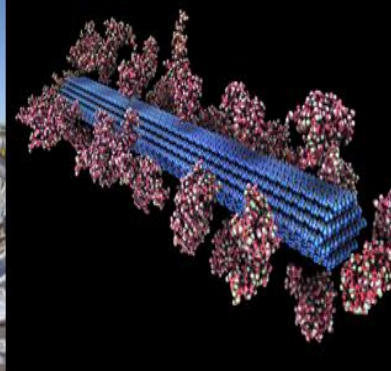




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



# DISCOVER PROJECT BETO PEER REVIEW

# U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) 2017 Project Peer Review

## **Algae DISCOVER Project: Development of Integrated Screening, Cultivar Optimization, and Validation Research**

March 7, 2017  
Advanced Algal Systems

Michael Huesemann, PI  
PNNL / LANL / SNL / NREL

# The Microalgae Biofuels Challenge

- ▶ **Reduce** total microalgae **biofuels production costs** to **\$3/GGE** by 2030 with or without **co-products** (MYPP 2016)
- ▶ **Double** 2016 BETO State of Technology (**SOT**) **Biomass Productivities** by 2020 (based on recent PEAK FOA)

Table 1: Current BETO SOT and PEAK FOA Productivity Performance Targets

Season	2016 BETO SOT (g/m <sup>2</sup> /day), ash free basis	2020 PEAK Performance Target (g/m <sup>2</sup> /day)
Spring	11.1 ( <i>Nanno</i> )	22
Summer	13.3 ( <i>Desmo</i> )	26
Fall	7.0 ( <i>Desmo</i> )	14
Winter	5 ( <i>Nanno</i> )	10
Annual average	9.1	18
* <i>Nanno</i> refers to <i>Nannochloropsis maritima</i> KA32 (saline media) and <i>Desmo</i> refers to <i>Desmodesmus</i> sp. C046 (saline media)		

# DISCOVR Project Goals and Outcomes

## Goals

- ▶ **Reduce total microalgae biofuels production costs to \$3/GGE by 2030 by developing an integrated screening platform for the rapid identification of high productivity strains with cellular composition suitable for biofuels and bioproducts for resilient, year-round outdoor cultivation via crop rotation.**
- ▶ **Overcome limitations of previous strain prospecting efforts such as low success rate and unrealistic laboratory test conditions.**

## Outcomes

- ▶ **Standardized identification, deep characterization, and delivery of robust, high productivity microalgae strains to the bioenergy and bioproducts communities, such as industry and BETO funded projects.**
- ▶ **Streamlined, coordinated effort to capitalize on consortium labs' complementary core capabilities in environmental simulation and productivity prediction, robustness evaluation, biomass valorization, and strain improvements.**

# Quad Chart

## Timeline

- ▶ Start date: 10-1-2016
- ▶ End date: 9-30-2019
- ▶ Percent Complete: 10%

## Budget

	FY 16 Costs	FY 17 Costs	Total Planned Funding (FY 17-Project End Date)
DOE	\$0 K	\$1.5M	\$6.1M

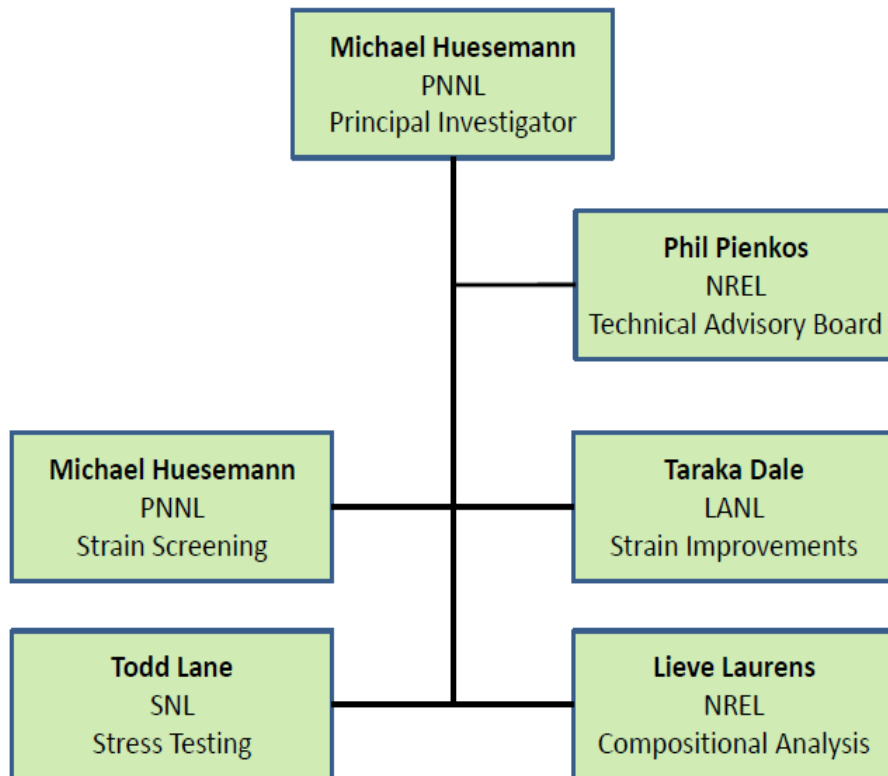
## Targets and Barriers

- ▶ MYPP 2030 Target: \$3/GGE
- ▶ Aft-C – Biomass Genet. & Development
  - The productivity and robustness of algae strains...could be improved by screening
- ▶ Aft-E – Algal Biomass Characterization
  - Strain library of biochemical composition

## Partners

- ▶ LANL (Taraka Dale, 21%)
- ▶ SNL (Todd Lane, 29%)
- ▶ NREL (Lieve Laurens, 16%)
- ▶ ATP<sup>3</sup> (John McGowen, 4%)

# DISCOVR Project Management Structure



## Meetings

- ▶ Biweekly teleconferences with PI and technical leads
- ▶ Quarterly meetings with TAB
- ▶ Annual face to face meetings

## Quarterly Reports and Tracking of Milestones

- ▶ Data flows through the PI
- ▶ PI tracks milestones and generates all reports with input from technical leads
- ▶ Synthesis of results into publication and solutions tracked and mediated by PI

- ▶ Decision making is through consensus of PI and technical leads
- ▶ Technical leads are responsible for achieving task milestones
- ▶ PI retains ultimate decision-making authority



# Acknowledgements

## ▶ **BETO ALGAE TEAM**

### ▶ **LANL**

- ▶ Taraka Dale
- ▶ Amanda Barry
- ▶ Tari Kern
- ▶ Hajnalka Daligault
- ▶ Sangeeta Negi

### ▶ **NREL**

- ▶ Philip Pienkos
- ▶ Lieve Laurens
- ▶ Ed Wolfrum
- ▶ Mike Guarnieri
- ▶ Stefanie Van Wychen

## ▶ **PNNL**

- ▶ Scott Edmundson
- ▶ Will Louie
- ▶ Rob Kruk

## ▶ **SNL**

- ▶ Todd Lane
- ▶ Pamela Lane
- ▶ Jeri Timlin
- ▶ Tom Reichardt
- ▶ Carolyn Fisher
- ▶ Deanna Curtis
- ▶ Kumal Poorey
- ▶ Jaclyn Murton

# Technical Advisory Board (TAB)

## TAB Members

- ▶ **Philip Pienkos**, Chair (NREL)
- ▶ **John Benemann** (MicroBio Engineering)
- ▶ **Louis Brown** (Synthetic Genomics)
- ▶ **Valerie Harmon** (Harmon Consulting)
- ▶ **Craig Behnke** (Sapphire)
- ▶ **Juergen Polle** (CUNY)

