

Report of the SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences

DRAFT 9/13/16

Executive Summary

Progress in the biomedical sciences has crucial implications for the Nation's health, security, and competitiveness. Advances in biomedicine depend increasingly upon integrating many other disciplines---most importantly, the physical and data sciences and engineering---with the biological sciences. Unfortunately, the scientific responsibilities of the various federal agencies are imperfectly aligned with that multidisciplinary need. Novel biomedical technologies could be developed far more efficiently and strategically by enhanced inter-agency cooperation. The Department of Energy's mission-driven basic research capabilities make it an especially promising partner for increased collaboration with NIH, the nation's lead agency for biomedical research; conversely, the NIH is well-positioned to expand its relationships with DOE. Particular DOE capabilities of interest include instrumentation, materials, modeling and simulation, and data science, which will find application in many areas of biomedical research, including cancer, neurosciences, microbiology, and cell biology; the analysis of massive heterogeneous clinical and genetic data; radiology and radiobiology; and biodefense.

To capitalize on these opportunities we recommend that the two agencies work together more closely and in more strategic ways to A) define joint research programs in the most fertile areas of biomedical research and applicable technologies; B) create organizational and funding mechanisms that bring diverse researchers together and cross-train young people; C) secure funding for one or more joint research units and/or user facilities; D) better inform OMB, Congress, and the public about the importance of, and potential for, enhanced DOE-NIH collaboration.

I. Introduction

On November 21, 2015, Secretary of Energy Moniz requested that the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) constitute a task force to evaluate the prospects for increased collaboration between DOE researchers and biomedical scientists supported by other agencies, especially the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In particular, the Secretary asked that the task force identify "new areas of research by DOE investigators that could advance the pace of progress in biomedical sciences" and "new mechanisms for conducting research in coordination with scientists from government laboratories...universities, academic medical centers, and industry." He also enjoined the Task Force from addressing "funding arrangements to support this initiative." The Secretary's request (the full memo is reproduced in Appendix A) was endorsed by Francis S. Collins, the Director of the NIH, who asked Dr. Roderick Pettigrew, Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, to serve as liaison between the NIH and the Task Force.

1 In response to the Secretary's request, SEAB assembled a Task Force on Biomedical Sciences,
2 composed of four SEAB members and five other prominent scientists knowledgeable about
3 multiple relevant subjects, including those listed in the Secretary's memo as possible
4 collaborative areas. Biographical sketches of the Task Force members are provided in Appendix
5 B.

6 Beginning in January, 2016, members of the Task Force met by conference calls and at two
7 workshops (March 10-11, 2016 at New York University's Center for Urban Studies and Progress
8 in Brooklyn, NY and July 18-19, 2016 at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA).
9 Beyond the Task Force members and DOE support staff, participants in those workshops included
10 invited speakers and DOE and NIH program administrators; agendas and lists of participants are
11 contained in Appendix C. Among the topics discussed at the workshops were DOE and NIH
12 capabilities, potential areas for collaborative research, and possible research mechanisms.
13 Following the second workshop, the Task Force members developed this draft report, which is
14 being submitted to SEAB for review and approval at its meeting on September 21, 2016 and
15 subsequent submission to the Secretary

16 17 **II. The rationale for stronger interactions between DOE and NIH**

18
19 The case for seeking new areas and mechanisms for collaboration between researchers
20 supported by the DOE and those supported by the NIH is based on several precepts, each of
21 which is detailed in the following subsections:

- 22 • the importance of the biomedical sciences;
- 23 • the confluence of diverse technologies and methodologies in the study of medicine
24 and biology;
- 25 • the imperfect alignment between national scientific goals and the domains of Federal
26 science agencies;
- 27 • the unique capabilities of the DOE labs and their history of productive interactions
28 with life science agencies, especially the NIH; and
- 29 • the administrative flexibilities and goals of the NIH.

30 During the course of its two workshops and based on the history and operations of the NIH
31 and DOE, the Task Force became convinced that the nation's biomedical research efforts would
32 be substantially augmented by closer communication and expanded collaboration between the
33 two agencies and the researchers they support. The Task Force recognizes---and heard
34 corroborating evidence during its workshops---that significant interactions already occur: some
35 DOE laboratories have long-standing commitments to biomedical research topics, and some US
36 investigators receive support from multiple agencies, including DOE and NIH. The Task Force also
37 came to appreciate the cultural and organizational differences between the two agencies that
38 might impede more extensive collaboration. Nevertheless, we are convinced that a collaborative
39 effort to define and pursue selected scientific opportunities and to develop mechanisms that
40 foster such collaborative work would accelerate progress in biomedical sciences.

1 **A. Biomedical sciences are vital to the nation.**

2

3 The federal government's commitment to medical research and to a healthier nation is
4 demonstrated tangibly by the \$31B NIH budget, supplemented by biomedical research spending
5 by other agencies; the DOE supports no biomedical sciences per se, but does fund annually some
6 \$300M of systems biology research. That level of public spending, unequalled elsewhere in the
7 world, reflects

8 • the importance that our nation places on science that promises to improve the health
9 of its citizens;

10 • the recognition that US leadership in the life sciences, especially the medical sciences,
11 has promoted the prestige and economic success of the US over many years;

12 • the advocacy that often drives spending on specific diseases; and

13 • the concern about biological threats, both natural and anthropogenic, that pose risks
14 to the Nation.

15 The competitive advantages enjoyed by the US from its investment in biomedical sciences
16 result from prize-winning discoveries, immigration of talented individuals to our scientific
17 programs and industries, and development of economically successful commercial products such
18 as drugs and technologies. Fostering the growth and productivity of biomedical research through
19 the work of multiple agencies, especially agencies working together effectively and efficiently, is
20 obviously a worthy objective.

21

22 **B. Biomedical research depends on many disciplines.**

23

24 Although medical progress is widely recognized to depend on both fundamental research in
25 biology and on clinical research (involving work with patients and human samples), history also
26 documents the deep contributions made to medical sciences by physics (including radiology
27 methods such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerized tomography (CT), and
28 positron emission tomography (PET), crystallography, electrocardiography and
29 electroencephalography); by chemistry (including drug development and metabolic studies); and
30 by engineering (the design of a wide variety of instruments and devices). More recently,
31 computational and data sciences have become central to the creation, storage, and analysis of
32 large data sets produced by new methods in genomics and proteomics, as well as by the
33 traditional methods of clinical research such as medical imaging. These information sciences are
34 also affecting the planning and delivery of health care as providers depend increasingly on
35 electronic health records, access to computerized clinical data, and medical systems for
36 continuous learning, all of which are related to the President's Precision Medicine Initiative. At
37 the same time, new technologies---nanotechnology, materials sciences, sensors,
38 microfabrication, and microfluidics---have become essential features of the medical research
39 landscape. The great bulk of the federal government's programs and expertise in these rapidly
40 evolving technologies does not reside in NIH.

1
2 **C. US scientific responsibilities and Federal agencies are imperfectly aligned**
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4 The programs of the individual Federal agencies, including those with significant investments
5 in science and technology (S&T), are directed by the interests and organization of the executive
6 and legislative branches; consideration of the substance of these programs is only one factor
7 among many. This process has its benefits, including the distribution of important activities
8 among components of the government that take different approaches to difficult tasks and will
9 have variable success in the budget process. But even the most casual inventory of agency
10 activities shows redundancies and, more intriguingly, opportunities for productive synergies in
11 the governance of the nation's S&T programs.

12 The responsibility for monitoring these diverse efforts falls to the Office of Science and
13 Technology Policy (OSTP) and its affiliated government-wide National Science and Technology
14 Committees (NSTCs). But individual agencies and departments are also expected to survey the
15 research horizon for significant redundancies and potential synergies. Because biomedical
16 research and its relevant technologies are broadly distributed among many Federal elements –
17 most obviously NIH, but also DOE, National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Defense
18 (DOD), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and others – those organizations and the organizations
19 that determine their programs – such as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and
20 congressional committees - should be vigilant for opportunities to coordinate, if not collaborate,
21 thereby acquiring useful scientific knowledge more efficiently and rapidly.
22

23 **D. Novel biomedical technologies could be developed more efficiently and strategically**

24 The Task Force workshops demonstrated the rapid progress of many technologies newly
25 important to biomedical research, including informatics, nanotechnology, materials research,
26 and simulation.¹ Much of the fundamental technical work is being supported or conducted by
27 non-NIH agencies (including DOE laboratories), often without recognition of the specific
28 biomedical applications that might be envisioned. Conversely, the NIH can and does support
29 work in many of these areas (see section F below), but its efforts are necessarily limited by the
30 perception that such technology development is not the agency's primary missions. As a result,
31 the NIH programs do not encompass all or even most of the most promising technologies.

