



## LABORATORY AUTOMATION AND ACCELERATED SYNTHESIS: Empowering Tomorrow's Chemist

### A Virtual Chemical Sciences Roundtable Workshop

#### DAY 1

November 16, 2021

8:30 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Linda Nhon  
Associate Program Officer, Chemical Sciences Roundtable

8:40 AM **Point-Counterpoint: What will the future of chemical laboratory automation mean for society?**

Martin Burke  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Nicola Pohl  
*Indiana University*

9:00 AM **Session I: Future of Laboratory Automation in Industry**

**Session Chair:** Robert Maleczka, *Michigan State University*

**Panelists:**

Spencer Dreher  
*Merck*

Matt Bio  
*Snapdragon Chemistry*

Benji Maruyama  
*Air Force Research Laboratory*

Ying Wang  
*AbbVie*

10:30 AM **Break**



10:45 AM **Session II: Future of Laboratory Automation in Academia**

**Session Chair:** Anne LaPointe, *Cornell University*

**Panelists:**

Klavs Jensen  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Lee Cronin  
*University of Glasgow*

Andy Cooper  
*University of Liverpool*

Nicholas Ball  
*Pomona College*

Mimi Hii  
*Imperial Centre for Rapid Online Analysis of Reactions*

Rachel Switzky  
*Siebel Center for Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Jin Cha  
*Chemical Synthesis, National Science Foundation*

12:15 PM **Virtual Poster Session and Lunch Break**

1:30 PM **Introduction to Break-out Sessions: Modules, Resources, and Blueprints**

Timothy Jamison  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Anne LaPointe  
*Cornell University*

Shane Krska  
*Merck Research Laboratories*

1:45 PM **Adjourn To Breakout Sessions**



**Breakout Session 1: Out of the Box: Providing the tools and resources needed to prepare undergraduates for automation**

**Facilitator:** Arsalan Mirjafari, *Florida Gulf Coast University*

**Goals:** Identify learning objectives and then design a “box” that meets those objectives, that could be sent to undergraduate institutions, and that would contain all the elements needed to conduct an automation experiment and provide an automation “experience.”

**Breakout Session 2: Designing a textbook to implement automation in graduate research and funding opportunities.**

**Facilitator:** Anne LaPointe, *Cornell University*

**Goals:** Identify learning objectives and then “design” an open source textbook for graduates and postgraduates that could serve as a resource, for example, for experiment design, automation types and sources, and funding opportunities.

**Breakout Session 3: Advancing Automation and Beyond -- Creating a blueprint for consortia to share data and learn from each other**

**Facilitator:** Shane Krska, *Merck Research Laboratories*

**Goals:** Identify the characteristics of a consortia to advance laboratory automation to diverse stakeholders and address the question as to how to create an inclusive system so that automation is advanced and a digital divide does not result. The ultimate goal is to create a consortium that can help to “democratize” synthesis.

3:30 PM      **Virtual Reception**

4:00 PM      **Adjourn Day 1**



**DAY 2**  
**November 17, 2021**

- 9:00 AM      **Reporting from Breakout Groups and Discussion**
- Breakout 1** – Arsalan Mirjafari, *Florida Gulf Coast University*
- Breakout 2** – Anne LaPointe, *Cornell University*
- Breakout 3** – Shane Krska, *Merck Research Laboratories*
- 10:15 AM      **Break**
- 10:30 AM      **Session III: The Promise of Automation**
- Introduction to Speakers:** Arsalan Mirjafari, *Florida Gulf Coast University*
- 10:35 AM      Self-driving Laboratories for Organic Materials- Alan Aspuru-Guzik  
                 *University of Toronto*
- 10:55 AM      Food for Thought: Digital Manufacturing is Here; Shouldn't it Tie Into Upstream  
                 Laboratory Research Automation? - Joseph DeSimone  
                 *Stanford University*
- 11:20 AM      The Carnegie Mellon University Cloud Lab: Automating Science for the Future- Rebecca  
                 Doerge  
                 *Carnegie Mellon University*
- 11:45 AM      **Closing Remarks**
- Martin Burke  
                 *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
- Nicola Pohl  
                 *Indiana University*
- 12:00 PM      **Workshop Concludes**