- ▶ **First TAB meeting** was held on February 21, 2017
- ▶ Discussed Tier I strain selection and DISCOVER media composition

## Role of the TAB

- ▶ **Review results and progress** in comparison with work plans
- ▶ **Maintain an industry-relevant focus** and knowledge of recent technology advances and challenges
- ▶ **Provide input on strategic goals** and directions
- ▶ **Meet quarterly** by webinar and annually in person

February 17, 2017



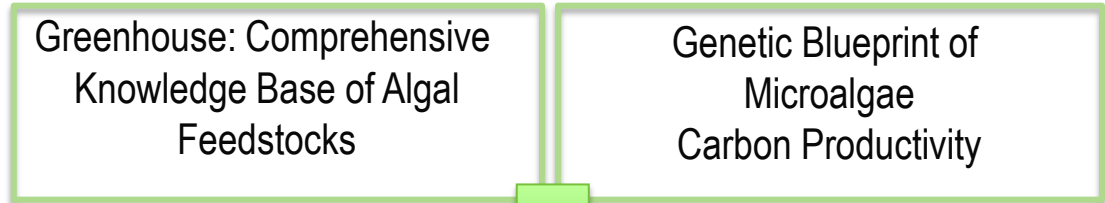
# DISCOVR Delivers Comprehensively Characterized Strains

## Characterization of Productivity and Robustness

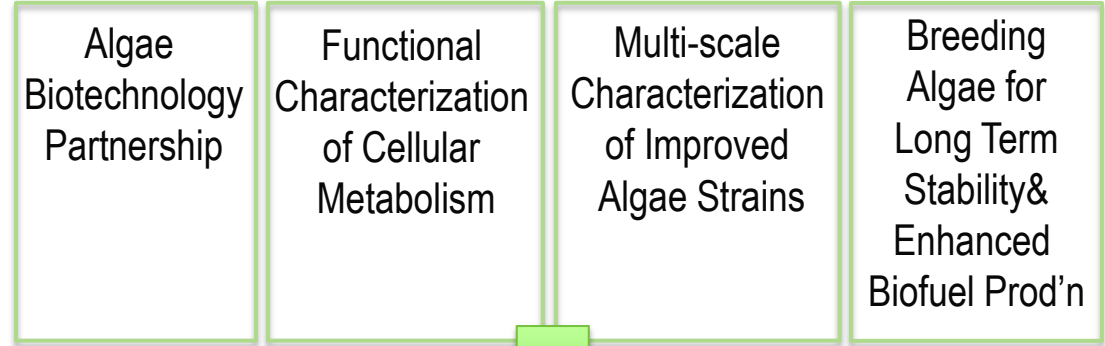
DISCOVR



## Genome Sequencing, Functional 'Omics, Metabolic Mapping



## Strain Improvement: Genetic Modification & Non-GM Strategies



**GOAL:** *Deliver deeply characterized and improved strains, with accompanying data and tools, to stakeholders including industry, academics, and other BETO projects (e.g. BioFoundry)*

## Strategy

Use a multi-lab consortium approach to establish a state-of-the-art platform for the deep *characterization of new strains under outdoor-relevant conditions*

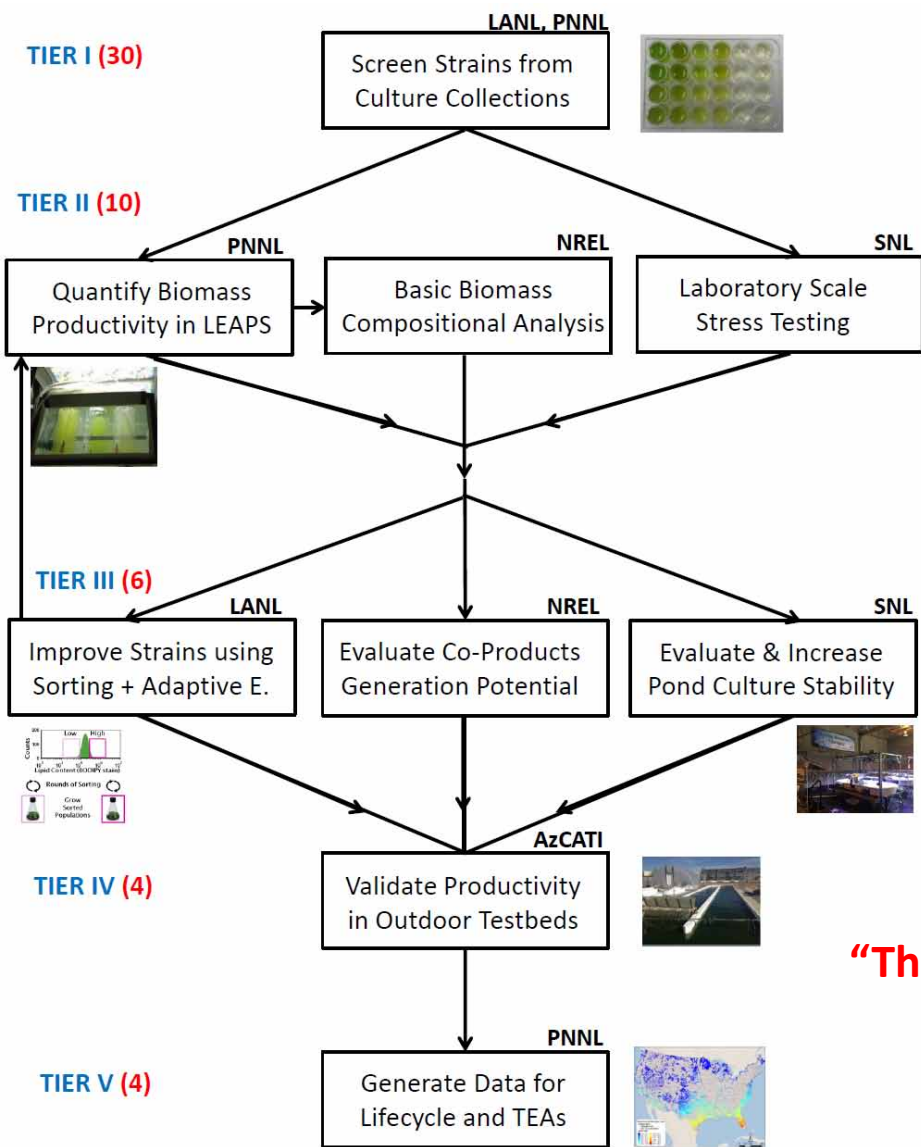
Leverage the expertise at LANL and LBNL/JGI to deliver the *data and tools* required to understand algae metabolism and develop GM tools

Use a range of expertise & approaches across Labs to deliver *improved algae strains, and a suite of tools* that are effective in our top strains of interest and are also broadly applicable to new strains of interest (from DISCOVR or external stakeholders)

# DISCOVR Synergistically Leverages Core Capabilities

**DISCOVR builds on national lab core capabilities developed separately and using different strains in other BETO-funded projects:**

- ▶ **Climate-Simulated Culturing and Growth Modeling (PNNL)**
  - ▶ NAABB Consortium Project
  - ▶ Microalgae Analysis AOP (1.3.1.102) (FY15-FY16)
  - ▶ Regional Algae Testbed Partnership, RAFT (1.3.5.111) (FY14-FY17)
- ▶ **Biological Protection and Control of Algal Pond Productivity (SNL)**
  - ATP<sup>3</sup> Consortium Project (1.3.5.101) (FY14-FY16)
  - TABB Project (1.3.2.300)
  - Algae Polyculture Production and Analysis AOP (1.3.1.103) (FY16)
- ▶ **Strain Improvement by Non-GMO Techniques (LANL)**
  - 1.3.2.100 Multi-scale Characterization of Improved Algae Strains (1.3.2.100)
- ▶ **Advanced Tools for Biomass Compositional Analyses (NREL)**
  - Algal Biomass Valorization (ABV, 1.3.4.300)



## Critical Success Factors

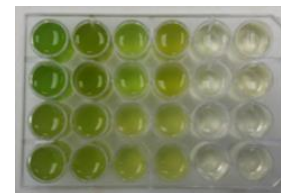
- ▶ **Very unique state-of-the-art technical capabilities** are employed at each TIER.
- ▶ **Complementary core competencies** of the consortium national labs are **applied together** to make progress towards BETO's **\$3/GGE target**.
- ▶ **Team members** have track record of **successful collaboration**.