32 Although the NIH-funded research system offers some rewards for developing new
33 technologies, there is no reward mechanism for making the technology robust and usable by
34 others, so that the research group that invented a new method is likely to move on to the next
35 problem. Students and engineers in the academic sector will be less inclined to advance such
36 technologies beyond proof-of-principle as there is no glory or academic credit for making the
37 technology practical and, in many cases, there isn't sufficient commercial incentive to strengthen
38 new methods. Such "orphan technologies" may never get adopted broadly and their potential

¹ These topics and others are individually addressed in Section III.

1 impact will remain unrealized. The DOE, on the other hand, has a tradition and a reward system
2 for improving technologies, making them robust, and disseminating them to a larger community
3 of users. That could play an important role in magnifying the impact of biomedical NIH-funded
4 research.

5 There are other persuasive reasons to encourage collaboration in biomedicine among the US
6 scientific communities supported by different agencies: the importance of the tasks, the need to
7 conserve resources, and the competition from a unified Europe and rising Asian nations whose
8 biomedical programs are generally more mission-oriented. The Task Force concludes that it is
9 imperative to seek ways to better leverage expertise that currently might be focused on
10 unrelated goals in the two organizations.

11 Such leveraging has occurred in the past, but in ways that have generally been serendipitous
12 and episodic. Now, with a greater sensitivity to the importance of multi-disciplinary research---
13 and with national commitments to accelerate progress in cancer and neurological sciences in the
14 context of more broadly advancing biomedical sciences---it is time to become more deliberate in
15 connecting biomedical sciences with promising areas of relevant technology. From the
16 perspective of this Task Force, that means expediting greater collaboration between agencies
17 such as DOE and NIH that work in closely related domains.

18 **E. DOE is an especially promising partner for collaboration with NIH**

19 The breadth and quality of science supported by the DOE and its history of accomplishments
20 make it a prime candidate for expanded interaction with the NIH. The DOE is the largest Federal
21 funder of physical sciences, particularly renowned for its mandated stewardship of basic research
22 in high-energy and nuclear physics, as well as its mission-driven work on nuclear security, energy
23 technologies, and environmental clean-up. To pursue those missions, it has combined the talents
24 of natural scientists (including physicists and chemists), engineers, and computer scientists to
25 develop extraordinary capabilities in materials research, instrumentation, modeling, and
26 simulation.

27 DOE capabilities have long been leveraged by other Federal agencies, particularly the national
28 security community (the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, as well as the
29 Intelligence Community). Those capabilities reside in the national laboratories and university
30 communities that the Department supports, with funding for basic science and applied energy
31 research amounting to some \$12B in FY16. DOE's culture is characterized by its traditional
32 commitment to important national missions and its ability to form technical teams of diverse
33 scientists and engineers to pursue those missions with minimal delay. Indeed, the DOE invented,
34 and continues to lead in, "big" or "team" science. Today it operates through a number of
35 mechanisms, including:

- 1 • **National Laboratories**²: The DOE supports the operation of 17 National Laboratories, 16
2 of which are GOCO (government-owned, contractor-operated) organizations.³ Most of
3 these are multi-purpose labs hosting diverse teams of researchers focused on important
4 national problems. A major role of these labs is the operation of facilities that serve large
5 scientific communities.
- 6 • **User facilities**⁴: These provide state-of-the-art scientific capabilities that would be too
7 costly or complex for individual scientists or even individual universities to construct and
8 operate. They range from particle and nuclear accelerators, powerful lasers, light sources
9 and neutron sources to high-performance computers and molecular synthesis and
10 characterization facilities. Access to these facilities is based upon scientific merit and
11 users are not charged for non-proprietary projects.⁵
- 12 • **Energy Innovation Hubs**⁶: The Hubs advance promising areas of energy science and
13 engineering from the earliest stages of research to the point of commercialization --
14 technologies can move from the Hubs to the private sector by bringing together leading
15 scientists to collaborate on critical energy challenges.
- 16 • **Energy Frontier Research Centers**⁷: These integrated, multi-investigator Centers involve
17 partnerships among universities, national laboratories, nonprofit organizations, and for-
18 profit firms that conduct fundamental research focusing on one or more “grand
19 challenges.” The Centers are intended to pursue “basic research needs” identified in
20 major strategic planning efforts by the scientific community.
- 21 • **ARPA-E**⁸: The Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) advances high-
22 potential, high-impact energy technologies that are too early for private-sector
23 investment. ARPA-E programs focus on developing entirely new ways to generate, store,
24 and use energy.

25 Although most DOE missions are directed to goals outside the life sciences arena, some of
26 the materials, tools, and methods that DOE generates are germane to biomedical science. For
27 example, more than 30% of the users of DOE’s synchrotron light sources are in the life sciences
28 and some 20% of users are NIH-supported investigators. Moreover, the Department also
29 conducts a large amount of research in the life sciences, largely with non-human applications in
30 mind. For example, basic biological methods similar to those of biomedicine are used to study
31 plants and microbial organisms in pursuit of biofuels, bioremediation, and carbon cycle research.

32 The DOE has also had direct impacts on biomedical sciences in selected areas. These include
33 a major contribution to the Human Genome Project, during both the initiation of the Project and

² <http://energy.gov/about-national-labs>

³ Only the National Energy Technology Laboratory is government-owned, government operated.

⁴ <http://science.energy.gov/user-facilities/>

⁵ http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/07/f24/Briefing%20DOE%20and%20the%20Life%20and%20Medical%20Sciences_Weatherwax.pdf

⁶ <http://energy.gov/science-innovation/innovation/hubs>

⁷ <http://science.energy.gov/bes/efrc/>

⁸ <http://arpa-e.energy.gov/>

1 the production of its finished product; provision of beam lines from its national light sources for
2 the conduct of structural studies of biologically important molecules; improvements of radiation
3 therapies for cancer; and the development of an artificial retina. But these instances have
4 generally been episodic and opportunistic, sometimes depending on the transient personnel
5 leading the agency (or a partner agency such as the NIH) rather than the result of deliberate
6 efforts to exploit standing mechanisms that foster such collaborative, interdisciplinary work.

7 With increasing recognition of the utility of DOE-supported technologies in biomedical
8 research and the announcements of national goals for biomedicine, this is an appropriate time
9 to propose the kinds of mechanisms that would make synergistic interactions between the
10 agencies more frequent, less complicated, and more productive. Furthermore, the Task Force is
11 convinced that the benefits of greater collaboration would extend in both directions. Most
12 obviously, NIH and the biomedical sciences would gain greater access to, and familiarity with,
13 relevant technologies, but DOE researchers would also be helped by activities that focus
14 technology development on specific novel questions. Indeed, there is a long tradition in the
15 national laboratories of using unclassified problems such as astrophysics or climate modeling as
16 venues to attract new talent and to develop methods relevant to classified work. In the present
17 case, some problems in biomedicine (interpretation of cancer genotypes or mapping of
18 neurological circuitry) could sharpen the skills of computational scientists in ways that might be
19 applicable to problems in national security.

20 **F. The NIH is well-positioned to expand its relationships with DOE**

21 The NIH is a confederation of 27 Institutes and Centers, most of which receive direct
22 appropriations, develop independent research programs, issue their own grants, and work within
23 defined mission statements to pursue the purpose for which they were created by Congress. This
24 structure might be a challenge for the coordination of NIH-wide efforts by the NIH Director, but
25 it offers a highly flexible system for making grants and issuing contracts with many kinds of
26 institutions, including other Federal agencies. That flexibility is further enhanced by the multiple
27 mechanisms available to support NIH research activities. Just over 10 percent of the NIH budget
28 is devoted to the support of intramural research, conducted by government scientists, mostly on
29 the NIH campus in Bethesda MD. The preponderance of the remaining budget supports grants
30 and contracts for research and training at hundreds of institutions (universities, academic health
31 centers, research institutes, colleges, and small industries) situated in all states and many foreign
32 countries. Most of these awards are used for projects conducted by individual investigators and
33 their laboratory groups; but many are also given to small teams engaged in work on shared topics
34 and sometimes to much larger teams, as illustrated by the Human Genome Project or The Cancer
35 Genome Atlas project. In addition, the National Cancer Institute funds the Frederick National
36 Center for Cancer Research, a GOCO facility in Frederick MD that resembles the DOE's national
37 laboratories. While most of the research funded by the NIH can be viewed as biological or
38 medical, the agency also provides significant support for studies in Bioengineering (roughly \$2.5B

1 in FY15), Chemistry (\$2.8B), Computational Sciences (\$1.5B) and Materials Research (\$0.3B,
2 including nanotechnology)

3 The variety of research modalities, scientific goals, and personnel at the NIH offers many
4 opportunities for collaboration with other agencies at several levels: the NIH Director's Office,
5 individual Institutes or Centers, or specific programs within an Institute, performed by intramural
6 or extramural investigators. Interactions at these different levels have characterized past
7 collaborations between the NIH and DOE; despite the apparent complexity, they offer a diverse
8 menu of components with which to propose and perform collaborative work at the grass roots
9 level, as well as the leadership echelon.

