Hayes, Fredric Poitevin, Po-Nan Li, Manat Kaur, Kensuke Tono, David Adrian Saez, Samuel Deutsch, Yasuo Yoshikuni, Helmut Grubmüller, Tobias J. Erb,* Esteban Vöhringer-Martinez,* and Soichi Wakatsuki*

> Acyl-CoA + CO2

ECR+NADPH+acyl-CoA



A Synthetic Gene Library Yields a Previously Unknown Glycoside Phosphorylase That Degrades and Assembles Poly- β -1,3-GlcNAc, Completing the Suite of β -Linked GlcNAc Polysaccharides Spencer S. Macdonald, Jose H. Pereira, Feng Liu, Gregor Tegl, Andy DeGiovanni, Jacob F. Wardman, Samuel Deutsch, Yasuo Yoshikuni, Paul D. Adams, and Stephen G. Withers*



communications biology Acetaldehvde (C2) Formaldehyde (C1)

Revealing reaction intermediates in

one-carbon elongation by thiamine

diphosphate/CoA-dependent

enzyme family



FCR+NADP

The world fastest CO₂ fixation enzymes CSP 1755

+

CO2

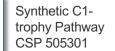
FICUS PILOT



Novel glycoside phosphorylase: CSP 2572

FICUS PILOT





FICUS PILOT

9

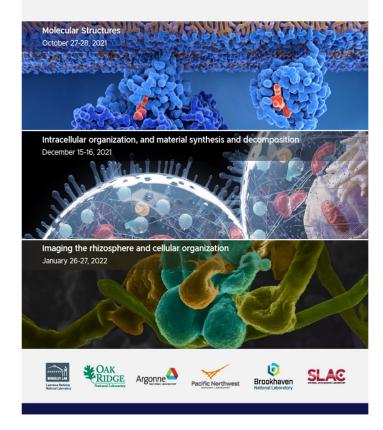
Genomes to Structure and Function Workshop



Genomes to Structure and Function

Workshop Report

2022



Challenges and opportunities identified through the workshop

- 1. Science
- 2. Technology development
- 3. User Facility Integration

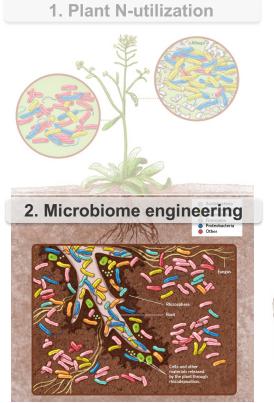
Overview of Research Focus Areas





Integrative Genomics Building (IGB)

Yoshikuni group

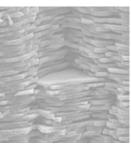


3. Biofuel and Bioproducts



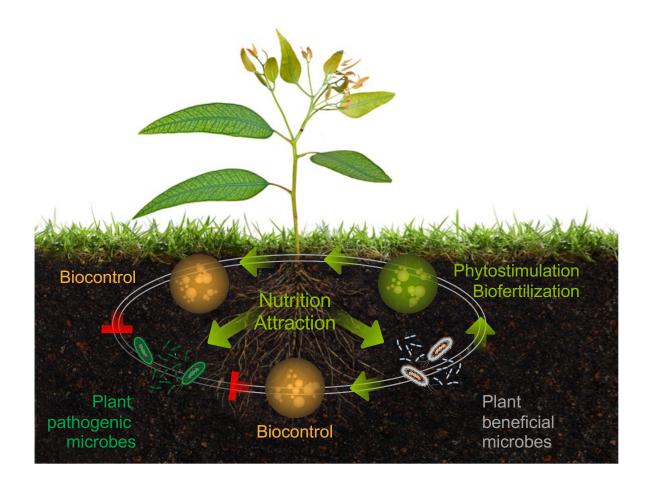
4. Hybrid Biomaterials





Plant-Microbe Interactions in Sustainable Agriculture





Microbiome Engineering in Agriculture





In situ

characterization

Desired trait



14

1. Tool Development for Microbiome Engineering

Development Of Chassis Independent Recombinaseassisted Genome Engineering (CRAGE)



An Engineered Microbial Platform for Direct Biofuel Production from **Brown Macroalgae**

Adam J. Wargacki,¹* Effendi Leonard,¹* Maung Nyan Win,¹* Drew D. Regitsky,¹ Christine Nicole S. Santos,¹ Peter B. Kim,¹ Susan R. Cooper,¹ Ryan M. Raisner,¹ Asael Herman,¹† Alicia B. Sivitz,¹‡ Arun Lakshmanaswamy,¹ Yuki Kashiyama,^{1,2,3} David Baker,⁴ Yasuo Yoshikuni¹§

ACTHORESON

SyntheticBiology

Synthetic Biology

CRAGE-Duet Facilitates Modular Assembly of Biological Systems for Studying Plant-Microbe Interactions Bing Wang,[¶] Zhiving Zhao,[¶] Lauren K, Jabusch, Dawn M, Chiniguy, Kovo Ono, Jonathan M, Conway, Zheyun Zhang, Gaoyan Wang, David Robinson, Jan-Fang Cheng, Jeffery L. Dangl, Trent R. Norther and Yasuo Yoshikuni* Cite This: ACS Synth. Biol. 2020. 9. 2610-2615 Read Online



ARTICLE

Received 24 Feb 2013 | Accepted 23 Aug 2013 | Published 23 Sep 2013

Implementation of stable and complex biological systems through recombinase-assisted genome engineering

Christine Nicole S. Santos^{1,†}, Drew D. Regitsky^{1,†} & Yasuo Yoshikuni¹

natureprotocols

PROTOCOL

Engineering complex biological systems in bacteria through recombinase-assisted genome engineering

Christine Nicole S Santos^{1,4} & Yasuo Yoshikuni^{1–3}

¹Bio Architecture Lab, Inc., Berkeley, California, USA. ²BALChile S.A., Santiago, Chile. ³BAL Biofuels S.A., Santiago, Chile. ⁴Present address: Manus Biosynthesis, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Correspondence should be addressed to Y.Y. (yoshikum@ba-lab.com).

