Dear Colleagues,

With summer around the corner, I would like to update you on several recent events and activities that impact the Molecular Foundry community over the past couple of months and mention a few exciting near-term opportunities for us.

On March 23, the current federal budget was passed, which included funding for the five nanoscale science research centers (NSRCs), including the Molecular Foundry. This year, the budget includes a $10 million funding opportunity for the NSRCs for research infrastructure supporting quantum information science (QIS). Along with other government agencies, DOE has made QIS a top priority and the NSRCs are ideally positioned to help in this effort, as emphasized by this statement by Secretary Rick Perry who visited the Foundry in March. Foundry staff are working hard to respond to this QIS call with several ideas that will take advantage of our unique expertise and attract new communities of users, and position the Foundry as an important resource for the nation's QIS efforts.

Our spring proposal call closed on April 2, and I am pleased to report that we received 330 proposals from 28 different U.S. states and 16 countries. The Foundry’s broad geographic reach was enhanced by our newly created travel grant program that supports researchers from EPSCoR states. A third of the received proposals came from first-time applicants, and I am pleased we continue to add to our growing community of users. In an effort to improve the experience of first-time users, as well as our operations and hiring practices, we have partnered with an outside consultant, AcuityWorks, to identify the aspects of our organization most susceptible to implicit bias and study ways to minimize it. While their report and external study identified several strong suits of the Foundry’s culture and operations strategy, it also outlined several opportunities for improvement. We look forward to working toward those improvements – which include making information and policies more transparent and consistent, and setting short- and long-term goals for us to work toward – and discussing those with you in the future.

Finally, I want to highlight a recent addition to our staff. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Selven Virasawmy has recently joined the Nanofabrication Facility as a member of the technical staff. Our other searches are well underway, including the one for the new Foundry director, which is currently conducting onsite interviews of four finalists.

As you can see here, and from the science highlights featured in this newsletter, there are a lot of exciting things happening and I hope that each of you continue engage with us by sharing your unique perspectives and ideas. All staff and members of the User Executive Committee welcome your feedback at any time.

Have a terrific summer,

Jeff
New and Noteworthy

Annual User Meeting August 15-16
Registration is open to attend our Annual User Meeting, which will be held August 15-16, 2018.

Learn more on the conference web page.

Register for the Annual User Meeting

Foundry Hosts Annual Safety Retreat
Foundry staff and users took a break from lab work to focus on safety and continue to grow the Foundry’s safety practices and culture.

Read more

Secretary Rick Perry Visits the Foundry
Energy Secretary Rick Perry met with Foundry scientists and users during his recent tour of Berkeley Lab.

Read more

Foundry Participates in Congressional Visits and Science Expo
The Foundry joined other user facilities from the Society for the Science at User Research Facilities in Washington D.C. to educate Members and their staff about our nation’s scientific user facilities.

Read more
**Recent Highlights**

### Mapping Batteries with Atomic Precision

An international team led by Foundry researchers showed how the ratio of materials that make up a lithium-ion battery electrode affects its structure at the atomic level, and how the surface is very different from the rest of the material.

[Learn more](#)

### A New Protein Mimic That Helps Injured Lungs Breathe

A Foundry user has bioengineered peptoids that perform equal to or better than existing lung surfactant replacements.

[Learn more](#)

### Nanoparticle Breakthrough Could Capture Unseen Light for Solar Energy

An international team of scientists led by Foundry researchers has discovered the mechanism of how coating nanoparticles with organic dyes greatly enhances their ability to capture near-infrared light and to reemit it in the visible light spectrum.

[Learn more](#)

### Sugar-coated Peptoid Nanosheets Selectively Detect Multivalent Proteins

A team led by Foundry researchers has developed a method to engineer the surface of peptoid nanosheets, mimicking some of the properties of cell membranes, to interact with multivalent proteins.

[Learn more](#)
Upcoming Events

Spring 2018 Seminar Series
Our Tuesday seminar series continues, concluding on June 19. Come join us at 11:00 am in the Chema Room (67-3111). Ricardo Ruiz from Western Digital Corporation will give the joint Foundry/ALS seminar on June 5, 2018 in Building 66 Auditorium.

Learn more

Upcoming Workshops
The Foundry’s Career Development Committee is organizing several workshops in the coming months: Networking for Operations Staff; Outside Professional Activities; Scientific Leadership & Management.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is hosting its annual Family Science Day and Ice Cream Social on (7/20). Check out photos from last year.

Around the Foundry
The Foundry’s Teresa Williams joined a delegation of 16 female Bay Area scientists and technology professionals on a recent trip to Egypt through TechWomen, a mentoring and exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State. Teresa spoke about her experience with TechWomen through Berkeley Lab’s Perspectives on Diversity series.

Teresa has also been selected as a Congressional Fellow by the American Chemical Society and this fall will join the 2018-2019 cohort of the Science and Technology Policy Fellowship run by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.