10 As described briefly in the preceding section, the NIH has a history of productive
11 collaborations with the DOE. In addition, many extramural NIH-supported scientists have grants
12 or contracts from other Federal agencies, most commonly the DOD or NSF, but few of these entail
13 the kind of coordinated partnerships between complementary capabilities and interests that can
14 be envisioned for NIH-DOE interactions.

15 **III. Opportunities for expanded DOE-NIH collaboration**

16 During the workshops conducted for this report, the Task Force identified several significant
17 opportunities to accelerate progress in biomedical sciences by collaborative activities between
18 DOE and NIH researchers. Some of these are best discussed as relevant technology strengths
19 that reside principally in the DOE, while others are best described as biomedical challenges that
20 are faced mainly by NIH. We consider the first group in this Section III and the second in the
21 following Section IV.

22 **A. Instrumentation**

23 Modern biomedical research and clinical practice use increasingly sophisticated
24 instrumentation in unusual circumstances---for example, measurements of neural activity in the
25 brain of an awake, behaving animal. One of DOE's strengths is the development of
26 instrumentation for sensitive measurements in exotic circumstances (e.g., deep underground
27 during a nuclear explosion or high in the atmosphere above the North Slope of Alaska) so that
28 there is an obvious opportunity for collaboration with NIH to build more sensitive and capable
29 sensors. For instance, neural activity can now be modulated by the same devices that are used
30 to measure it, adding a dramatic new dimension to this work. The potential for expanded joint
31 efforts in neuroscience would be timely, given the current national BRAIN initiative.

32 Another area for collaborative work would be the simultaneous analysis of the molecular
33 activity in thousands of individual cells, made possible by recent advances in single cell RNA
34 sequencing. Systems for sampling single cells from tissue slices in a manner that records their
35 initial 3-dimensional configuration, while subjecting each cell individually to RNA sequencing,
36 would provide an unprecedented window into the inner workings of our organs. That would be
37 very useful in many areas of biomedical research, including cancer, where it has become

1 increasingly apparent that the 3-dimensional cellular architecture of the tumor and its immediate
2 environment plays a fundamental role.

3 We believe that DOE-NIH teams assembled to devise more sensitive and multiplexed devices
4 for measurement, perhaps using mechanisms for collaboration discussed later in this report,
5 could make progress that would not be possible in an individual laboratory. These projects would
6 be akin to those that drove breakthroughs in earlier medical instrumentation, such as MRI, but
7 adapted now to the new reality of directly interrogating large numbers of single cells, both
8 electrophysiologically and molecularly. The study of many other medical problems---metabolic,
9 musculoskeletal, and cardiovascular diseases, as well as cancers and neurological disorders---
10 would also benefit from new or improved instrumentation created by harnessing the combined
11 abilities of NIH and DOE.

12 **B. Data sciences**

13 Biomedical research and clinical practice already create an abundance of data. The genomic
14 databases are of petabyte size, and imaging data sets are often far larger. Three-dimensional
15 imaging (traditional tomography extended to single cells and whole organisms) will produce
16 enormous amounts of raw data and impressive amounts of analyzed and compressed
17 information. Data from clinical records are less plentiful but growing and present the challenge
18 of being far more heterogeneous; better storage, linkage, and analysis of such records will be
19 critical for anticipated advances in the data-driven practice of medicine. New instrumentation
20 will further enlarge biomedical research data by capturing continuous streams from sensors and
21 imaging instruments and by monitoring more biochemical factors. That trend is driven in part by
22 prodigious manufacturing capability allowing ever denser sensor arrays, but also by the fact that
23 it is often cheaper to make the sensing device as simple as possible, to measure as long and as
24 much as possible, and then to let the downstream analysis sort out the meaning from the signal.
25 This puts enormous burdens on data processing pipelines, so that these become the primary
26 bottleneck.

27 Computing technologies to handle data of such magnitudes and complexity and to make
28 them interpretable and appropriately accessible are still being developed. In some cases,
29 sophisticated new machine-learning methods for both medical research and practice are
30 required in conjunction with large-scale parallel computation, well beyond traditional methods
31 or capabilities. These challenges are present in some of the DOE missions, but are also essential
32 to the future of biomedicine.

33 DOE has impressive capabilities in mathematics (including applications to signal processing
34 and machine learning), scientific software, security, and high performance computing (both use
35 and management). These have been applied with great success to the classic missions of the
36 Department through high-fidelity modeling and simulation and have also been used to develop
37 powerful new algorithms for assembling complete genomes from individual DNA reads. But
38 there are opportunities to expand the repertoire with new data-driven problems and techniques,

1 inspired by, or in conjunction with, new kinds of instrumentation. By focusing more on discrete
2 computing, machine learning, and advanced statistical analysis at enormous scale, DOE should
3 be able to create the new technology required for all its missions to move forward. An excellent
4 way to improve and gain acceptance of a new technology is to enable it to address an important
5 problem, and biomedicine is replete with such problems. These provide great opportunities for
6 building upon and broadening the scope of DOE expertise, expanding the frontiers of emerging
7 fields, and simultaneously making progress on NIH's major subjects.

8 The importance of data management should not be ignored in these considerations. One of
9 the repeated laments we heard from NIH researchers is that the large quantities of data now
10 being generated in their fields are not shared, harmonized, coordinated, curated, or consistently
11 interpreted to maximize utility. The ultimate experimental subjects of medicine, human patients,
12 cannot all be sent to a centralized facility for data acquisition. To address this, especially within
13 NIH's traditional mode of funding individual investigators, measurement devices can be made
14 increasingly smaller and more portable, so that they can be used in hundreds or thousands of
15 different settings. Ideally, all devices would be identical or inter-operable and linked online, so
16 that their output can be centrally aggregated for processing.

17 However, patient privacy considerations, which can vary by jurisdiction, often make such
18 centralization of data impossible. A variety of geographically distributed approaches will be
19 needed, wherein the computer code performing analysis and other tasks is moved to where the
20 data reside, rather than the data moving to where the code resides. The availability and tuning
21 of high-speed networking and strong approaches to data security and privacy will be needed to
22 make this possible. Beyond the security and privacy issues, the development of more efficient
23 access, sharing, and analysis of biomedical data sets will be increasingly essential as the amounts
24 of data increase by orders of magnitude. DOE has great technical strengths and long experience
25 in these areas (for example, in the high energy physics data networks) and could contribute to
26 the development of effective mechanisms for distributed data processing, analysis, curation, and
27 result-sharing---mechanisms that will be critical both for research and more sophisticated
28 modalities of individualized medical care.

29 While individual patient data may need to remain private, the aggregated results of statistical
30 analysis should be automatically shared with the broadest possible community of experts. This
31 is another area where collaboration between DOE and NIH might be fruitful, and also has broad
32 applications in other sectors of society. The complexities of de-identification and re-
33 identification, central when combining clinical and genetic data, are core to modern privacy
34 research across the board.

35 **C. DNA technologies**

36 The DOE has continued to advance basic and applied aspects of DNA sequencing. As reading
37 DNA becomes easier, there are increasing needs for sustained expertise in sequence analysis and
38 annotation. For example, such capacities have proved essential for exploring, characterizing, and

1 harnessing microbes for both health and energy applications (e.g., microbial conversion of
2 biomass to fuels or understanding the role of soil microbes in the global carbon cycle).

3 More recently, significant reductions in the cost of DNA synthesis have captured the attention
4 of DOE and NIH researchers. Companies now offer synthesis and assembly of up to 10,000 base
5 pairs DNA fragments at prices approaching \$0.01 per base pair and turn-around times of ~4
6 weeks. So enabled, several research groups are now performing projects aimed to synthesize
7 full microbial genomes. However, securing bulk orders (hundreds of millions of base pairs or
8 more) from a few groups now drives development of leading-edge commercial DNA synthesis
9 platforms. In contrast, most researchers need only a few specific sequences at a time but they
10 need them quickly (i.e. within a day), so they can rapidly iterate a process of discovery and design;
11 imagine how limited computer science would remain if it took four weeks to compile and run a
12 revised program.

13 The DOE and NIH together have two specific opportunities to strengthen the commercial DNA
14 synthesis sector while broadly enabling public research. First, collate latent demand for DNA
15 synthesis via one or more “biofoundries,” so that individual researchers and small groups in
16 government and academia can gain access to, and help drive development of, best-available
17 commercial platforms. Second, help motivate, initiate, and sustain foundational and
18 translational work to improve aspects of DNA synthesis beyond cost (e.g., turn-around time). We
19 note that other countries and regions (UK, China, and the EU) now have standing planning
20 capacities and road-mapping efforts focused on advancing and applying DNA synthesis; past U.S.
21 government efforts that ensured domestic leadership in computing and networking technologies
22 should also be revisited as potential models for strategic framing and program development.