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Bacterial genome editing by coupling Cre-lox and CRISPR-Cas9 systems

Hualan Liu^{01,2°}, David S. Robinson^{1°}, Zong-Yen Wu^{1,3}, Rita Kuo¹, Yasuo Yoshikuni^{1,2,4}, Ian K. Blaby^{1,2}, Jan-Fang Cheng^{1,2}*

1 US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, Berkeley, California, United States of America, 2 Environmental Genomics and Systems Biology Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, United States of America, 3 Department of Veterinary Medicine, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan, ROC, 4 Biological Systems and Engineering Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, United States of America



Check for updates Development of platforms for functional characterization and production of phenazines using a multi-chassis approach via CRAGE

Jing Ke^a, Zhiying Zhao^a, Cameron R. Coates^{a,b}, Michalis Hadjithomas^a, Andrea Kuftin^a, Katherine Louie^a, David Weller^{c,d}, Linda Thomashow^{c,d}, Nigel J. Mouncey^{a,e}, Trent R. Northen a,e, Yasuo Yoshikuni a,b,

Cell Chemical Biology

CellPress

CRAGE-CRISPR facilitates rapid activation of secondary metabolite biosynthetic gene clusters in bacteria

Jing Ke,^{1,6} David Robinson,^{1,6} Zong-Yen Wu,¹ Andrea Kuftin,¹ Katherine Louie,¹ Suzanne Kosina,¹ Trent Northen,^{1,6} Jan-Fang Cheng,^{1,6,*} and Yasuo Yoshikuni^{1,2,3,4,6,7,*}

tps://doi.org/10.1038/s41564-019-0573-8

ARTICLES

CRAGE enables rapid activation of biosynthetic gene clusters in undomesticated bacteria

Gaoyan Wang^{1,10}, Zhiying Zhao^{1,10}, Jing Ke^{1,10}, Yvonne Engel^{2,10}, Yi-Ming Shi⁽¹⁾, David Robinson¹, Kerem Bingol³, Zheyun Zhang¹, Benjamin Bowen^{1,4}, Katherine Louie¹, Bing Wang¹, Robert Evans¹, Yu Miyamoto¹, Kelly Cheng¹, Suzanne Kosina ⁹⁴, Markus De Raad⁹⁴, Leslie Silva¹, Alicia Luhrs⁵, Andrea Lubbe⁵, David W. Hoyt³, Charles Francavilla⁵, Hiroshi Otani^{1,4}, Samuel Deutsch^{1,4,6}, Nancy M. Washton³, Edward M. Rubin¹, Nigel J. Mouncev¹⁴, Axel Visel¹⁴, Trent Northen¹⁴, Jan-Fang Cheng¹⁴, Helge B. Bode^{17*} and Yasuo Yoshikuni^{14,6,8,9*}



Synthetic Biology, 2020, 5(1): vsaa015

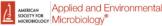
doi: 10.1093/synbio/ysaa015 Advance Access Publication Date: 3 September 2020 Research Article

CRAGE-mediated insertion of fluorescent chromosomal

markers for accurate and scalable measurement of

co-culture dynamics in Escherichia coli

Avery J.C. Noonan¹, Yilin Qiu¹, Joe C.H. Ho ¹, Jewel Ocampo ², K.A. Vreugdenhil¹, R. Alexander Marr¹, Zhiving Zhao³, Yasuo Yoshikuni^{3,4,5,6,7}, and Steven J. Hallam^{1,2,8,9,10,11,*}



BIOTECHNOLOGY September 2019 Volume 85 Issue 18 e01210-19 https://doi.org/10.1128/AEM.01210-19

nature microbiology

Engineered Root Bacteria Release Plant-Available Phosphate from Phytate

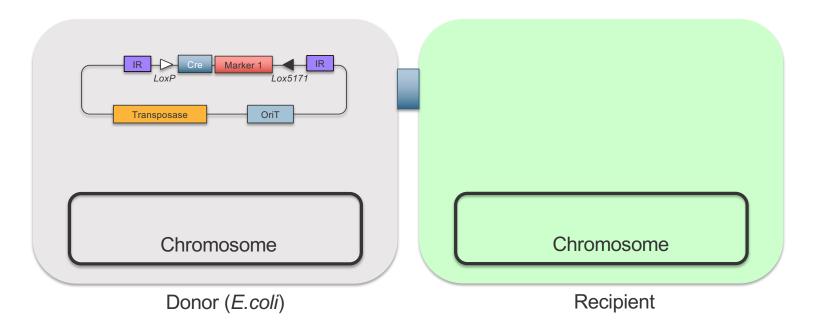
Christine N. Shulse 💿 , Mansi Chovatia, Carolyn Agosto, Gaoyan Wang, Matthew Hamilton, Samuel Deutsch, Yasuo Yoshikuni, Matthew J. Blow



Step1: Inserting Landing Pad in Recipient Microbes



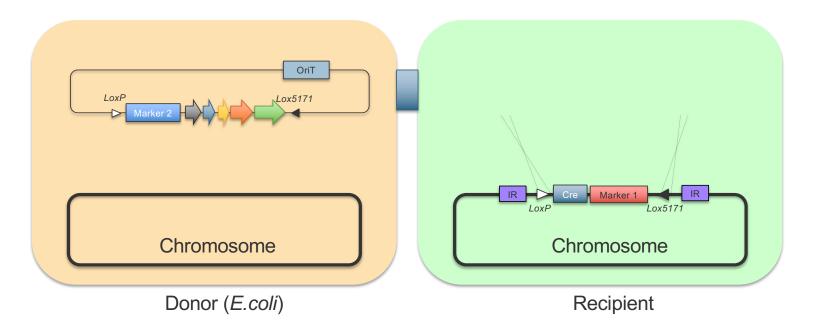
Step 1. Landing pad insertion into the genome



Step 2: Gene Insertion via Cre-loxP



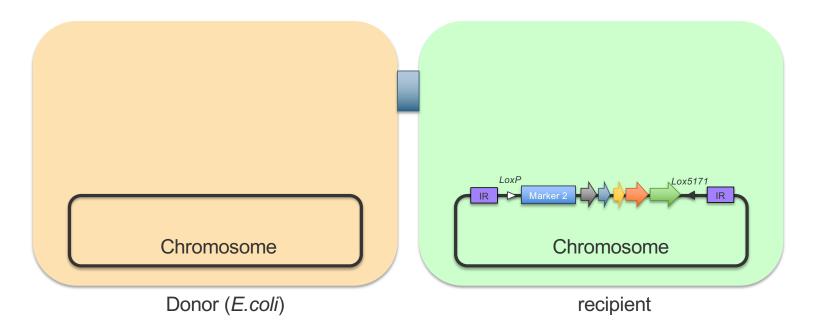
Step 2. Gene/pathway insertion



Step 2: Gene Insertion via Cre-loxP



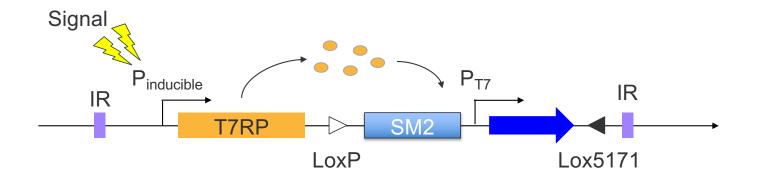




Step 3: Expression of Inserted Gene/pathway



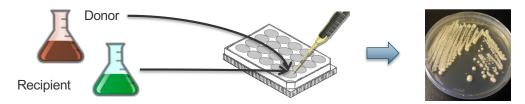
A design principle can be standardized Step 3. Activation of inserted genes