**“The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts”**  
(Aristotle)

\*Numbers in **red** designate the number of strains tested at each **TIER** for both rounds of screening.

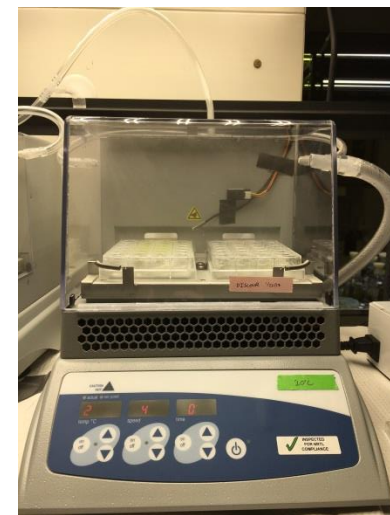
## Challenges

- ▶ Very few strains so far have been **rigorously characterized** in terms of their suitability for high productivity outdoor cultivation:
  - ▶ Temperature and salinity tolerance range
  - ▶ Maximum specific growth rate (related to productivity)
  - ▶ Tolerance to high O<sub>2</sub> and low pH
- ▶ Current methods are **non-standardized and labor intensive**



## Approach

- ▶ Use **semi-automated temperature-controlled wellplate incubation system** and **BioTek microplate reader**
- ▶ Measure the **maximum specific growth rate** as a function of **temperature, salinity, O<sub>2</sub>, pH, C-source**



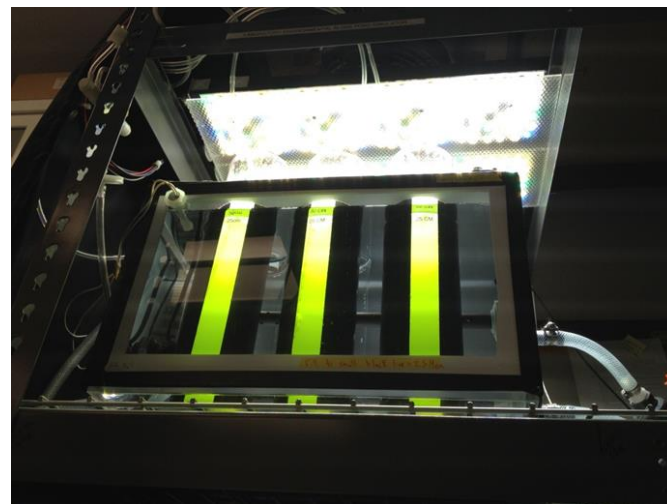


## Challenge

- ▶ **Quantify seasonal areal biomass productivities** in the **laboratory** under conditions **simulating outdoor testbeds** in Arizona.
- ▶ There are currently **no outdoor pond simulator photobioreactors** that **accurately predict biomass productivity** in outdoor ponds.

## Approach

- ▶ Culture **Tier II** strains in PNNL's validated **Laboratory Environmental Algae Pond Simulator (LEAPS)** photobioreactors using light and temperature scripts generated by PNNL's **Biomass Assessment Tool (BAT)** for Arizona testbeds.

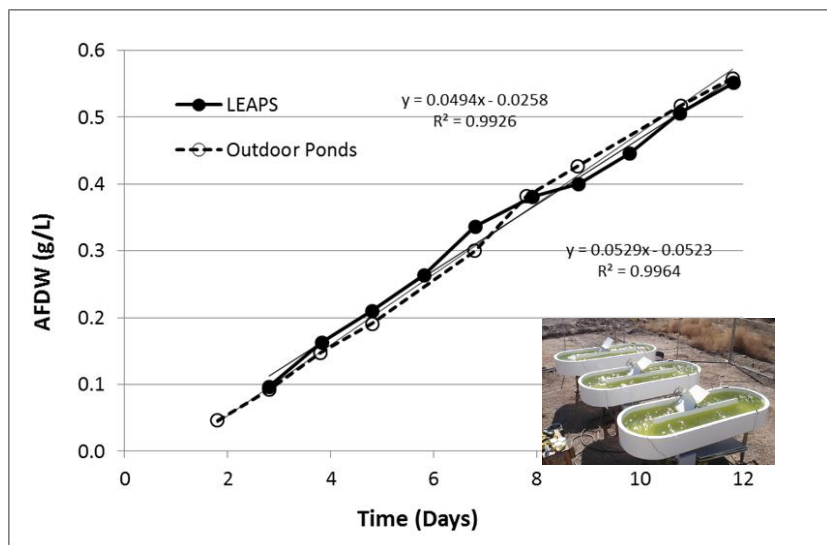




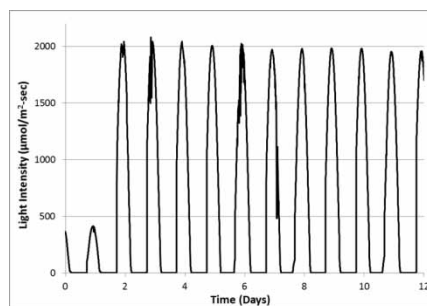


## LEAPS Accurately Simulates Outdoor Ponds

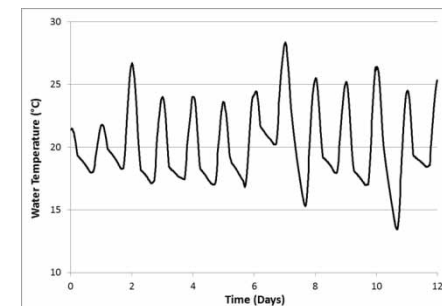
- ▶ Executes seasonal light and temperature scripts **accurately**
- ▶ Performance has been **validated** by repeating three outdoor pond experiments for different strains in the LEAPS
- ▶ Biomass productivity in LEAPS was **the same as** in outdoor ponds
- ▶ Currently the **world's most reliable pond simulator photobioreactor**



Light Intensity Script



Water Temperature Script

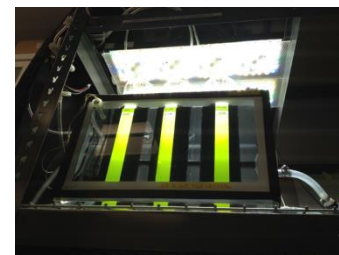


## Challenges

- ▶ Critical need for compositional comparisons of strains with integrated **valuable co-product characterization** to **reduce cost** of biofuels
- ▶ Evaluate **suitability** of microalgae strains for
  - **HTL pathway** (rapid biomass growth unconstrained by co-products)
  - **CAP pathway** (rapid biomass growth and early transition to high carbohydrate and lipid content)

## Approach

- ▶ **Tier II Strains:** Determine biomass composition of nutrient replete and deplete samples taken from LEAPs bioreactors:
  - Total carbohydrates and sugar profile
  - Protein content
  - Lipid content and fatty acid profile
- ▶ **Tier III Strains:** Analyze biomass samples for co-products such as sterols, carotenoids, omega-3-fatty acids, phycocyanin, etc.