23 **D. Materials science**

24 Functional biomaterials have become increasingly important to human health. Polymeric,
25 colloidal, and biomolecular materials are critical to new technologies that will address many of
26 the problems and needs of modern medicine. Among them are:

- 27 • delivery systems capable of safely getting nucleic acids such as DNA, mRNA and RNAi into
28 the body and directed toward the target cells of interest for the treatment of medical
29 disorders, including genetic diseases and cancers;
- 30 • effective and selective targeting of specific tissues within the body for therapeutic
31 treatment, especially those parts of the body that present difficult barriers, such as
32 systemic delivery across the blood-brain barrier, or targeted therapies that can effectively
33 penetrate lung, gut, or other tissues;
- 34 • synthetic organs or organoids that replicate human function sufficiently for more
35 effective *in vitro* drug testing;
- 36 • regenerative technologies that enable *in-situ* healing of soft and hard tissue for wound
37 repair, organ replacement, and bone regeneration;

- 1 • novel biosensors that are readily deployed, inexpensive, and highly accessible, thus
2 enabling early detection of cancer and infectious disease; and
- 3 • revolutionary imaging capabilities that can be used to detect and diagnose disease in
4 humans in real time and with high depth and resolution.

5 Given the growing importance of materials science in biomedicine, it is important to harness
6 and accelerate our understanding of structure-function-processing relationships and our abilities
7 to synthesize and characterize new materials with desired biomedical properties. Understanding
8 how materials interact with cells and tissues, *in vivo* as well as under artificial conditions, is also
9 essential. A particular focus must be on the less-well-studied “soft matter,” such as polymeric
10 hydrogels and nanoparticles or self-assembled organic colloids, rather than inorganic crystalline
11 materials commonly studied by DOE programs. The toolsets typically held by physicists and
12 engineers in the DOE labs can be adapted or designed for these purposes by teams of chemists,
13 materials scientists, physicists and engineers working in concert with biologists and clinicians.

14 The Molecular Foundry at LBNL is an especially potent example of how a national laboratory
15 can bring together diverse materials expertise. The Foundry offers users capabilities for
16 microfabrication, combinatorial synthesis, novel microscopy and spectroscopy, and state of the
17 art *in situ* structural imaging. While the emphasis has been on *in situ* studies in electrochemical,
18 thermal, or other unusual conditions appropriate to energy storage, we can imagine a similar
19 facility oriented to biomaterials that would, for example, allow the “seeing” of nanoparticle
20 interactions inside the body or understanding how differences in hydrogel or scaffold
21 nanostructures promote different modes of cellular development. Such a facility would be very
22 consistent with the DOE culture and capabilities and would greatly expand the range of tools and
23 expertise available to traditional NIH investigators.

24 The Task Force heard about DOE work on new 3D tissue printing methods. Expanding the
25 materials used in 3D printing to include living cells represents an opportunity with considerable
26 potential in biomedical research, especially if scaffolding, infusion, sensing and stimulatory
27 networks can be printed in as well. Human cell culture methods used at present are too primitive
28 to capture the molecular physiology of real human tissues, and model organisms such as mice
29 are both expensive per experiment and often misleading as models of human tissues. Further,
30 both present day human tissue culture and mouse models are too crude in terms of single cell
31 interrogation and control. 3D printed tissues, or even synthetic organoids, might offer a powerful
32 new technology for biomedicine that overcomes these limitations.

33 Nanomedicine is a particularly important area of materials science that could benefit from
34 NIH-DOE partnerships. Nanoparticles and other modes of nanomedicine show early promise in
35 lowering drug toxicity (including that of cancer therapeutics), enhancing drug biodistribution, and
36 retarding drug clearance. There is also great potential for targeting drugs to specific regions of
37 the body and for enhancing the synergy in combination therapies through greater control and
38 specificity in delivery.

1 Achieving the full potential of nanomedicine will require surmounting both the physiological
2 barriers to the delivery of nanoparticles and controlling nanoparticle homogeneity and
3 reproducibility. The former requires better understanding of the mechanisms of nanoparticle
4 targeting, the role of vasculature in diseased organs, the nature of non-cellular physiological
5 barriers such as mucins and extracellular matrix, and the impact of different sizes, shapes, charge
6 and chemical composition. For controlling the composition and shape of particles, the NCI's
7 Nanotechnology Characterization Lab, a cross-agency collaboration with NIST and the FDA,
8 exemplifies the translation of nanoparticle systems to patients by focusing on the standardization
9 and characterization of nanoparticle drug carriers. A broader and bolder approach would be for
10 NIH and DOE to partner in establishing a nanoparticle "foundry" that would build large libraries
11 of well-characterized nanoparticle and soft matter systems.

12 **E. Modeling and simulation**

13 For more than 70 years, the DOE has advanced the frontiers of high-fidelity simulation of
14 complex physical systems. It has developed numerical algorithms to combine multiple physical
15 phenomena (e.g., radiation and hydrodynamics) while bridging multiple 2D and 3D spatial and
16 temporal scales, methods to verify the codes and to validate such simulations against experiment
17 or observation, and ways to quantify the uncertainties in simulations. It has also advanced the
18 practicalities of such activities, from developing and fielding some of the world's most powerful
19 hardware and the software systems through using them to manage and visualize enormous
20 datasets. In addition, the DOE is the lead federal agency in the government's exascale computing
21 initiative.

22 These DOE capabilities were developed largely in service of the Department's nuclear
23 weapons mission. But over the decades they have also been fruitfully applied to basic sciences
24 (e.g., lattice gauge simulations, climate science, materials) and to energy-related problems (e.g.,
25 catalyst development, combustion, nuclear reactor operation, and the electrical grid). Such
26 simulations integrate our understanding at more fundamental levels, are descriptive of emergent
27 phenomena, and, at their best, are predictive of the consequences of interventions.

28 With the great growth of biomedical data and growing prowess in simulation, it is timely to
29 apply simulation technologies to biomedical problems. The "sequence-structure-function"
30 problem for proteins and the interaction of small molecules with biological macromolecules (i.e.,
31 drug design) are already prominent applications of simulation and are well-poised to benefit from
32 future advances in computational hardware. But successful simulations of other, more complex
33 biological systems are further off, in part because they pose novel challenges. For example, a
34 molecular-level description of the many functions of a single cell can be envisioned, but the
35 stochastic nature of the structure and interactions of relatively small numbers of molecules will
36 challenge deterministic methods. Similarly, the neuron-level description of cortex function is
37 today, at best, schematic. And, in line with earlier comments about the importance of data
38 sciences for improving patient care methodologies, simulation technologies can be used to model

1 strategies to improve the delivery of preventive measures and therapeutics, especially those
2 based on complex molecular diagnostics.

3 DOE's Hub for simulating nuclear reactors, The Consortium for Advances Simulation of LWRs
4 (CASL, <http://www.casl.gov/>) provides a recent example of how simulation can be applied to a
5 complex problem. At CASL, a collaboration of reactor operators, nuclear engineers, and
6 computer scientists has produced a validated simulation capability that improves the
7 performance of operating light water reactors. We can imagine one or several similar "grand
8 challenge" exercises in which DOE and NIH researchers collaborate to produce a predictive
9 simulation of biomedical relevance.

10 **IV. Opportunities for expanded NIH-DOE collaboration: Biomedical applications.**

11 Throughout the panel's deliberations, we were reminded of the many medical conditions that
12 might be better studied by collaboration between the NIH and the DOE, and we reviewed many
13 areas of biology in which NIH-DOE interactions have helped in the past or might help in the future
14 to make progress against diseases. In this section, we highlight a few of the specific domains of
15 biomedical research that show the greatest promise for closer working relationships between
16 NIH and DOE researchers.

17 **A. Cancer**

18 Cancer research has long been a scientific domain of interest to both the NIH and the DOE
19 because of the roles of radiation as a causative factor for some cancers (via mutation); as a means
20 of imaging tumors and their spread, as part of cancer diagnosis and of monitoring therapeutic
21 responses and cancer progression (see Section IV.D below); and as an important modality for
22 cancer treatment (through cell killing). More recently, the agencies have perceived many other
23 common interests in cancer research, most prominently as a result of the increasing use of DNA
24 sequencing and other genomic technologies to make accurate diagnoses and to choose
25 appropriate (especially, so-called "targeted") therapies. The large sets of genomic and clinical
26 data arising from the new approaches to diagnosis and therapy have created another obvious
27 common interest for two agencies: high-end data science. Two major initiatives of the current
28 Administration have provided further impetus for NIH-DOE collaborative work that would
29 advance both cancer research and cancer treatment: President Obama's Precision Medicine
30 Initiative, about one-third of which is specifically directed to oncology, and Vice-President Biden's
31 Cancer Moonshot program.