CRAGE: Versatile Genome Engineering Tool



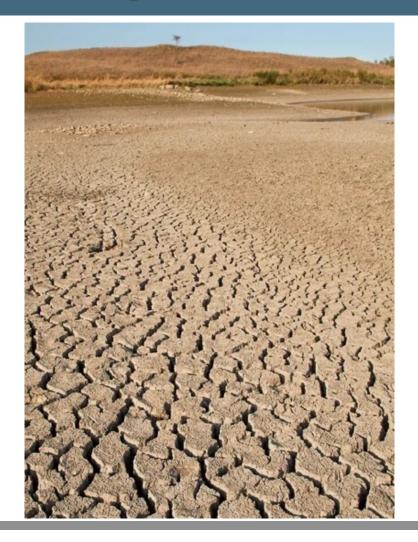
- Single-step pathway (~60 kbp) integration
- Transformation is automated and scaled



- Standardized design principle (a single shuttle system)
- Dual integration is feasible
- Engineering of 60+ bacterial species
 - α, β, and γ-Proteobacteria
 - Actinobacteria
 - Firmicute
 - Cyanobacteria
 - Bacteroidetes

Drought Is One Of The Most Critical Issues



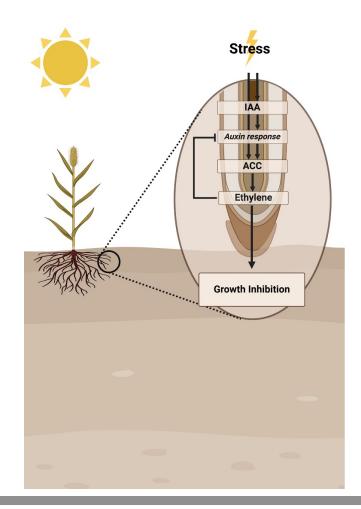


Drought impacts

- 1.5 billion people affected by drought in 2017
- -Loss of US \$125 billion globally
- Estimated impact on 75% of global population by 2050 (UNCCD, 2023)
- 23 million people severely food insecured (WFP,2023).

Microbiome Engineering Has Potential To Reduce The Negative Effect Of Drought





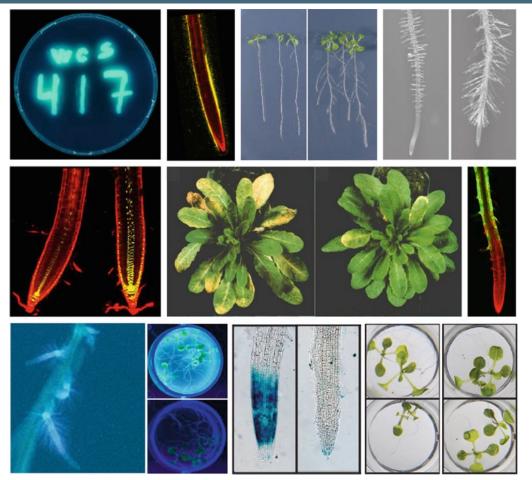
Design Principles: IAA- and AcdS-producing Syn PGPR

Chassis Selection

1. Persistent colonizer capable of colonizing diverse plant species

Pseudomonas simiae WCS417 is a Model PGPR





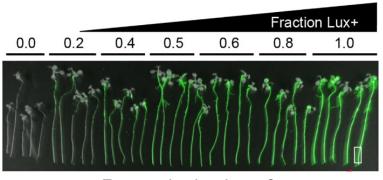
- Originally isolated from wheat fields
- Colonizes diverse plant species
- Controls soil borne diseases
 - Fungi, nematode, bacteria

Pieterse et al., Plant and Soil (2020) 10.1007/s11104-020-04786-9 24

P. simiae WCS417 Is A Persistent Colonizer Across The Entire Root Systems



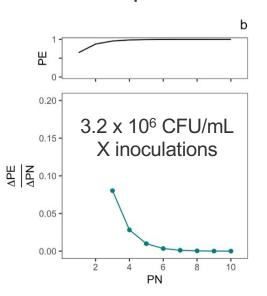
P. simiae WCS417 can colonize across the entire root systems



Root colonization of

Cole et al. PLoS Biiology (2019)

P. simiae WCS417 can persists in soil and plant roots



<u>Klimasmith</u> et al. Frontiers in Microobiology (in press)

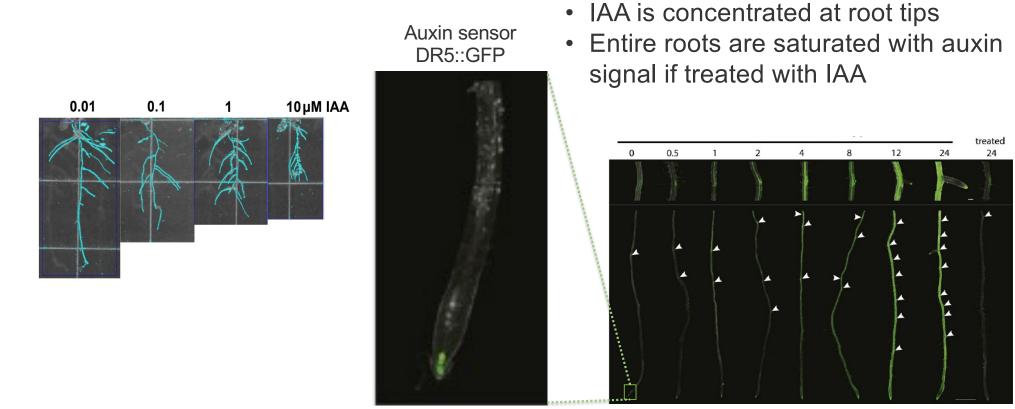
Design Principles: IAA- And AcdS-producing Syn PGPR

Chassis Selection

- **1.** Persistent colonizer capable of colonizing diverse plant species
- **2.** Capable of producing IAA and AcdS only around the root tips

IAA Gradient Is Important For Maintaining The Plant Physiology



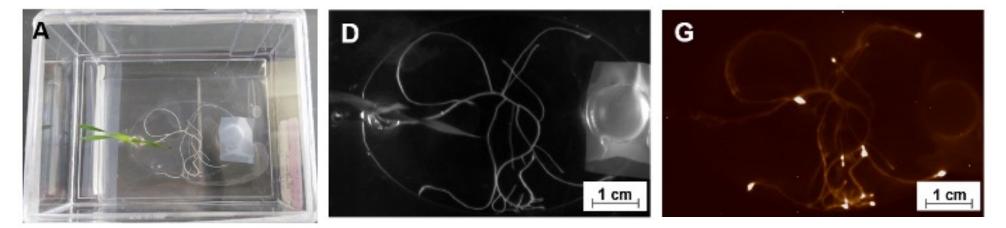


Lewis et al., The Plant Cell (2013) 10.1105/tpc.113.114868

Plant roots are sensitive to IAA

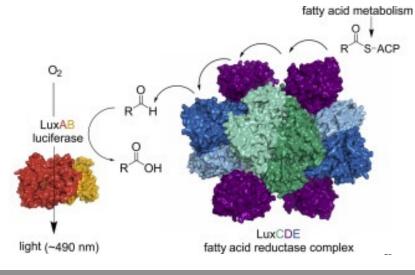
P. Simiae WCS417 May Be Able To Provide IAA Activity Mainly To The Plant Root Tips





