

# CBI Announces 2025 Early Career Fellows

CBI offers an Early Career Development Program for junior scientists, providing the opportunity to work on-site at ORNL, gain experience managing a large, interdisciplinary, multi-institutional project, and build new collaborations with ORNL researchers. Participants set goals through an Individual Development Plan, attend key meetings, and stay engaged with DOE program updates. They assist with internal and external communications, including preparing monthly reports, research highlights, and content for the CBI Connection newsletter. Candidates are selected through a review of their proposal and CV by the CBI Leadership Team to assess their qualifications and fit for the program.

Marie Klein will join CBI Headquarters beginning April 1st to also assist in organizing our Annual Science Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. Marie is a postdoctoral researcher in the Poplar Feedstock Team, based in Gail Taylor's Lab at the University of California, Davis. Her research focuses on the genetic and physiological basis of climate-adaptive stress tolerance in poplar trees and the development of high-throughput phenotyping methods, such as remote sensing, to characterize phenotypic diversity.

Katie Mains will join CBI Headquarters on August 1st to support the efforts on our Annual Review and advance her research within the CBI framework. Katie is a postdoctoral researcher in Gregg Beckham's Lab at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Her ongoing research investigates the uses of synthetic biology and metabolic engineering tools to engineer bacterial strains capable of converting an expanded range of lignin-derived compounds to value-added bioproducts.



**Marie Klein, UCD**  
Postdoctoral researcher



**Katie Mains, NREL**  
Postdoctoral researcher