32 Cancer research now addresses a wide variety of questions about biological systems--
33 ranging from structural and cell biology to genetics and microbiology--and about medical
34 practices--including radiological diagnoses, detection of early cancers and measurements of
35 tumor response and recurrence, and improvements in drug delivery. Pursuit of these many
36 topics involves methodologies that are especially well studied in DOE laboratories. Among them
37 are nanotechnology and other materials sciences; printing organoids; radiation physics,
38 radiochemistry, and radiobiology; imaging methods that include X-ray diffraction and cryo-

1 electron microscopy to discern molecular shapes and interactions, as well as methods for
2 visualizing organs and whole organisms; and single cell-based methods for monitoring cell
3 physiology. Many of these capabilities at DOE labs offer powerful incentives for inter-agency
4 collaboration, but the two most prominent cancer-related opportunities for DOE-NIH
5 interactions lie in genomics and computational sciences.

6 As described earlier, the DOE played several important roles in the Human Genome Project
7 (HGP), which was managed largely by the NIH, and the HGP has laid the groundwork for current
8 studies of cancer cell genomes. Indeed, The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) project---which has
9 produced the largest available set of human genomic data, has transformed cancer research, and
10 is gradually altering clinical practice of oncology---would not have been possible without the HGP
11 and “next generation” sequencing methods. DOE’s engagement with DNA technologies
12 (reviewed in section III.C) might be a starting point for collaborative work to improve genome-
13 based diagnostics, especially as the use of those methods diffuses through the clinical oncology
14 community.

15 The resulting profusion of data about cancer genomes, with both somatic mutations and
16 germ line variations, is creating new demands for improved computational tools and for people
17 with the requisite skills. Those demands are only increasing in response to efforts to incorporate
18 heterogeneous clinical information into the evaluation of genomic data. Cancer advocacy groups
19 and Vice-President Biden’s Moonshot team are also calling for improved management and
20 analysis of such data, more widespread data sharing, and inter-operability of data sets and the
21 applications that manage them. The NCI has embarked on a series of efforts to enhance its
22 capacities to handle and learn from the rapidly enlarging data sets, with its pilot programs in
23 cloud computing and its recently launched Genomic Data Commons. As the Task Force heard at
24 its initial workshop, the head of the NCI’s bioinformatics program presented a proposal for a
25 potential collaborative program with DOE on exascale computing to model the course of cancer
26 treatment. These discussions have been strengthened, as we heard at the second workshop, by
27 further conversations between the Acting Director of the NCI and Secretary Moniz. It thus seems
28 likely that such a joint effort to develop cancer-oriented computational methods might be a
29 testing ground for some of the Task Force recommendations in Section V.

30 **B. Neurosciences**

31 Brain research is supported across many institutes of the NIH, but the opportunities for DOE
32 involvement are perhaps best appreciated in the context of the recent BRAIN Initiative. Launched
33 by President Obama in April, 2013, BRAIN has begun a concerted effort to improve the methods
34 available to brain research, both for experimental work and in the domain of theory and analysis.
35 The ultimate goal is to understand large circuits of nerve cells: What are all the types of neurons
36 involved? What is the structure and connectivity of the circuit? What are the signals flowing
37 through the circuit? How do these circuit functions relate to behavior and cognition?

1 DOE laboratories clearly have expertise that relates to these goals, as described in Section
 2 III.A above. Specific technologies of interest here include nano- and micro-fabrication, and
 3 simulation and data analysis. Modalities for possible collaboration include

- 4 1. Small-scale collaborations with individual NIH-funded PIs.
- 5 2. A large-scale project beyond the reach of individual groups.
- 6 3. Fabrication and dissemination of cutting-edge tools.
- 7 4. A user facility that offers access to cutting-edge technology.

8 Modalities (1) and (2) are being or have been pursued successfully already. The artificial retina
 9 project is an example of technology development that was far out of reach of university or
 10 medical school laboratories. It involved six DOE labs and four universities over a decade and
 11 ultimately led to an FDA-approved device for implantation in humans. Small-scale collaborations
 12 occur at multiple sites, for example between Vanessa Tolosa (LLNL) and Loren Frank (UCSF) to
 13 design novel polymer-based electrodes. Modalities 3 and 4 remain to be implemented but
 14 possibilities relevant to neuroscience include:

- 15 • **A foundry for new electrode designs:** Methods of electrical recording and stimulation continue
 16 to provide superb access to neural signals in the brain, with high temporal resolution, access to
 17 deep structures, and proven clinical applications. Advances in nanofabrication are opening
 18 opportunities for fabricating electrode devices. For example, one can now plausibly envision
 19 arrays of electrodes with substantially increased density and number of sites that displace less
 20 brain tissue but integrate optical and chemical channels for stimulation and recording. To date,
 21 there has been no systematic development or testing of such devices. Commercial suppliers have
 22 failed to innovate in this area because the market is too small, while academic centers typically
 23 deliver one-of-a-kind devices with new capabilities, publish the accomplishment, but then fail to
 24 develop it for general use.

25 DOE capabilities in nanofabrication and materials could be put to excellent use here in the form
 26 of a foundry that would play an enabling role comparable to that of the integrated circuits
 27 prototyping facility MOSIS in the semiconductor revolution. The foundry could fabricate many
 28 copies of a prototype in a single run and perform basic testing. It would then ship functioning
 29 copies to external collaborators for evaluation in animal studies. Successful designs would then
 30 be produced in large numbers and made available to the research community. That would
 31 transform studies of dynamic processing in the brain. At some future date 3D printing of artificial
 32 cortical tissue structures with built in sensing and stimulation networks could become mature
 33 enough for widespread use in basic neuroscience research, with the benefits discussed above.

- 34 • **A user facility for connectomes:** The term “connectome” refers to the complete anatomical
 35 circuit diagram for a piece of brain, detailing every nerve cell and their synaptic connections. To
 36 date this has been achieved for only a few circuits: the *C. elegans* worm, portions of the fly visual
 37 system, and the vertebrate retina. In each of those cases, the available connectome enabled
 38 discoveries and was a crucial guide to interpreting function in the same circuit. Unlike the
 39 genome, the connectome is not a singular data set to be acquired once and for all. Instead we
 40 anticipate a great demand for small connectomes: diverse brain regions, multiple versions with

1 specific cell types labeled or for comparisons among mutant animals, etc. A user facility would
2 facilitate acquisition of such data even as it researches new methods to analyze brain structure.

3 Three-dimensional electron microscopy currently offers the highest resolution. New electron
4 microscopes are being introduced based on tools from the semiconductor industry: One such
5 instrument has 61 electron beams that acquire data in parallel at previously unimaginable rates.
6 This kind of equipment is far out of reach of individual laboratories.

7 A user facility could provide broad access to such equipment and the capabilities it enables. The
8 primary output of the facility would be the 3D stacks of images. However, the facility would also
9 be involved in the subsequent challenges of data analysis, developing the technologies that would
10 allow users to reconstruct cell bodies, dendrites, axons, and synapses from the 3D image stacks.
11 The challenges in creating and operating such a facility would be well matched to DOE strengths.

12 In either of these modes (foundry or user facility) the lab would also act as a hub of activity,
13 training, and scientific exchange. Visitors from NIH-funded groups will learn about
14 instrumentation and get trained in data analysis. Conversely, lab investigators will learn about
15 the details of biological systems so as to better integrate their technical approaches.

16 **C. Microbiology and cell biology**

17 Existing and proposed genomic capabilities (e.g., DNA sequencing and synthesis, multi-scale
18 imaging, modeling, and others) allow us to envision routine understanding and reprogramming
19 of entire cells – not just heterologous systems within microbial or therapeutic immune cells, but
20 holistic cellular engineering at a full-genome scale. Properly developed, such capabilities would
21 enable both the discovery of useful biochemistry and cellular control systems, as well as the
22 deployment of cells for making medicines, materials, and fuels and for producing active
23 diagnostic and therapeutic agents.

24 Three recent projects provide a sense of both the challenges and opportunities: *(i)* a single-
25 investigator NIH study identified over 14,000 new biosynthetic gene clusters in genomes sampled
26 from the human microbiota. While follow-on studies suggest these clusters encode many
27 functional molecules, from new antibiotics to human immune system modulators, it is only
28 practical to test a few clusters at a time; *(ii)* another NIH-funded team realized the engineering
29 of a ~30 enzyme biosynthesis pathway enabling yeast to brew an essential medicine traditionally
30 sourced from plants, and *(iii)* a third group, after 16 years of DOE and DARPA support, revealed
31 that their best-studied minimal microbial genome still encodes over 100 genes of unknown
32 function.

33 We recommend that DOE and NIH researchers work together to develop an integrated
34 capability for moving directly from sequencing genomes, to high-throughput imaging,
35 metabolomics, and biochemistry at molecular to cellular scales, and then to recapitulation and
36 reprogramming of metabolism and cellular systems via synthesis of genes, pathways, and
37 genomes. We imagine integrating and operating such capabilities so as to make routine the
38 characterization of every molecule comprising any given cell. Realizing and operating such a

1 facility would uniquely require sustained input and expertise from DOE scientists and engineers
2 to help invent, develop, integrate, and operate the multitude of genome-scale capacities
3 required. But the payoff would be enormous – any organism or human cell type that the NIH,
4 DOE, or broader US research community needed to understand or make use of could be fully
5 characterized and made “engineerable” as quickly as possible.