P. simiae WCS417 can colonize the root systems, but the only cells around the root tips are physiologically active

Gao et al., JoVE Journal (2018) 10.3791/57170



1/8/25

Design Principles: IAA- and AcdS-producing Syn PGPR



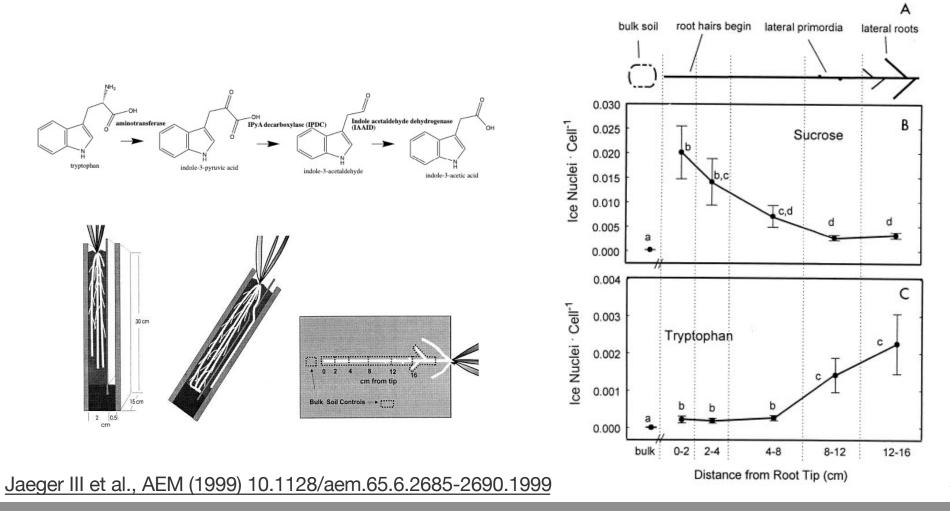
- **1.** Persistent colonizer capable of colonizing diverse plant species
- **2.** Capable of producing IAA and AcdS only around the root tips

Pathway selection

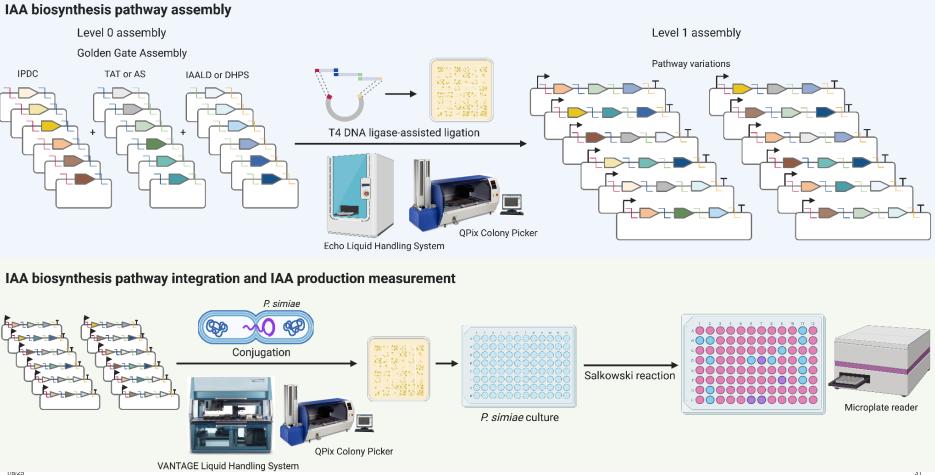
1. Robust IAA producer independent of Trp in plant exudates

Plants Produce Trp More Abundantly From The Parts Closer To Shoot



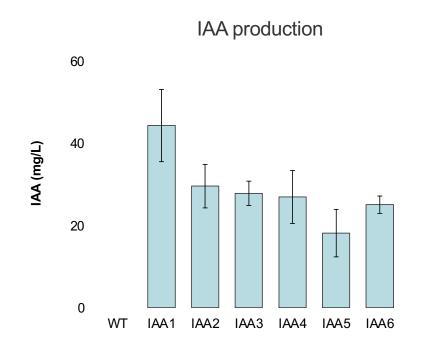


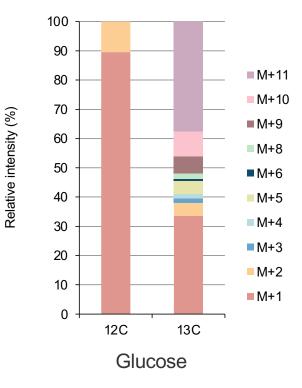
Development Of an Efficient IAA Production Strain



Development Of An Efficient IAA Production Strain







Design Principles: IAA- And AcdS-producing Syn PGPR

Chassis Selection

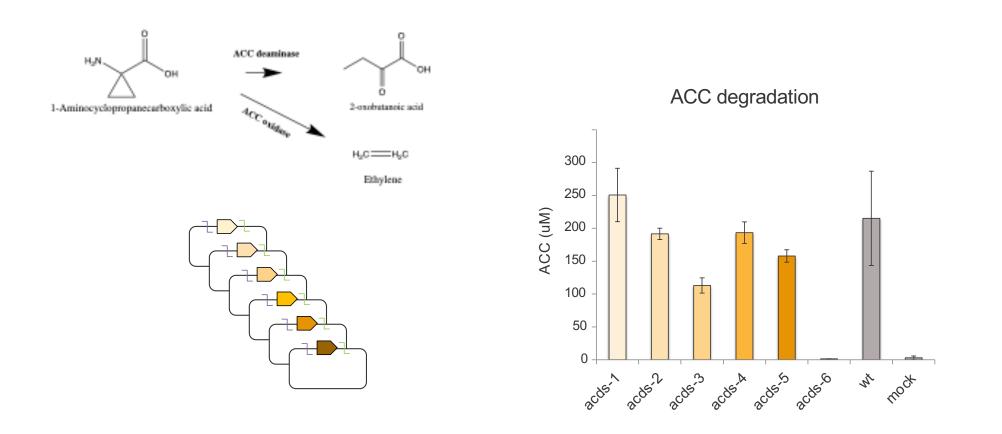
- **1.** Persistent colonizer capable of colonizing diverse plant species
- **2.** Capable of producing IAA and AcdS only around the root tips

