

BRC's representation at the Lignin Gordon Research Conference

- The Gordon Research Conference on Lignin – Towards viable solutions for lignin valorization was held in Easton, MA, August 5-10, 2018.
- CBI researchers Gregg Beckham (NREL) was Co-Chair with Yuriy Roman (MIT) serving as Vice-Chair.
- Of the 37 presentations CBI was represented by:
 - **Richard Dixon** (UNT) – Do we know all the players in monolignol biosynthesis?
 - **Gerald Tuskan** (ORNL) – Mining natural variation in lignin content and chemistry captured in a *Populus trichocarpa* association populations.
 - **Yuriy Roman** (MIT) – Breaking away from batch: challenges and opportunities for lignin processing in flow reactors.
 - **Adam Guss** (ORNL) – Diversifying the portfolio of products that can be made from lignin using *pseudomonas putida*.
- Presentations by other BRC members:
 - **Timothy Donohoe** (GLBRC) – Mining bacterial genomes to produce valuable products from lignin.
 - **Aindrila Mukhopadhyay** (JBEI) – Developing pathways and metabolic capacities in *P. putida*, a promising host for lignin conversion.
 - **John Ralph** (GLBRC) – Designing lignins for the biorefinery.
 - **Blake Simmons** (JBEI) – Keynote session: The need for sustainable approaches to lignin valorization.



The goal of the Lignin GRC is to bring together researchers from academia, government research centers, and industry working on all aspects of lignin including its characterization, *in planta* engineering, utilization, depolymerization, and upgrading. Interaction, discussion, and teamwork between plant researchers, microbiologists, chemists, engineers, and material scientists working on this recalcitrant polymer will be critical to move the field forward towards harnessing this abundant, renewable, yet incredibly challenging, resource.

