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March 2007

Biotech News

- J. Craig Venter, one of the fathers of the human genome, spoke at SBE's first International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering in Coronado about "Genomics – from Medicine to Environment."
http://www.aiche.org/uploadedFiles/SBE/Publications/Venter_CEP_Article.pdf.
- Engineers develop hydrogel-based free-floating microparticles to offer a new low-cost way to do "multiplexed detection" of biomolecules (DNA, RNA, Proteins) for medical diagnostics.
<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2007/particles.html>
- Researchers provide a long awaited look of how an elusive drug target, the PBP2 enzyme, can be targeted to block bacterial cell wall synthesis, and may provide enough new insights to aid the design of novel antibiotics.
<http://www.hhmi.org/news/strynadka20070309.html>
- Complete genomic sequencing of the yeast *Pichia stipitis* promises to help research for improving xylose-fermentation efficiency for biofuels.
<http://www.news.wisc.edu/13532.html>
- Scientists solved the complex structure of a recently discovered protein (UL36) that is found in a wide range of herpes viruses, and may be useful as a potential drug target.
http://www.wi.mit.edu/news/archives/2007/hp_0308.html
- Researchers invent a new reagent, BeNzyIOxyPyridinium Triflate, which converts vulnerable hydroxy groups into benzyl ethers upon warming to protect them, solving some of the issues with this technique.
<http://www.fsu.edu/indexTOFStory.html?lead.reagent>

Accepting Nominations

In memory of Professor Jay Bailey for his many pioneering contributions to biotechnology, SBE's Bailey award is presented to an individual who has had an important impact on bioengineering and whose achievements, either specific or general, have advanced this profession in any of its aspects. Award winners include Michael Shuler of Cornell University, Robert Langer of MIT, Edwin Lightfoot of the University of Wisconsin, and Nicholas Peppas of the University of Texas at Austin. You can nominate your colleague by following the instructions at <http://www.aiche.org/SBE/About/Awards.aspx>

SBE Conferences

Student funding is still available to attend **SBE's 3rd International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (ICBN 2007)** on August 13-15, 2007 in Biopolis, Singapore. Professor Jackie Ying, head of Singapore's Institute for BioNanotechnology, is chairing the event. Speakers include Takuzo Aida, Mounji Bawendi, C. Jeffrey Brinker, James

Bryers, James Heath, Allan Hoffman, I-Ming Hsing, Yu-Chen Hu, Kazuhiko Ishihara, Klavs Jensen, Kazunori Kataoka, Thomas A. Kost, Gil Lee, Kam Leong, Benjamin List, D. Tyler McQuade, Vladimir Mironov, Teruo Okano, Buddy Ratner, Myron Spector, Galen Stucky, Matthew Tirrell, Gordon Wallace, David Weitz, Feng-Shou Xiao, Shuguang Zhang, and Dongyuan Zhao. Find out more at <http://www.aiche.org/icbn>.

Mark your calendar to attend [SBE's 1st International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering](#) on January 20-23, 2008 in Coronado, CA. Fred Gage of the Salk Institute, Corey Goodman of Renovis, and David Schaffer of the University of California at Berkeley are chairing the event. Keynote speakers include Professors [Irv Weissman](#) of Stanford, [George Daley](#) of Children's Hospital Boston and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, and [Doug Lauffenburger](#) of MIT. Find out more at <http://www.aiche.org/StemCellEng>.

A complete bio-event calendar can be found at <http://www.aiche.org/SBE/Events/index.aspx>

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Member benefits include:

- Subscription to SBE's semi-annual BioSupplement to Chemical Engineering Progress.
- Discounts on leading biological engineering conferences including SBE and SBE cosponsored meetings and courses.
- Access to online membership directory.
- A voice in education, employment and technology advancement topics.

Comments?

SBE's e-Connections is edited by Adrian Andrew Fay, Web Science Editor, with input from various SBE staff. Contact us at bio@aiiche.org

*The Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) is a new technological community of AIChE
Its mission is to promote the integration of biology with engineering and realize its benefits
through bioprocessing, biomedical, and biomolecular applications.
For comments and contributions to SBE Connections, email <mailto:bio@aiiche.org>*

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