Pathway selection

- **1.** Robust IAA producer independent of Trp in plant exudates
- **2.** Robust AcdS producer

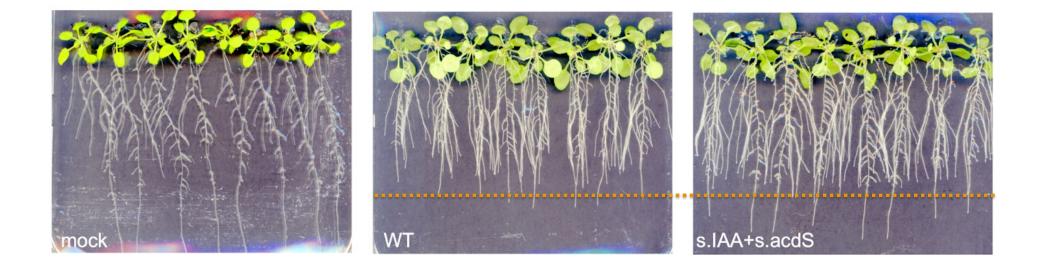
Development Of An Efficient ACC Deaminating Strain

1/8/25



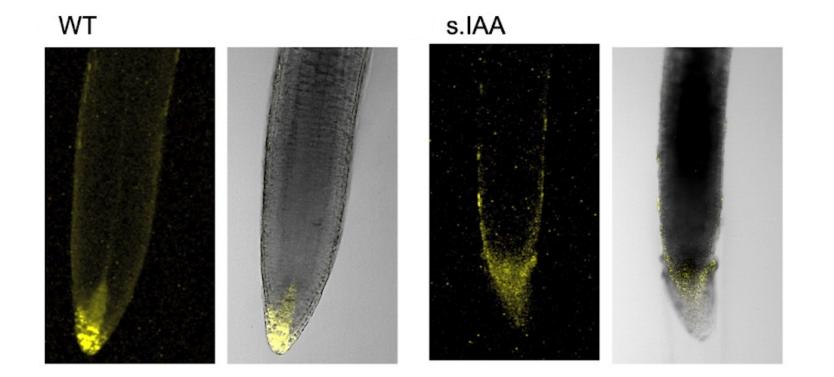
IAA- and AcdS-producing SynPGPR Can Promote The Root Growth





Our IAA Production Strain Can Maintain The IAA Gradient

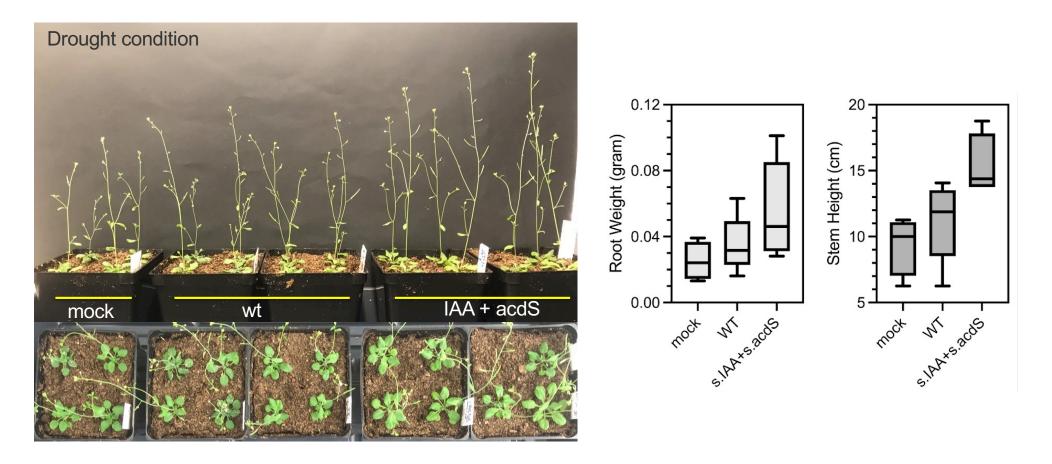




Our SynPGPR Can Promote The Growth Of Arabidopsis



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Summary



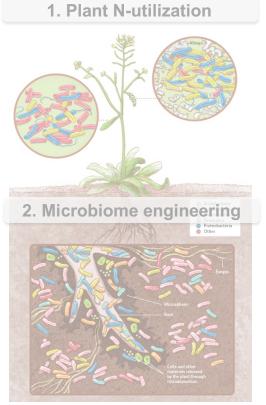
- CRAGE is a powerful strain engineering technology for microbial engineering
- Engineered microbes can tremendously increase plant biomass yield under the normal and drought conditions

Overview of Research Focus Areas





Yoshikuni group

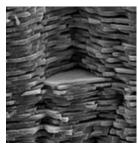


3. Biofuel and Bioproducts



4. Hybrid Biomaterials



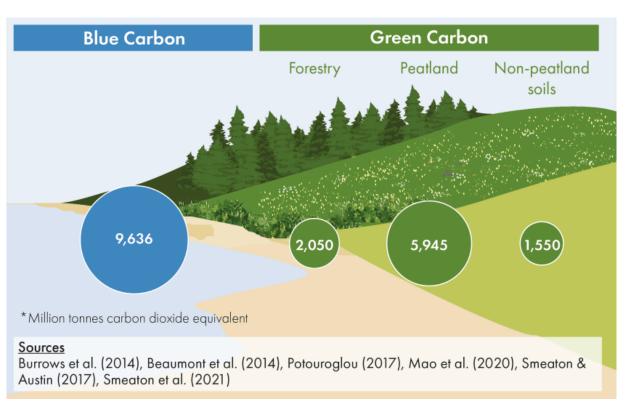


Carbons with Different Colors





BLACK CARBON Carbon particles given off by hot fires, like coal plants, forest fires, and combustion from cars



https://upscwithnikhil.com/article/environment/four-types-of-carbon 40

A new carbon with different color – yellow?