\* HTL = hydrothermal liquifaction, CAP = Combined Algal Processing (extraction of lipids for fuels, anaerobic digestion of waste biomass)



## Challenges

- ▶ **Eliminate** or reduce risk of pond crashes
- ▶ Identify strains' **resistance to predation** (e.g., rotifers) and fungal infections **prior to conducting outdoor testbed trials**



## Approach

- ▶ **Tier II Strains:** Use previously developed assays to quantify resistance of algal communities to predation and infections
- ▶ **Tier III Strains:** Conduct tests in the SNL Algal Testbed (**Crash Lab**):
  - ▶ **Induce pond culture crashes** via addition of deleterious species identified in TIER II testing
  - ▶ Determine **conditions** under which resistance persists
  - ▶ Use **spectroradiometric monitoring** for creation of robust signatures of pond infection
  - ▶ Use data combined with **machine learning** to inform cultivation decision making

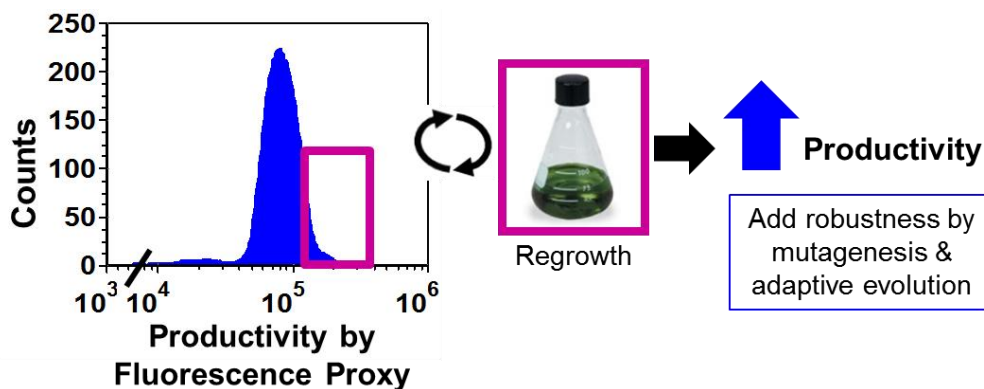


## Challenge

- ▶ Significantly increase (>20%) biomass and/or lipid productivity of top performing Tier III strains
- ▶ Increase environmental robustness (e.g., temp/salinity tolerance)

## Approach

- ▶ Apply approaches already developed at LANL to improve strain phenotypes without genetic modification:
  - ▶ Fluorescence activated cell sorting
  - ▶ Adaptive evolution
- ▶ Test new phenotypes in LEAPS to validate improved productivity





## Objectives

- ▶ **Quantify seasonal biomass productivities** in outdoor ponds in Arizona
- ▶ Demonstrate at **least 20% greater productivities** relative to benchmarks
- ▶ Evaluate **co-product** generation at scale
- ▶ **Harvest** sufficient biomass for **conversion studies** (by others)

## Approach

- ▶ Conduct **outdoor cultivation** studies at the Algae Testbed Public Private Partnership site in Mesa, Arizona (**ATP<sup>3</sup>**)



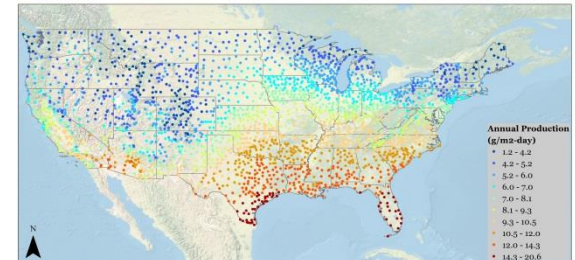


## Objectives

- ▶ Generate **areal biomass productivity maps** for those strains performing best in outdoor ponds
- ▶ Identify geographic regions of **maximum annual biomass productivity** using **crop rotation** and optimized **pond operational strategies**
- ▶ Provide input data for **TEAs** and **LCAs** (conducted by other projects)

## Approach

- ▶ Experimentally determine all required biomass growth **model input parameters**
- ▶ Run the **species-specific Biomass Assessment Tool (BAT)** to generate maps for different crop rotation and pond operation scenarios



Annual biomass productivity map for *Chlorella sorokiniana* DOE 1412

- ▶ **Interlaboratory collaborative data management system** is established for sharing documents and raw data (NREL Sharepoint)
- ▶ Scientific Data Management system for productivity and composition will be leveraged from ATP<sup>3</sup> established system with curated data made available on **OpenEI.org**
- ▶ Strain sequence data will be hosted at LANL's **Greenhouse.lanl.gov**

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NREL OpenPoint Discover website. The page title is "NREL OpenPoint - Store Low Level Data Only". The main content area features a "Welcome to the DISCOVER collaboration site!" message, an "Announcements" section with a "new announcement or edit this list" link, and a "Documents" section with a "new document or drag files here" link. A calendar for February 2017 is visible on the right side of the page.

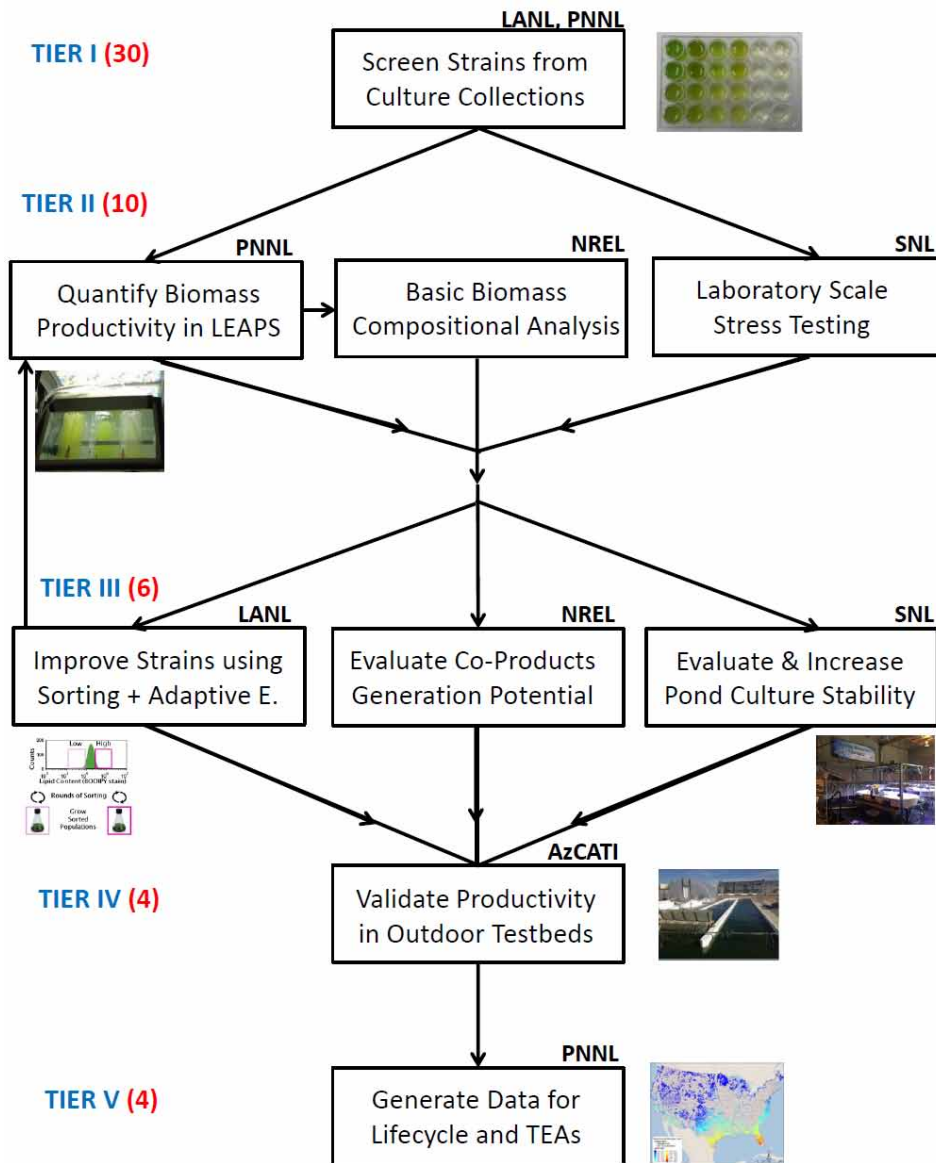
  
Open Energy Information  
Share knowledge.