6 **D. Imaging and radiobiology**

7 Imaging provides the capacity to measure and monitor biological processes in real time in
8 living organisms in their native physiological context. For over 70 years, the DOE has leveraged
9 unique capabilities in radiation chemistry, physics, engineering, computation, and radiation
10 detection to support basic research in the use of radiation applied to biomedicine broadly, and
11 imaging in particular. Indeed, the modern era of nuclear medicine is an outgrowth of the original
12 charge of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to exploit nuclear energy to promote human
13 health, morphing into the Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) of the DOE. In
14 the broadest sense, imaging research is also supported by many institutions across the NIH,
15 including a legacy of robust investment in cancer molecular imaging, a program funded by the
16 NCI. These have yielded a vigorous history of DOE-NIH collaborations in biomedical imaging,
17 radiotherapy and radiobiology.

18 The Task Force review included a broad overview of imaging, including examples in
19 synchrotron radiation technology to visualize protein structure; development and recent exciting
20 advances in cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), a form of transmission electron microscopy
21 wherein the sample is studied at liquid nitrogen temperatures to determine protein structure
22 and biological function; BRAIN imaging and the MR Brain Connectivity project; as well as
23 biomedical isotope production. Other areas of discussion touched on super-resolution optical
24 imaging, low dose radiobiology, and advanced computational analytics.

25 Based on the presentations, a particularly noteworthy example of bridges between DOE
26 (isotope production) and NIH (chemistry and imaging agents) focuses on applications in nuclear
27 medicine. DOE national labs have impressive capacities in producing medical isotopes useful in
28 nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. The Isotope Development and Production for Research and
29 Applications (IDPRA) subprogram of the Office of Nuclear Physics in the DOE Office of Science is
30 responsible for supplying stable and radioactive nuclei to a broad range of customers.⁹ At Oak
31 Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Isotope Program has efforts in isotope production,
32 research and development, material fabrication, and distribution. ORNL has pioneered many
33 radiochemical separation processes, and continues to develop new production techniques and
34 applications for isotopes. There are abundant established bridges between DOE (isotope
35 production) and NIH (radiochemistry and medical imaging applications) for positron emission
36 tomography (PET), single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), and radiotherapy. As
37 another example, a recent collaborative project involved studies of ²²⁹Th production reactions.

⁹ <http://science.energy.gov/np/research/idpra/>

1 This long-lived isotope is important as a precursor to ^{225}Ac and ^{213}Bi , which are relatively short-
2 lived alpha-emitters that are of great interest in alpha-radioimmunotherapy procedures in
3 medicine.¹⁰ There is also the possibility for further research in the development of theranostic
4 agents, compounds that combine the properties of diagnostic imaging and therapeutic agents in
5 a single platform.

6 Radiomics and imaging genomics (also termed radiogenomics) are relatively new evolving
7 fields within the imaging community.¹¹ Radiomics is the automated extraction of high, multi-
8 dimensional imaging features, not visible to the naked human eye, obtained from standard
9 medical images. Radiogenomics refers to the linkage of imaging features (which can be
10 qualitative, quantitative, or radiomic imaging features) to the underlying genomic composition
11 of the tumor or tissue. With ever increasing amounts of data and current efforts focused on
12 developing large multiscale high-computational platform capabilities, the merger of multiple
13 types of data such as clinical, imaging, genomic and other omic data is now possible, potentially
14 providing robust clinically-relevant associations and predictions that may ultimately enhance
15 patient outcomes. The vast amounts of genomic information provided by rapid next-generation
16 sequencing and other large-scale genomic technologies, as well as the ability to extract
17 thousands of radiomic features from conventionally-obtained medical imaging, have the
18 potential to allow for advanced diagnostics as well as to serve as predictive and prognostic
19 biomarkers. Research conducted in data science and data harmonization has been successfully
20 pursued at DOE labs and could be further advanced in biomedical imaging fields such as
21 radiomics. Opportunities in advanced image analysis and radiomics could combine the computing
22 power and computational expertise of DOE with advanced queries in NIH-sponsored biomedical
23 imaging across cancer, radiobiology, neurosciences, and cardiovascular disease. Convergent
24 teams of physical scientists and computational engineers could address areas of advanced
25 imaging analytics, artificial neural networks, and automated image segmentation and feature
26 extraction.

27 **E. Biodefense**

28 A vital national interest is the ability to anticipate, detect, and respond to biological threats,
29 whether natural or man-made. While neither the NIH nor DOE are lead agencies in these matters,
30 their biomedical underpinnings are clearly within the biomedical scope of the NIH and the DOE
31 national laboratories are involved through their work with other government agencies.

32 Essential capabilities are exploration of the nefarious potential offered by evolving
33 biotechnologies, an understanding of the signatures that a bioweapons program might present,
34 rapid and effective surveillance programs to detect the presence of a bioagent (whether natural
35 or man-made), a rapid assessment of the nature of the agent, rapid deployment of

¹⁰ [Hogle, S, Boll, RA, Murphy, K, Denton, D, Owens, A, Haverlock, TJ, Garland, M, Mirzadeh, S](#). Reactor production of thorium-229. [Appl Radiat Isot](#). 2016; 114:19-27

¹¹ Gillies, RJ, Kinahan, PE, Hricak, H. Radiomics: images are more than pictures, they are data. [Radiology](#) 2016; 278:563-577

1 countermeasures to the agent, and determination of origin. Clearly the NIH and DOE have much
2 to offer in this enterprise, either individually or in collaboration.

3 **V. Recommendations**

4 From the outset of this study, the Task Force members agreed that our goals were to seek
5 areas of current and emerging science that would benefit from collaboration between DOE and
6 NIH and to identify mechanisms by which such collaborative efforts might be facilitated. In
7 particular, we aimed to avoid being overly specific or directive about the kinds of cooperative
8 science that should be undertaken, reflecting the Task Force's conviction that collaborative work
9 proceeds most effectively through investigators working on specific problems at the "grass
10 roots." Agency policies and enlightened leadership must, first and foremost, promote such
11 activities. But there are also instances where user-facility or coherent multi-investigator efforts
12 would be optimal, in which case leadership must catalyze grass roots support for their definition
13 and inauguration.

14 That stance, together with our findings in Sections II-IV, our own knowledge of past inter-
15 agency collaborations. and our own research experiences leads us to make four broad
16 recommendations to improve the substance and mechanisms of DOE-NIH interactions in the
17 relatively near future that would also enhance the potential for even greater interaction in the
18 longer term. In particular, we recommend that DOE and NIH work together to:

19 **A. Define joint research programs in the most fertile areas of biomedical research and** 20 **applicable technologies.**

21 **Topic-oriented panels:** The DOE's Director of the Office of Science and the Office of the NIH
22 Director, including the Offices of Intramural and Extramural Research and the Division of Program
23 Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives should jointly charge working-level panels of
24 researchers from both communities to explore and document opportunities for increased
25 collaboration. Some of these panels will be problem-oriented, involving focused NIH researchers
26 and a diversity of DOE technologists, while others will be technology-oriented, involving
27 technology-focused DOE researchers and a diversity of NIH researchers. Problem-oriented topics
28 might include cancer, neuroscience or low-dose radiation biology, while technology-oriented
29 topics might include informatics, imaging, materials, sensors and instrumentation, or modeling
30 and simulation.

31 **Annual review:** The DOE Director of the Office of Science and the NIH Director's Office should
32 convene an annual review of the substance and process of interagency collaboration, thereby
33 providing regular guidance for promoting effective collaboration.