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- N, P, and K rather than C
 - 2.8 kg-CO_{2eq}/kg-NH₃
 - 1.9 kg-CO_{2eq}/kg-P₂O₅
 - 0.5 kg-CO_{2eq}/kg-K₂O
- Urine composes only 1% of total wastewater, but it contains roughly 70-90% of nitrogen (N) and 50-65% of phosphorus (P) in waste streams
- Urine diversion process If we can fully utilize urine, 21%, 12%, and 20% of global N-, P-, and K-fertilizer demands are met
- Problem: low price of fertilizers

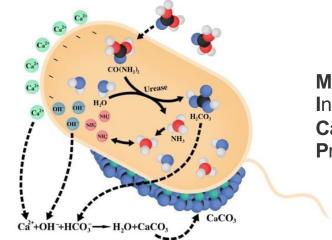
What chemicals should we make to subsidize urine diversion system



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Chemical	Concentration in g/100 ml urine
Water	95
Urea	2
Sodium	0.6
Chloride	0.6
Sulfate	0.18
Potassium	0.15
Phosphate	0.12
Creatinine	0.1
Ammonia	0.05
Uric acid	0.03
Calcium	0.015
Magnesium	0.01
Protein	
Glucose	

1/



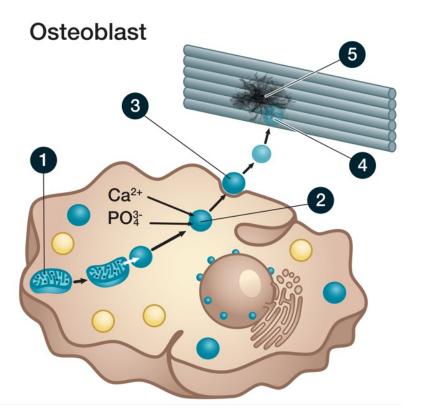
Microbial Induced Calcite Precipitation

Hydroxyapatite might be a very interesting material to make

- High price point: \$80/kg \$10,000/kg
- \$3.1B market size
- Orthopedic, dental care products, plastic surgery, food, and pharmaceutical applications
- Filter, Insulation, replacement of plastics, construction materials

Design principles of osteoyeast platform

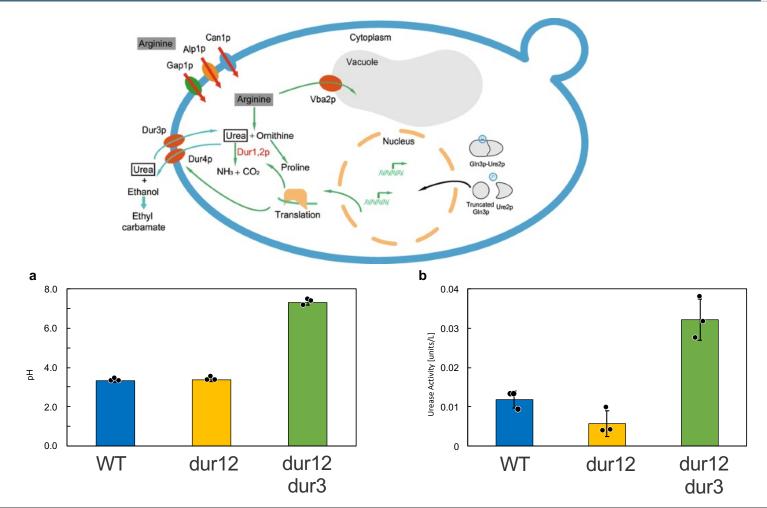




Overexpression of urea degrading enzymes

1/8/25





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Engineered yeast increased accumulation of calcium in vacuoles

Bright Field VPH1-mCherry Calcein-AM Merge RO₂C CO₂R RO2C N. N_CO₂R OCOCH₃ H₃COCO. Calcein-AM ò R: acetoxymethyl esterase HO₂C CO₂H HO₂C_N N_CO₂H HO 0 COOH calcein able cell

JGI

JOINT GENOME INSTITUTI

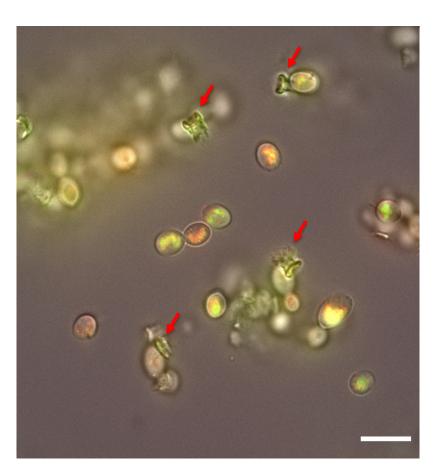
WΤ

Engineered strain

Engineered yeast produced crystals



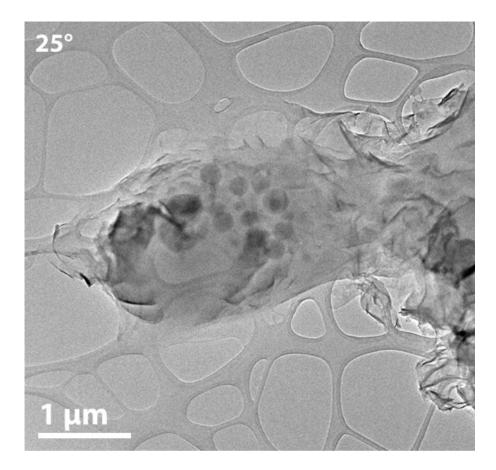
46



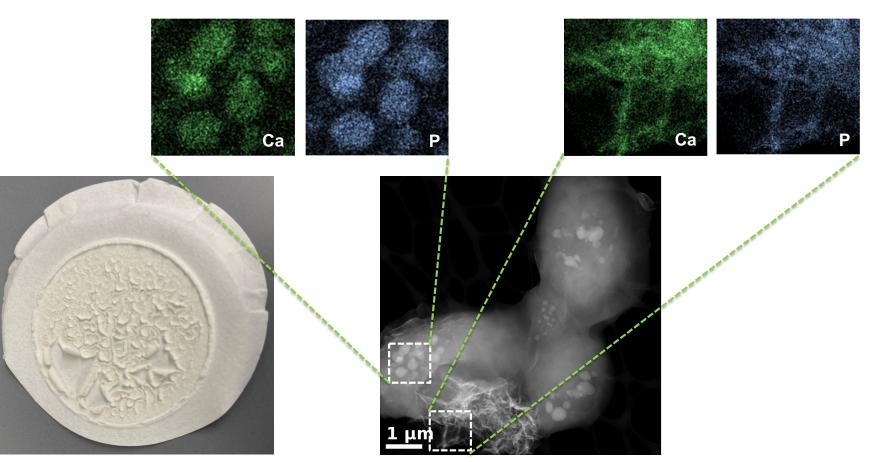
Hydroxyapatite synthesis mediated by the osteoyeast platform analyzed using TEM