**GREENHOUSE.LANL.GOV**



# Future Work and Early Accomplishments



## Go/No Go Decision

- ▶ Successfully completed TIER I, II, and III testing of the first batch (round) of strains (3/2018)
- ▶ Demonstrated at least 20% improvement in biomass productivity relative to benchmark strains (3/2018)

# TIER I Strain Acquisition for Screening



## Outcome

- ▶ **Acquire and revive at least 30 strains existing in culture collections and the algae community with the potential to meet BETO's algae productivity goals** *via* improved growth, biochemical composition, and outdoor robustness.

## Approach

- ▶ Identify, order, and revive strains from culture collections
- ▶ Conduct 16S/18S sequencing to determine level of contamination
- ▶ Clean-up cultures and confirm using 16/18S sequencing
- ▶ Adapt strains to DISCOVER low cost media and deliver to PNNL

## Milestones

- ▶ **Identify, order, receive, revive 1<sup>st</sup> batch of TIER I strains (12/2016)**
- ▶ **Identify, order, receive, revive 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of TIER I strains (6/2017)**



# TIER I Strain Acquisition for Screening

## Batch 1 Strains (FY17)

- ▶ Screen at least **15 strains** (21 have been selected)
- ▶ 12 are **marine or brackish** water strains
- ▶ 9 are **freshwater** strains, including from the NAABB program
- ▶ **Benchmark strains:**
  - Warm Season (fresh water): ***Chlorella sorokiniana*** DOE 1412 (NAABB)
  - Cold Season (fresh water): ***Scenedesmus obliquus*** DOE 0152.Z (NAABB)

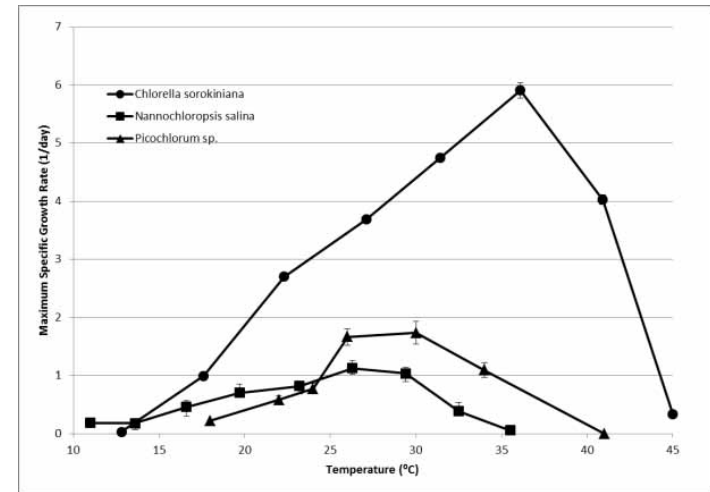
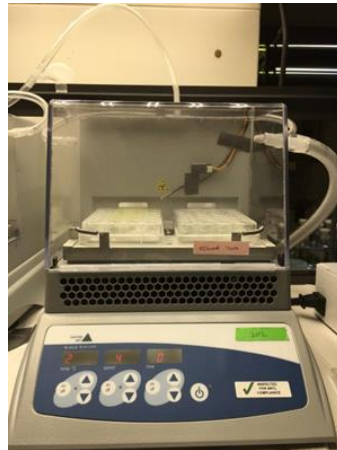
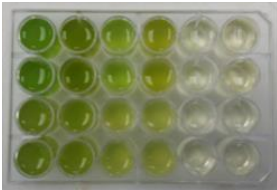


Strain No.	Alga Strain	Brief Taxonomy	Collection	Characteristic
1	<i>Chlorella sorokiniana</i> DOE 1412	Green-Trebouxiophyceae	CUNY	<b>BENCHMARK STRAIN</b> freshwater, cold-sensitive, Max ~42°C
2	<i>Chlorella autotrophica</i> CCMP243	Green-Trebouxiophyceae	NCMA	Euryhaline/marine- Milford, Connecticut
3	<i>Stichococcus minor</i> CCMP819	Green-Trebouxiophyceae	NCMA	Brackish, Florida Keys
4	<i>Stichococcus minutus</i> CCALA727	Green-Trebouxiophyceae	CCALA	Cold tolerant, Svalbard, Arctic circle, subglacial
5	<i>Chloromonas reticulata</i> CCALA870	Green-Chlorophyceae	CCALA	Cold Tolerant, Scotland, Alpine
6	<i>Synechococcus elongatus</i> UTEX 2973-sub. 1	Cyanobacteria	UTEX	Brackish, thermotolerant (40 C), sub. 1 is stable at 20 C
7	<i>Synechococcus elongatus</i> CCMP 1630	Cyanobacteria	NCMA	Marine, Max ~40°C, Tyrrhenian Sea, Robust
8	<i>Picochlorum oklahomensis</i> CCMP 2329	Green-Trebouxiophyceae	NCMA	Brine pool, Max ~40°C
9	<i>Stichogloea doederleinii</i> CCMP823	Phaeothamniophyceae	NCMA	Plankton bloom Freshwater, Max ~35°C (Not yet received from NCMA)
10	<i>Pleurochrysis carterae</i> CCMP647	Coccolithophore	NCMA	Salton Sea, robust
11	<i>Agnellum quadruplicatum</i> UTEX2268	Cyanobacteria	UTEX	Marine, isolated from fish-pens mud, Puerto Rico

12	<i>Chlorococcum minutum</i> UTEX 117	Green-Chlorophyceae	UTEX	Terrestrial, (Bombay, India)
13	<i>Coelastrrella sp. DOE0202</i>	Green-Sphaeropleales	CUNY	Freshwater, high harvestability, CUNY
14	Unknown Green Alga DOE1044	Green-Chlorophyceae	UTEX	(high biomass productivity-CUNY/NAABB)
15	<i>Desmodesmus sp. DOE1357</i>	Green-Sphaeropleales	UTEX	(high biomass productivity-CUNY/NAABB)
16	<i>Chlorococcum sp. DOE1426</i>	Green-Chlorophyceae	UTEX	(high biomass productivity-CUNY/NAABB)
17	Unknown Green Alga DOE1116	Green-	UTEX	(high biomass productivity-CUNY/NAABB)
18	<i>Chaetoceros muelleri</i> CCMP194	Bacillariophyta-centric diatom	NCMA	Saline crater lake, Galapagos Islands
19	<i>Suirella sp. CCMP3162</i>	Bacillariophyta-pennate diatom	NCMA	isolated from Salt Lake (Lake George), North Dakota-(Revival unsuccessful)
20	<i>Rhodomonas salina</i> CCMP1319	Cryptophyte	NCMA	Marine
21	<i>Thalassiosira weissflogii</i> CCMP1051	Bacillariophyta-centric diatom	NCMA	Brackish, warm water, King Kalakaua's Fishpond, Kahlau, Hawaii
22	<i>Tisoehrysis lutea</i> CCMP463	Haptophyta - golden alga	NCMA	Marine, aquaculture

