



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2020

Dear Colleague:

Welcome to the 2020 Genomic Science Annual PI Meeting! On behalf of the entire program staff of BER's Biological Systems Science Division (BSSD) I'd like to thank you for the success of the Genomic Science Program (GSP). Your scientific creativity, insight, and experimental results are what sustains this program.

From the program level, biological research continues to capture attention. We've seen much discussion in policy circles on how to accelerate a burgeoning bio-based economy, be more competitive in the global biotechnology arena, and lead development of next generation technologies. DOE has a significant role to play in all of these areas and this program will likely form a cornerstone of related efforts. The GSP and the BSSD portfolio with its combination of basic research, enabling capabilities and user facilities, is poised to address a wide range of research challenges in the bioeconomy, biotechnology, and next-gen technologies space, should we be afforded the opportunity to do so. We are optimistic about the future and how the Division is currently positioned to address national priorities and you should be too.

We have a full agenda again this year highlighting some exceptional research results. As always, we hope that the presentations will spark fruitful discussions among attendees. The PI meeting is an important mechanism for our staff to become aware of results from projects funded within the program. We also hope that it helps researchers connect with others working in complementary areas. Please use this opportunity to seek out and meet your colleagues.

We are pleased to have Dr. Tom Juenger (University of Texas, Austin) as our keynote speaker this year. Dr. Juenger's research touches on many facets of the GSP portfolio, and we know that his talk will have broad appeal. We are also pleased to welcome new early career awardees, new plant genomics and environmental microbiome researchers, and new computational biology and secure biosystems design pilot project researchers to this year's meeting.

The meeting agenda includes talks from each element of the program, beginning with the Bioenergy Research Centers and continues across the portfolio in several breakout sessions throughout the meeting. There are also some interesting plenary sessions from the DOE User Facilities and community resources highlighting new capabilities available to researchers in the portfolio. Of particular interest is a new plenary on making better use of biological data.

Finally, a reminder that we hope you treat this meeting as an opportunity to view your research in the broad context of the larger program. All principal investigator projects from our University and DOE National Laboratory portfolios, as well as User Facilities and enabling capabilities funded by the program are present at this meeting. Please take full advantage of this opportunity to meet with your colleagues and with your DOE program staff, representatives from elsewhere within the Department of Energy, and colleagues from other Federal Agencies.

Thank you again for making the GSP the success that it is. We look forward to an excellent meeting!

Sincerely,

Todd Anderson, Ph.D.  
Director, Biological Systems Science Division, SC-23.2  
Office of Biological and Environmental Research  
Office of Science