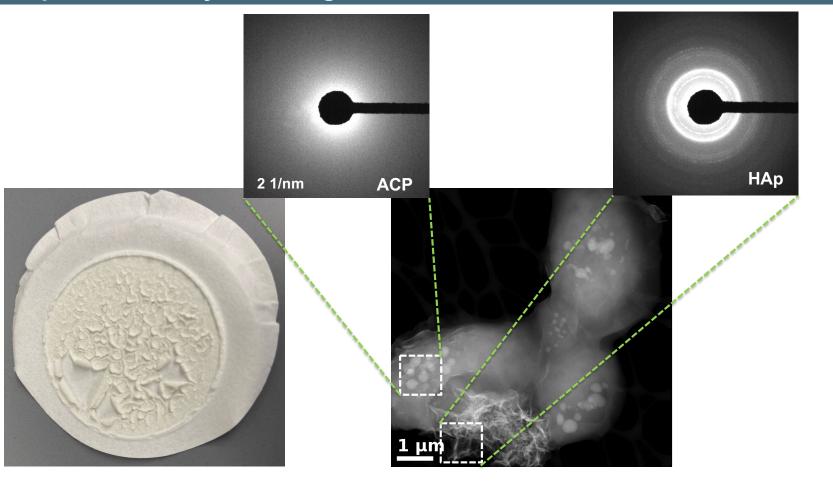


Hydroxyapatite synthesis mediated by the osteoyeast platform analyzed using TEM



Hydroxyapatite (HAp) synthesis mediated by the osteoyeast platform analyzed using TEM

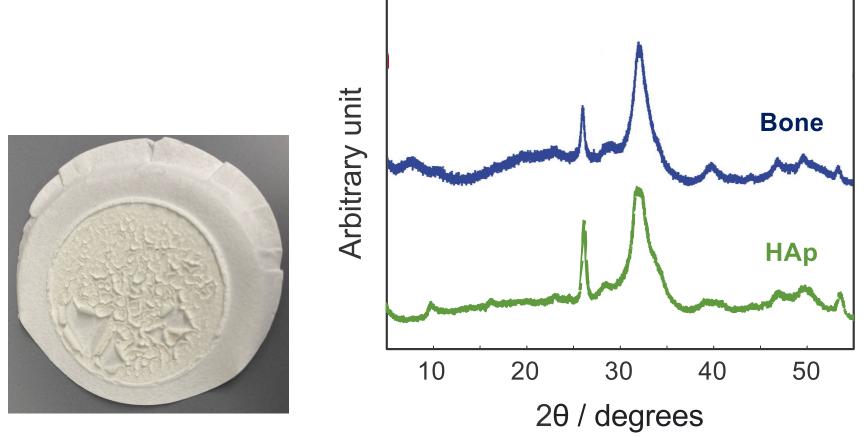




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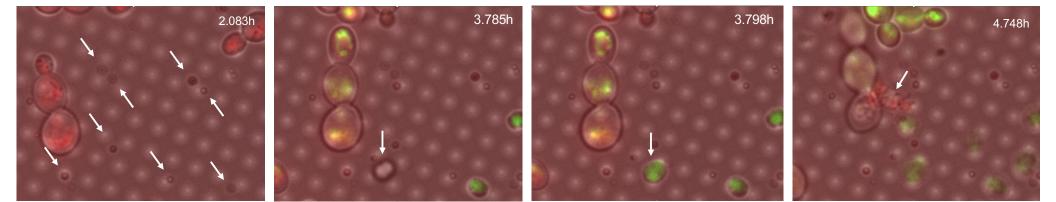
Hydroxyapatite (HAp) synthesis mediated by the osteoyeast platform analyzed using TEM