## Outcomes

- ▶ Identify **fast growing strains**, compare to **benchmark** strains
- ▶ Determine **temperature** and **salinity** tolerance range
- ▶ Quantify tolerance to **oxygen** and low **pH**
- ▶ Assess **heterotrophic growth** potential (cellulosic hydrolysates)

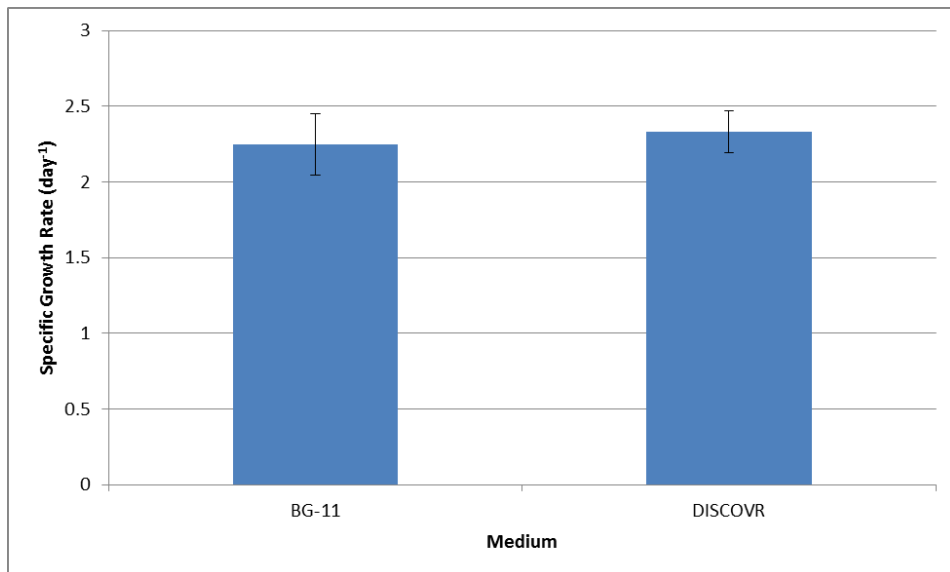


## Milestones

- ▶ Complete screening of 1<sup>st</sup> batch of TIER I strains (3/2017)
- ▶ Complete screening of 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of TIER II strains (3/2018)

## Development of Industrially Relevant DISCOVER Media

- ▶ **Ammonium sulfate** is primary N source, reflecting dominant form of recycled N following biomass conversion processes (HTL, CAP)
- ▶ **N:P ratio** = 16:1 (Redfield)
- ▶ DISCOVER media support growth up to **800 mg/L AFDW**
- ▶ DISCOVER freshwater medium supports growth as well as **BG-11**
- ▶ Media have been reviewed by **Technical Advisory Board**

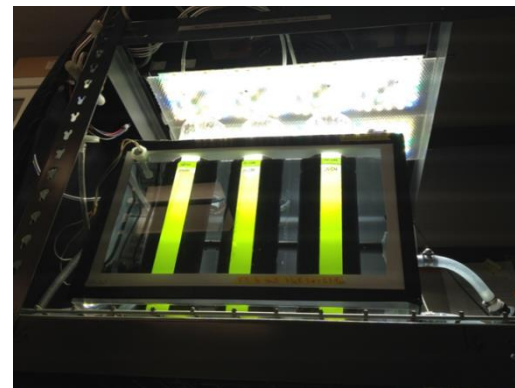


## Benefits

- ▶ **Less Expensive than BG11**
- ▶ **Proxy for Recycled Media**
- ▶ **Harmonized with NREL Design Case**

## Outcomes

- ▶ Quantify **seasonal areal biomass productivities** of top Tier I strains under conditions simulating outdoor testbeds in Arizona (ATP<sup>3</sup>, UA)
- ▶ Generate biomass for NREL **compositional analyses**
- ▶ Test **harvestability** (settling time)
- ▶ Strains with **productivities >20%** greater than benchmarks pass to **Tier III**



## Milestones

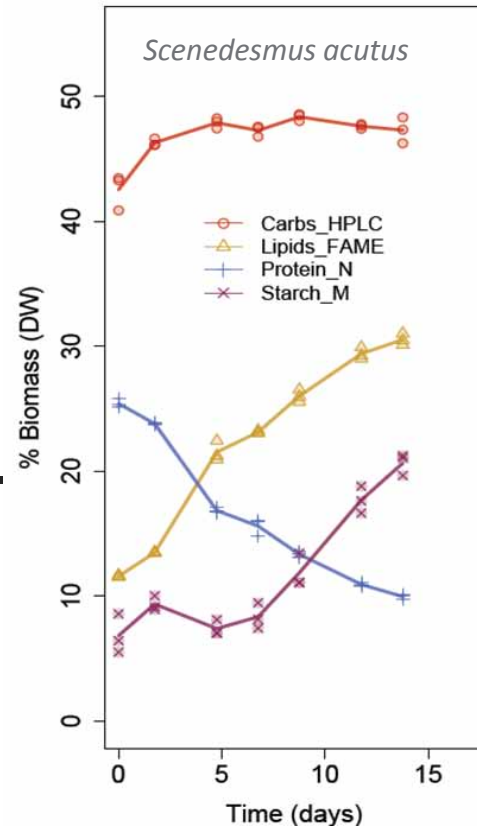
- ▶ Quantify biomass productivities of at least 5 TIER I strains (9/2017)
- ▶ Quantify biomass productivities of at least 5 TIER I strains (9/2018)

## Outcomes

- ▶ **Tier II Strains:** Determine biomass composition of nutrient replete and deplete samples taken from LEAPs bioreactor using established methods:
  - Determine biochemical shift profile under nutrient depletion
  - Integrate composition with productivity data supporting TEA/LCA
- ▶ **Tier III Strains:** Identify set of critical economic co-products present in respective species taken from cultures for co-products such as sterols, carotenoids, omega-3-fatty acid, phycocyanin, ...

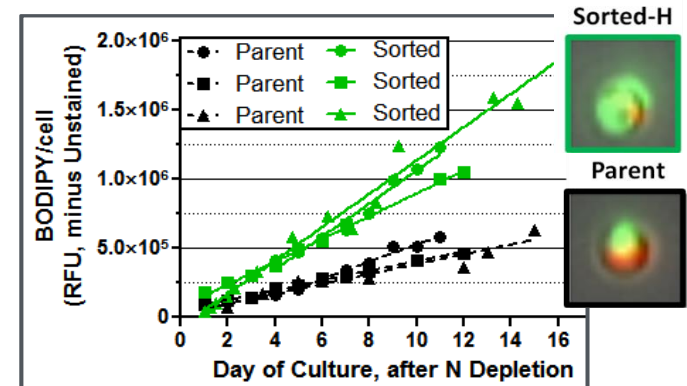
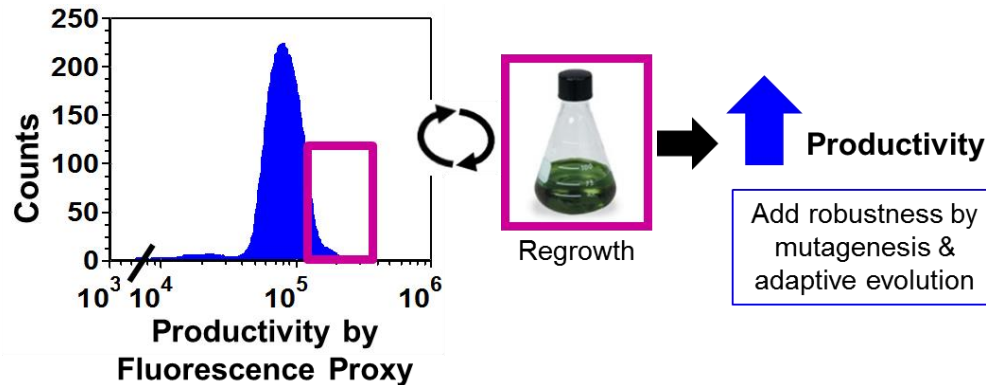
## Milestones

