Sarah Rodriguez*1,2, Charles Denby & Jay Keasling1,2,3,4

1 California Institute of Quantitative Biosciences (QB3), University of California, Berkeley, California, USA; 2 Joint BioEnergy Institute, Emeryville, California, USA; 3 Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA; 4 Physical Biosciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA.

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Project Goals:
We aim to develop a robust S. cerevisiae system to drive the production of isoprenoids and other industrial products derived from acetyl-CoA. Our strategy to increase the abundance of cytosolic acetyl-CoA is modeled after the well-studied, endogenous mechanisms of oleaginous, lipid accumulating yeast. Enzymes responsible for oleaginicity divert excess acetyl-coA from the mitochondria while providing a sufficient supply of redox potential and ATP units required for lipid biosynthesis. Specifically, cytoplasmic acetyl-CoA is generated through the activity of ATP:citrate lyase (ACL), which cleaves citrate to form acetyl-CoA and oxaloacetate. The combination of expression of mevalonate producing enzymes, a heterologous ACL from the oleaginous yeast, Aspergillus nidulans, and modifications to increase precursor supply, have demonstrated the utility of a robust host engineered with strong acetyl-CoA production for improved flux though the mevalonate pathway.

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