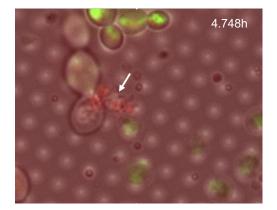


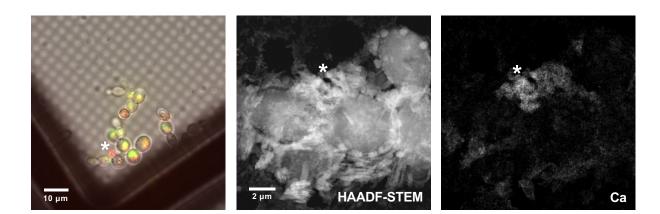




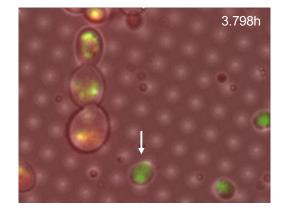


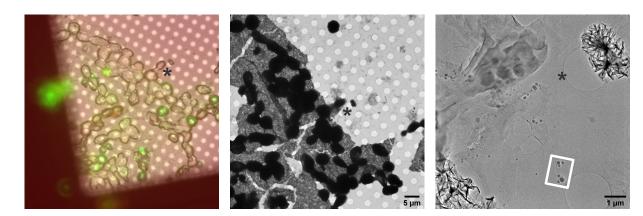




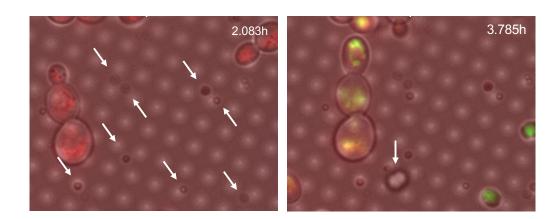


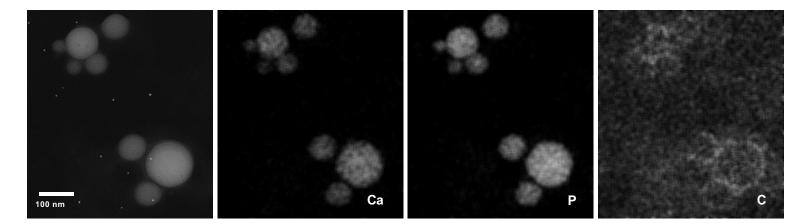






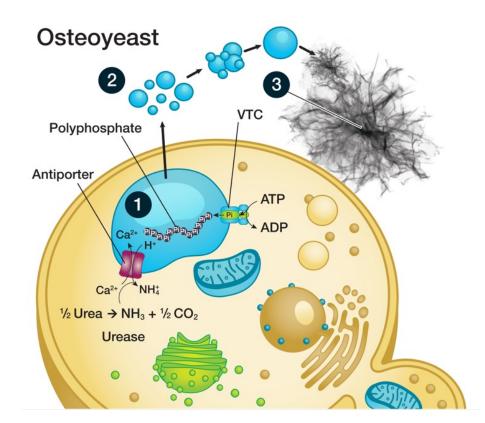






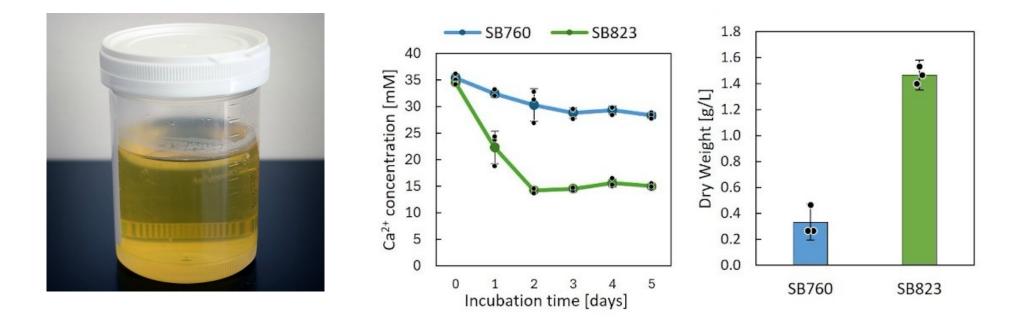
Mechanism for osteoyeast to produce HAp





HAp synthesis directly from urine

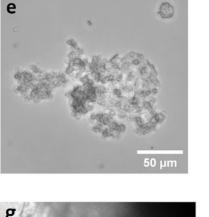


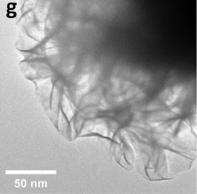


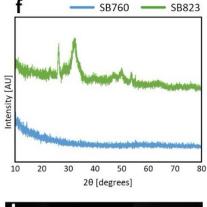
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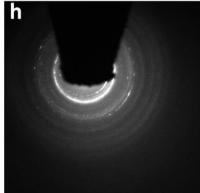






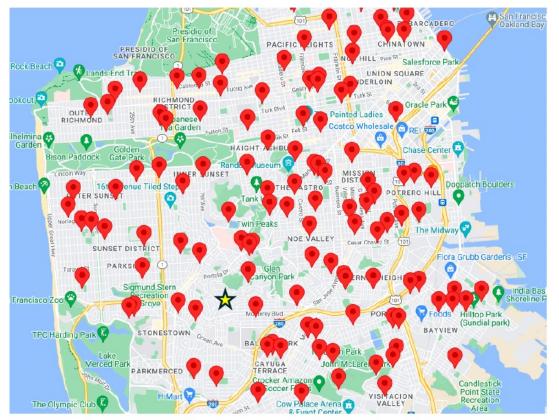






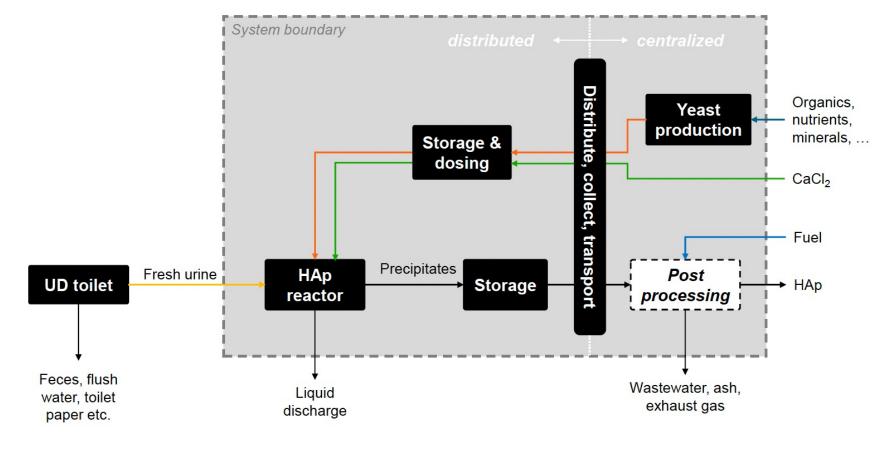


- HAp production systems are deployed across a densely populated city, e.g., San Francisco
- Potential locations () for deployment have consistently large fluxes of urine, e.g., schools, shopping malls
- Osteoyeasts are produced at a central location (☆) and supplied to the distributed HAp reactors regularly.
- Precipitates will be collected regularly and further processed at the same central location (☆).
- Toilets capable of urine diversion are assumed to be readily available at the deployed locations.

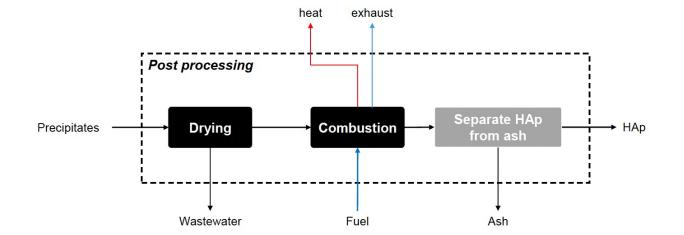


- San Francisco Unified School District

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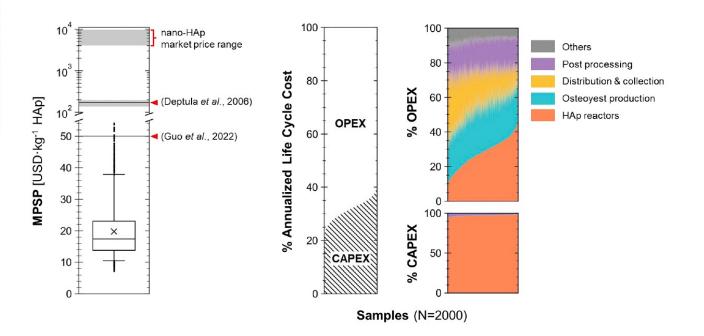


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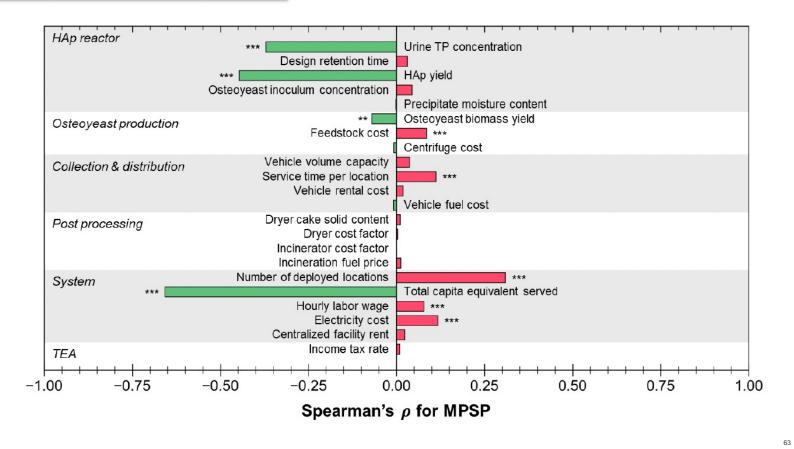


- Other TEA assumptions
 - Project lifetime = 10 years
 - Discount rate = 0.05
- TEA indicators
 - Minimum product selling price to break even (MPSP, in USD/kg HAp)
 - Annualized life cycle cost
 - CAPEX (capital expenditure)
 - OPEX (operation expenditure)





MPSP (Minimum Product Selling Price, in USD/kg HAp)



Summary



- Introduced a new yellow carbon concept
- The osteoyeast platform designed based on osteoblast can produce Hap directly from urine with a high yield
- Osteoyeast-based HAp production makes the urine diversion process profitable

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