The first Early Career Appointee at CBI – Davinia Salvachúa

What is the objective?

• CBI offers **Early Career Assignments** to junior CBI scientists to work at ORNL for at least a three-month period. Prior to selection, each Early Career person has to make arrangements with an ORNL-CBI researcher to outline a research task to be completed while on site. Then, the Leadership team evaluates the proposal and the CV of the candidate to assess the suitability for this position.

• The main goals of this assignment are:
  • **Career development** - Work within the CBI management team and engage on the administrative side (50% of the time). For instance, Davinia will be involved in the planning of the CBI Annual Science meeting, will assist in the Affiliates program, and will compose monthly highlights to DOE-BER.
  • **CBI research** - Work with an ORNL-CBI researcher (50% of the time) to continue their research and expand their publication record. In the case of Davinia, she will be mainly working with Dr. Robert Hettich to perform proteomic studies in different biological systems related to lignin biological depolymerization.

Davinia Salvachúa’s background

• Davinia is **Staff Scientist** at the **National Renewable Energy Laboratory** (NREL) in Golden (CO, USA) since July 2014. Her research is focused on understanding biological lignin depolymerization and catabolism by fungi and bacteria. In addition, she is also leading the development of fermentation processes for the production of fuels and chemical precursors by a diversity of organisms. She has 23 publications.

• Davinia has a **Bachelor’s Degree in Biology** from Alcalá de Henares University (Madrid, Spain) and a **PhD in Biology from the Department of Microbiology** in Complutense University (Madrid, Spain). Most of her PhD research was conducted in the prestigious center of the Spanish National Research Council named Biological Research Center (CIB-CSIC) in Madrid (Spain).