- ▶ Determine biochemical composition of 5 TIER II strains (9/2017)
- ▶ Determine detailed composition of 3 TIER III strains and conduct pretreatment severity testing for CAP process (3/2018)



## Outcomes

- ▶ Increase (>20%) biomass and/or lipid productivity and/or environmental robustness of top performing Tier III strains via:
  - ▶ Fluorescence activated cell sorting
  - ▶ Adaptive evolution, combined with chemical mutagenesis



## Milestones

- ▶ Generate at least two improved strains ( $\geq 20\%$  improvement in coproduct content or biomass productivity relative to parent) for hand-off to PNNL for LEAPS evaluation (6/2019)



# TIER II Culture Stability/Resilience Testing



## Outcomes

- ▶ Develop **predator/pathogen panel**
  - Identify 25 commercially available **predator species** for initial testing
  - Test predator species for **culture stability** and **activity** against a panel of 3 "standard" algae
  - Develop **standardized laboratory-scale crash protocol**
  - Identify set of relevant **environmental culture conditions**
  - Develop a panel of at least 8 deleterious species
- ▶ Characterize selected algal strains under selected environmental conditions against predator panel
  - Identify **strains with the broadest predator and pathogen resistance at lab scale**

## Milestones

- ▶ **Complete testing four predator initial panel (3/2017)**
- ▶ **Complete lab-scale testing (9/2017)**



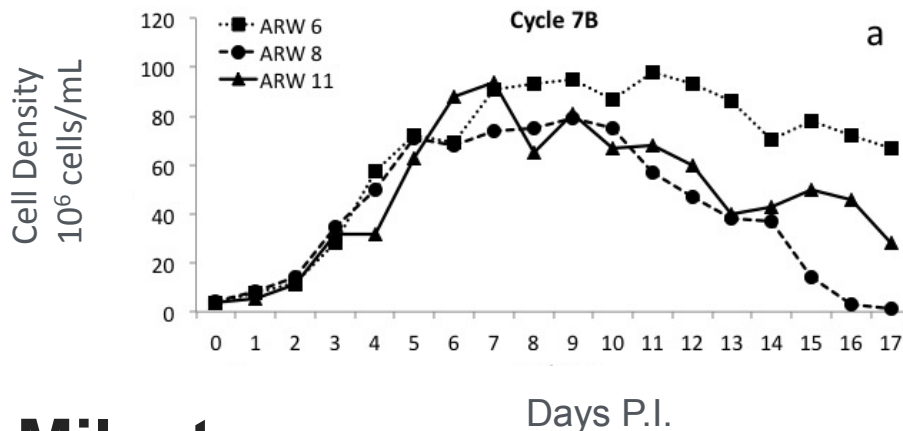


# TIER III Culture Stability/Resilience Testing



## Outcomes

- ▶ Complete tests in the SNL Algal Testbed (**Crash Lab**):
  - ▶ **Induce pond culture crashes** via addition of deleterious species identified in TIER II testing
  - ▶ Determine **conditions** under which resistance persists

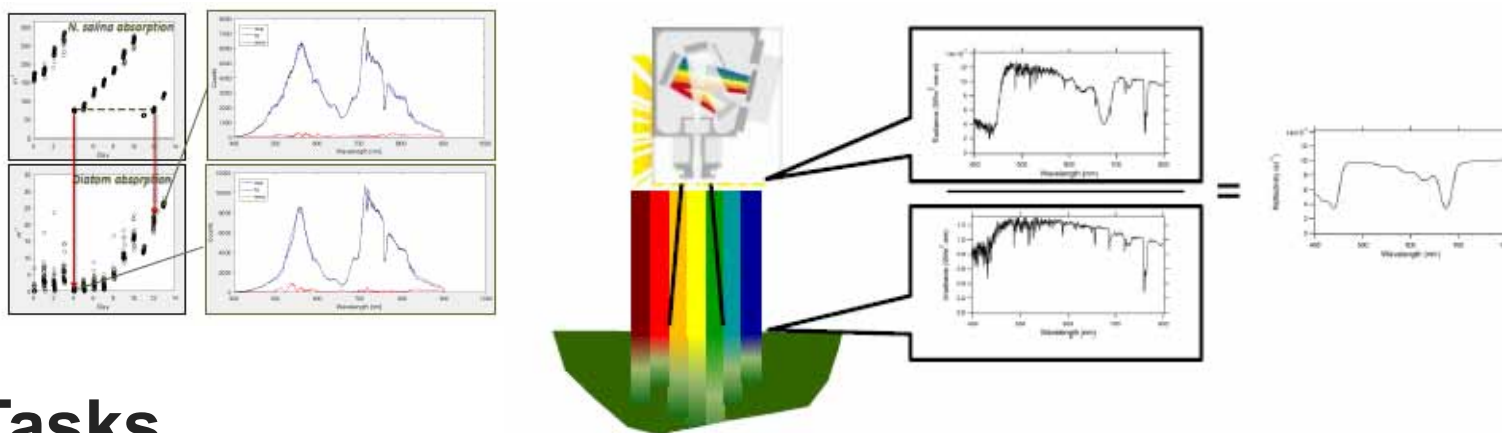


## Milestones

- ▶ Demonstrate standard crash assays at 1000L pond scale (6/2017)
- ▶ Complete pond scale evaluation of predation resistance of 2-4 algal strains (12/2018)

## Outcomes

- ▶ Identify and characterize the **spectral signatures** resulting from the **interaction of algae with multiple, diverse pests** relevant to production scale algal culture in a stand-off fashion



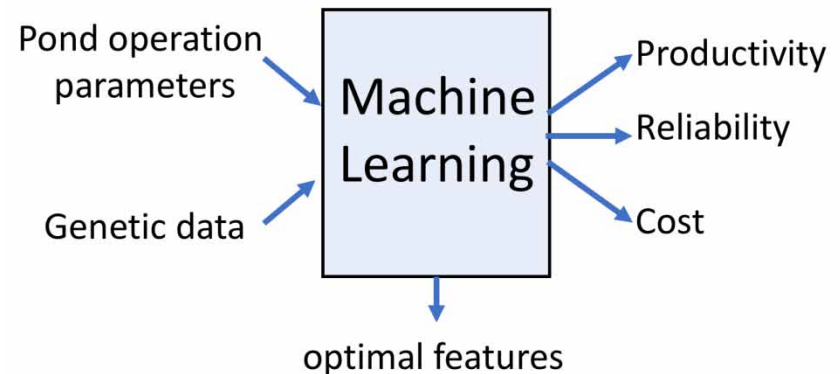
## FY17 Tasks

- ▶ **Analysis of field trial data** from crashing ponds collected in the ATP<sup>3</sup> AFS trials to identify **optical signatures** of functional pest presence
- ▶ **Multifactorial (temp and salinity) experiments** on one algal/pathogen pair to validate and assess the **sensitivity** and **specificity** of the **optical biomarkers** under relevant (and highly variable) field conditions.

## Outcomes

- ▶ **Leverage** the data generated by DISCOVR combined with those from RAFT and ATP<sup>3</sup> to **identify pond operation practices and parameters that enhance stability and productivity**

We will apply and ensemble machine learning methods, such as regression, random decision forests, Bayesian network, clustering, support vector machines, artificial neural networks to achieve this goal.



## FY17 Tasks

- ▶ Develop a **predictive model for pond productivity and reliability** based on genetic data acquired from ATP<sup>3</sup> and RAFT consortiums.
- ▶ Use the **multipathogen/multialgal data** generated by DISCOVR to create **contamination models** that will inform pond **operation strategies** such as harvesting and re-inoculation.