34 **B. Define and create organizational and funding mechanisms that bring diverse researchers** 35 **together and cross-train junior people.**

36 The mixing of people with diverse backgrounds and skills is a crucial part of more productively
37 bringing DOE technologies to bear on the biomedical problems addressed by the NIH. This is

1 particularly important for early-career researchers, who tend to be more catholic in their
2 interests and more agile technically. Mechanisms for such mixing that could be instituted quickly
3 and informally within current structures include:

- 4 • **Cross-agency assignments:** Immersion in the “other” culture is important. Sending a
5 DOE researcher to an NIH lab (or vice-versa) is an effective way of introducing
6 investigators, especially junior investigators, to the practices used in the partner
7 agency. Such stays should be multi-month in duration to allow the conception and
8 inauguration of a joint project, which can then be pursued remotely and/or through
9 repeated briefer visits.
- 10 • **Summer gatherings:** It is quite common in both DOE and NIH cultures for researchers
11 to gather for multiple weeks for a summer workshop focused on a particular problem
12 or technology. Training of researchers in specific techniques can be another goal of
13 such meetings. DOE and NIH program offices could work collaboratively to define,
14 encourage participation, and fund several such gatherings through existing resources.
- 15 • **NIH grant supplements:** Many NIH Institutes make liberal use of their authority to
16 rapidly issue supplementary funds to existing grants, contracts, or training awards;
17 such uses could be targeted specifically to support favorably reviewed proposals for
18 work by NIH-awardees in collaboration with DOE researchers. Such mechanisms are
19 attractive and valuable means to act on appealing proposals for collaborative work,
20 especially pilot projects that don’t require large sums of money.
- 21 • **Training programs:** More formal, jointly funded training programs (e.g., NIH T32-like),
22 perhaps initiated through the NIH Common Fund and Laboratory Directed Research
23 and Development (LDRD) funds at the DOE national laboratories, would take longer
24 to establish but could involve much more substantial funding. Such programs might
25 define a new pathway in “convergent post-doctoral training.” For instance, it could
26 be a sequential training experience wherein a career pathway is mapped to involve
27 an NIH-funded biomedical post-doctoral experience focused on biomedical queries
28 for perhaps 2-3 years, followed by a second post-doctoral experience in a quantitative
29 DOE lab; the convergence pathway could be inverted for an individual who starts in a
30 quantitative DOE lab. We expect that such cross-trained individuals would be very
31 attractive candidates for faculty or permanent laboratory positions.

32 **C. Define and secure funding for one or more joint research units and/or user facilities.**

33
34 “Big science” (structured multi-researcher activities) and user facilities are characteristic (but
35 not exclusive) features of DOE culture. The growing scale and complexity of biomedical
36 research suggests that these organizational modalities will become more frequently used in
37 addition to traditional single investigator activities. Indeed, the DOE light sources, the Human
38 Genome Project, NCBI, The Cancer Genome Atlas (at the NCI and the National Human Genome
39 Research Institute), many NIH clinical trials networks, and the RAS Initiative at the Fredrick

1 National Laboratory (under the NCI) are examples of larger scale activities that have been
2 productive.

3 We recommend that leaders of the NIH and the DOE routinely scan their research horizons for
4 situations in which the creation of organizations that serve multiple users or focus multi-
5 investigator teams would significantly accelerate progress towards specific goals. Beyond
6 securing broad community participation in the definition of such efforts, for example through the
7 mechanisms proposed in Recommendation A, effective implementation would demand
8 negotiation with the heads of participating agencies and possibly with other Administration
9 leaders and Members of Congress, as described in Recommendation D below.

10 **D. Better inform OMB, Congress, and the public about the importance of, and potential for, enhanced**
11 **interagency collaboration.**

12
13 Organizational and budgetary silos are endemic to the government. While they do help decision
14 makers understand and manage the work they oversee and keep agencies focused on their
15 mission, they inhibit the kind of collaboration between DOE and NIH that seems so promising
16 right now. We recommend that Task Force members and senior staff from the NIH and the DOE
17 make joint presentations to OMB and to the relevant Congressional authorization and
18 appropriations committees to inform them about the advantages and any obstacles to such
19 collaborations and their co-funding by the two agencies. An exploration of possible legal
20 mechanisms for joint funding would also be appropriate.

21 In making these four broad recommendations, we are not unaware of the challenges to
22 increasing cooperation between DOE and NIH. Simply making researchers and program
23 managers aware of the capabilities and needs across two vast agencies is a challenge. Measures
24 of research quality and impact are different in the two agencies. Moreover, the predominantly
25 mission-driven culture of the DOE, dominated by team science and by physics and engineering
26 will not mix easily with the disease-oriented culture of the NIH, dominated by grants to individual
27 investigators. However, it is encouraging that the cultures of each agency are not monolithic.
28 For example, DOE does (and will no doubt continue to) support some single-investigator work
29 and NIH does support multiuser capabilities like the National Center for Biotechnology
30 Information (NCBI, part of the National Library of Medicine) clinical trials, and genomics projects.
31 The recently announced national BRAIN and Cancer Moonshot initiatives provide valuable
32 incentives and venues for greater interagency cooperation. And then there will be the
33 understandable pressure to keep the individual agencies focused on their separate historical
34 missions. But failure to address these challenges will, in our opinion, leave far too many
35 opportunities unrealized in the national effort to accelerate progress in the biomedical sciences.

36

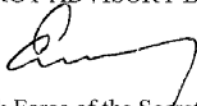
1 **Appendix A: Task Force Charge**

The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIR
SECRETARY OF ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

FROM: ERNEST J. MONIZ 

SUBJECT: Establishing a New Task Force of the Secretary of Energy
Advisory Board (SEAB) on Biomedical Sciences

I request that you form a new Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) Task Force to identify:

- New areas for research by DOE investigators that could, over time, significantly advance the pace of progress in biomedical sciences, and
- New mechanisms for conducting research in coordination with scientists from government laboratories (both DOE and the National Institutes of Health [NIH]), universities, academic medical centers, and industry. The Task Force is not expected to address possible DOE and NIH funding arrangements to support this initiative.

This Task Force would be comprised of SEAB members and experts from, as examples, universities, the NIH intramural program, DOE National Laboratories, and various components of industry.

Purpose of the Task Force: For more than 60 years, the DOE and its predecessor agencies have used their potent and unique scientific capabilities to advance several facets of the biomedical sciences. These include, most notably, radiochemistry and nuclear medicine; instrumentation for diagnostic and therapeutic radiology; structural biology; and recently, genomics, as highlighted by the human genome project.

Advances in science and technology — particularly genomics, mass spectroscopy, informatics, and various forms of imaging — have led to widespread recognition today that biomedical sciences are poised to seize new opportunities that could vastly improve the health of Americans and other peoples of the world while significantly lowering risks and costs over time, maintaining U.S. leadership in the life sciences, and providing new knowledge for applications in the commercial sector.

Areas particularly ripe for the application of new technologies include:

- (1) Precision medicine, in which diagnosis, prevention, and therapy are based on a description of disease at the molecular level;
- (2) Brain science that promises to advance understanding of normal circuitry and its aberrations in neurological and psychiatric diseases;
- (3) Bioinformatics for storage, retrieval, and analysis of enormous sets of molecular and structural data;



- (4) Near real time imaging, fusion, and processing of molecules, cells, and tissues;
- (5) New forms of therapy involving delivery and modification of genes and their functions; and
- (6) Reengineering of biological systems for better understanding of cells and organisms and for more effective analysis and control of many diseases.

DOE has core competencies that could greatly accelerate progress in these areas, including:

- Sensors and high speed data acquisition from many sensors
- Imaging devices operating at a wide range of scales
- Instruments and methods for observing and measuring the functions and dynamics of large biomolecules, including multi-molecular complexes
- Material sciences and nanotechnology
- Multi-scale modeling and simulation
- Exascale computing

The NIH has a long history of using a variety of mechanisms to promote biomedically relevant work at DOE laboratories, taking advantage of DOE's unique capabilities in many fields of science, including several of those mentioned above. Presently, the NIH sponsors or helps to support over 150 projects in DOE laboratories at an annual cost of over \$250 million. These activities result from direct collaborations between NIH-supported scientists and scientists at DOE laboratories, not from a top-down driven directive to cooperate.

Leaders at NIH and DOE have long recognized and publicly acknowledged the importance of such cooperation, and current leaders of both agencies want it to continue to prosper. Indeed, in October a joint DOE-NIH workshop was held to discuss the President's BRAIN initiative - a research effort into new ways to treat, prevent, and cure brain disorders - and seek ways in which the agencies might work together to achieve its goals.

Schedule: By September 2016, the Task Force should produce a report to identify new research areas for DOE in the area of biomedical sciences and proposals for DOE initiatives that would advance the Nation's progress in the health-related sciences. This report would be available to the public, Congress, and the current and next Administrations.

Liaisons to the Task Force: Sharlene Weatherwax, Associate Director, Biological & Environmental Research, Office of Science; and Dimitri Kusnezov, Chief Scientist and Senior Advisor.

Designated Federal Officer: Matthew Schaub, Deputy Director, Office of Secretarial Boards and Councils.

1 **Appendix B: Task Force member biographical sketches** (* denotes SEAB member)

2 **Steven E. Koonin* (Co-chair)** was appointed as the founding Director of NYU's Center for Urban Science and Progress
3 in April 2012. That consortium of academic, corporate, and government partners will pursue research and education
4 activities to develop and demonstrate informatics technologies for urban problems in the "living laboratory" of New
5 York City.

6 He previously served as the U.S. Department of Energy's second Senate-confirmed Under Secretary for Science from
7 May 19, 2009 through November 18, 2011. As Under Secretary for Science, Dr. Koonin functioned as the
8 Department's chief scientific officer, coordinating and overseeing research across the DOE. He led the preparation
9 of the Department's 2011 Strategic Plan and was the principal author of its Quadrennial Technology Review. Dr.
10 Koonin particularly championed research programs in High Performance Simulation, Exascale Computing, Inertial
11 Fusion Energy, and Greenhouse Gas Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification. He also provided technical counsel on
12 diverse nuclear security matters.