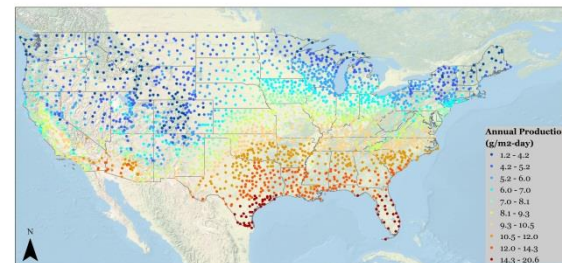
## Milestone for Outdoor Pond Trials

- ▶ Complete outdoor pond testing for at least four TIER IV Strains (9/2019)



## Milestone for Productivity Mapping

- ▶ Generate biomass productivity maps by species-specific Biomass Assessment Tool (BAT) for TIER V strains (9/2019)



Annual biomass productivity map for *Chlorella sorokiniana* DOE 1412

# Relevance

- ▶ **Reduce total microalgae biofuels production costs to \$3/GGE by 2030 by developing an integrated screening platform for identification of high productivity strains with cellular composition suitable for biofuels and bioproducts for resilient, year-round outdoor cultivation** via crop rotation.
- ▶ **Overcome limitations of previous strain prospecting** efforts such as low success rate, slow speed, and unrealistic laboratory test conditions.
- ▶ **Addresses critical research needs** stated in BETO's 2016 MYPP and National Algae Biofuels Technology Review (NABTR):
  - Stable high yield strains that resist predators in large-scale ponds (MYPP)
  - Strain screening and climate-simulated culturing (NABTR)
- ▶ **Addresses the need for cost reduction via valorization of biomass**, as presented by NREL at the Jan 2017 BETO quarterly SOT meeting.
- ▶ **Standardized identification, deep characterization, and delivery of robust, high productivity microalgae strains to industry** and other BETO funded projects (e.g., Agile Biofoundry).
- ▶ Workflow will **facilitate bioprospecting by algae biofuels stakeholders.**



# Summary: The *Gold Standard* for Strain Characterization

- ▶ The DISCOVR project will develop a **standardized, industrially-relevant process** for **characterizing and comparing potential biofuels/bioproduct strains**.
- ▶ This project is a **streamlined, coordinated effort** to capitalize on consortium labs' **complementary core capabilities** in **environmental simulation and productivity prediction, robustness evaluation, biomass valorization, and strain improvements**.
- ▶ We aim to deliver new strains that **perform better than the current State of Technology**, in order to directly contribute to meeting BETO's goal of producing advanced biofuels **at <\$3/GGE**.

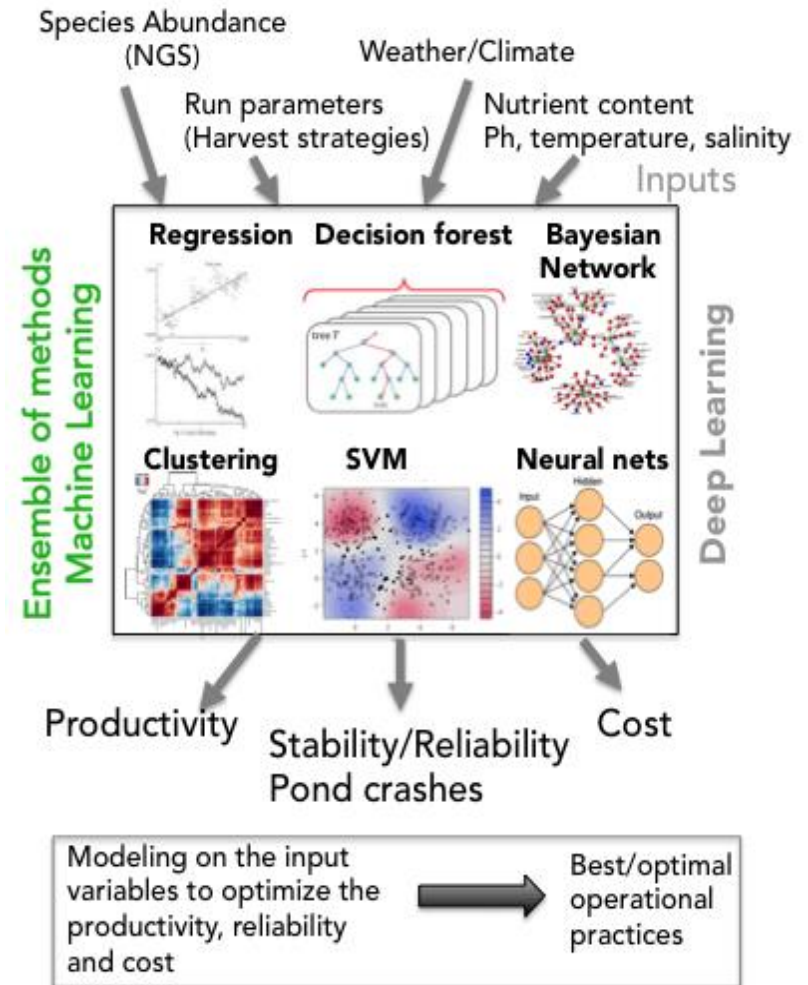
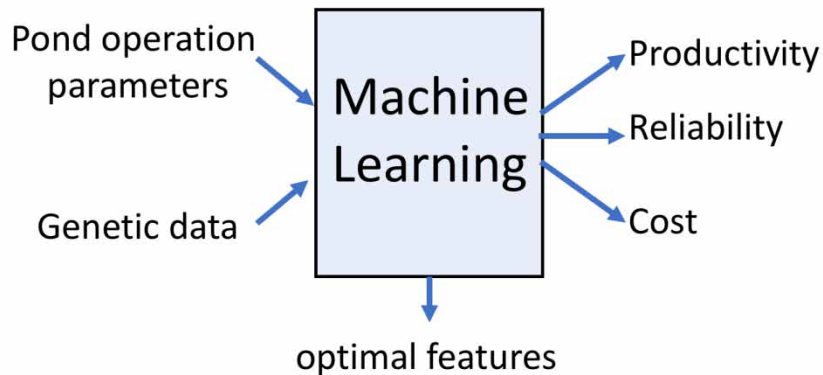
**“The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts”** (Aristotle)

# Supplemental Viewgraphs

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We will apply and ensemble machine learning methods, such as regression, random decision forests, Bayesian network, clustering, support vector machines, artificial neural networks to achieve this goal.



# DISCOVER Publicity

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170113133049.htm>

[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2017-01/dnnl-bmf011317.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-01/dnnl-bmf011317.php)

<http://military-technologies.net/2017/01/13/biofuel-matchmaker-finding-the-perfect-algae-for-renewable-energy/>

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/articles/2017/01/biofuel-matchmaker-finding-the-perfect-algae-for-renewable-energy.html>

<http://www.algaeindustrymagazine.com/pnnl-seeking-perfect-algae-renewable-energy/>

<http://www.chemeurope.com/en/news/161401/biofuel-matchmaker-finding-the-perfect-algae-for-renewable-energy.html>

<http://latesttechnology.space/biofuel-matchmaker-finding-the-perfect-algae-for-renewable-energy/>

<http://www.alternative-energy-news.info/headlines/biofuels/>

[https://article.wn.com/view/2017/01/13/Biofuel\\_matchmaker\\_Finding\\_the\\_perfect\\_algae\\_for\\_renewable\\_e/](https://article.wn.com/view/2017/01/13/Biofuel_matchmaker_Finding_the_perfect_algae_for_renewable_e/)

<http://www.sequimgazette.com/news/sequim-lab-looks-to-find-the-best-biofuel-in-algae/>