13 He joined the California Institute of Technology's faculty in 1975, was a research fellow at the Neils Bohr Institute
14 during 1976-1977, and was an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow during 1977-1979. He became a professor of
15 theoretical physics at Caltech in 1981 and served as Chairman of the Faculty from 1989-1991. Dr. Koonin was the
16 seventh provost of Caltech from 1995-2004. In that capacity, he was involved in identifying and recruiting 1/3 of the
17 Institute's professorial faculty and left an enduring legacy of academic and research initiatives in the biological,
18 physical, earth, and social sciences, as well as the planning and development of the Thirty-Meter Telescope project.

19 As the Chief Scientist at BP from 2004 to early 2009, Dr. Koonin developed the long-range technology strategy for
20 alternative and renewable energy sources. He managed the firm's university-based research programs and played
21 a central role in establishing the Energy Biosciences Institute at the University of California Berkeley, the Lawrence
22 Berkeley National Laboratory, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

23 Dr. Koonin is a member and past chair of the JASON Study Group, advising the U.S. Government on technical matters
24 of national security. He has served on numerous advisory committees for the Department of Energy, the National
25 Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense, including the Defense Science Board and the CNO's Executive
26 Panel. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of the American Physical Society, the
27 American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a former
28 member of the Trilateral Commission. In 1985, Dr. Koonin received the Humboldt Senior U.S. Scientist Award and,
29 in 1998 the Department of Energy's E.O. Lawrence Award for his "broad impact on nuclear many-body physics, on
30 astrophysics, and on a variety of related fields where sophisticated numerical methods are essential; and in
31 particular, for his breakthrough in nuclear shell model calculations centered on an ingenious method for dealing with
32 the huge matrices of heavy nuclei by using path integral methods combined with the Monte Carlo technique."
33

34 **Harold Varmus* (Co-chair)**, co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for studies of the genetic basis of cancer, joined the
35 Meyer Cancer Center of Weill Cornell Medical College as the Lewis Thomas University Professor of Medicine on April
36 1, 2015. He is also a senior associate member of the New York Genome Center. Prior to joining Meyer Cancer
37 Center, Dr. Varmus was the Director of the National Cancer Institute for five years. He was also the President of
38 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for 10 years and Director of the National Institutes of Health for six years.
39 A graduate of Amherst College and Harvard University in English literature and Columbia University in Medicine, he
40 trained at Columbia University Medical Center, the National Institutes of Health, and the University of California San
41 Francisco (UCSF), before becoming a member of the UCSF basic science faculty for over two decades. He is a member
42 of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine and is involved in several initiatives to
43 promote science and health in developing countries. The author of over 350 scientific papers and five books,
44 including a recent memoir titled *The Art and Politics of Science*, he was a co-chair of President Obama's Council of
45 Advisors on Science and Technology, a co-founder and Chairman of the Board of the Public Library of Science, and
46 chair of the Scientific Board of the Gates Foundation Grand Challenges in Global Health.
47

48 **Drew Endy** is the Palmer Faculty Scholar of Bioengineering at Stanford University (Stanford) and President of the
49 BioBricks Foundation (BBF). He is a voting member of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB)

1 and the National Research Council Committee on Science Technology and Law (CSTL); he serves as co-director of the
2 Joint Initiative for Metrology in Biology (JIMB), a partnership between Stanford and the National Institute of
3 Standards and Technology (NIST). In 2013, Professor Endy was recognized by the White House for his contributions
4 to open source biotechnologies. He is a co-founder (retired) of the international genetically engineered machines
5 competition (iGEM), a global competition now engaging ~4000 undergraduates annually. Professor Endy helped
6 develop and launch the new undergraduate majors in biological engineering at both the Massachusetts Institute of
7 Technology (MIT) and Stanford. He chaired the 2003 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) study
8 on synthetic biology and was a founding investigator of the National Science Foundation's Synthetic Biology
9 Engineering Research Center (SynBERC). His academic teams demonstrated the first rewritable non-volatile DNA
10 memory registers, amplifying genetic logic gates, and pioneered the refactoring of natural genomes. He is a co-
11 founder and director of Gen9, Inc., a high-throughput DNA construction company. Professor Endy earned a B.S. in
12 Civil Engineering from Lehigh University (Lehigh) in 1992, a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Lehigh in 1994,
13 and a Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering & Biotechnology from Dartmouth College in 1998.

14
15 **Stuart Feldman** is Head of Schmidt Sciences at The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fund for Strategic Innovation, where he
16 advises on a number of scientific activities, arranges grants, and plans new fellowship and engineering programs.
17 Feldman did his academic work in astrophysics and mathematics and earned his AB at Princeton and his PhD at MIT.
18 He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Mathematics by the University of Waterloo. He is former President of ACM
19 (Association for Computing Machinery) and former member of the board of directors of the AACSB (Association to
20 Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). He received the 2003 ACM Software System Award. He is a Fellow of the
21 IEEE, ACM, and AAAS. He serves on several diversity boards, university advisory boards, and government advisory
22 committees.

23 Feldman was a computer science researcher at AT&T Bell Labs (where he wrote Make and the first Fortran 77
24 compilers), a computer science research manager at Bell Communications Research (software engineering, as well
25 as driving several large systems), VP for Internet Strategy and VP for Computer Science Research at IBM Research,
26 and VP Engineering at Google (where he was responsible for the New York engineering office and oversaw a dozen
27 more in the Americas and Asia).

28
29 **Paula T. Hammond*** is the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and David H. Koch Chair Professor in
30 Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is a member of MIT's Koch Institute for
31 Integrative Cancer Research, the MIT Energy Initiative, and a founding member of the MIT Institute for Soldier
32 Nanotechnology. She has recently been named the new head of the Department of Chemical Engineering (ChemE).
33 She is the first woman and the first person of color appointed to the post. She also served as the Executive Officer
34 (Associate Chair) of the Chemical Engineering Department (2008-2011). Professor Paula Hammond was elected into
35 the 2013 Class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is also the recipient of the 2013 AIChE Charles M.
36 A. Stine Award, which is bestowed annually to a leading researcher in recognition of outstanding contributions to
37 the field of materials science and engineering, and the 2014 Alpha Chi Sigma Award for Chemical Engineering
38 Research. She was also selected to receive the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Teal Innovator Award in 2013.
39 Professor Paula T. Hammond has been listed in the prestigious Highly Cited Researchers 2014 list, published by
40 Thomson Reuters in the Materials Science category. This list contains the world's most influential researchers across
41 21 scientific disciplines based on highly cited papers in the 2002-2012 period. Prof. Hammond is also included in the
42 report: The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds 2014. Prof. Hammond serves as an Associate Editor of the
43 American Chemical Society journal, ACS Nano. She has published over 250 scientific papers and holds over 20 patents
44 based on her research at MIT. She was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Institute of
45 Biological and Medical Engineers, and the American Chemical Society Polymer Division. In 2010, she was named the
46 Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation.

47 Professor Hammond received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in
48 1984, and her M.S. from Georgia Tech in 1988 and earned her Ph.D. in 1993 from MIT.

1 **David Haussler** is the Scientific Director of the UC Santa Cruz Genomics Institute and Distinguished Professor
2 of Biomolecular Engineering at the University of California, Santa Cruz, He is also an Investigator for
3 Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Vice Chair for the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH),
4 Cofounder, Genome 10K Project and Scientific Co-Director, California Institute for Quantitative
5 Biosciences (QB3), University of California, Santa Cruz. Haussler develops statistical and algorithmic methods
6 to explore the molecular function, evolution and disease process in the human genome, by integrating comparative
7 and high-throughput genomics data to study gene structure, function, and regulation. As a collaborator on the
8 international Human Genome Project, his team posted the first publicly available computational assembly of the
9 human genome sequence on the Internet on July 7, 2000. They subsequently developed the UCSC Genome Browser,
10 a web-based tool that is used extensively in biomedical research and serves, along with the Ensembl platform,
11 virtually all large-scale vertebrate genomics projects, including NHGRI's ENCODE project, the 1000 Genomes Project,
12 and NCI's TCGA. In 2012, he developed the UCSC Cancer Genomics Hub, the first trusted partner to manage data for
13 all of the National Cancer Institute's major cancer genomics projects, and joined the steering committee of The
14 Cancer Genome Atlas Project. CGHub became the first large shared cancer genome database in the world, serving
15 to researchers more than 2 petabytes of cancer genomics data per month, on par with the entire output of the
16 National Center for Biotechnology Information. In 2013, he co-founded the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health,
17 an international organization with more than 400 member institutions from 40 countries dedicated to sharing
18 genomic information so scientists and clinicians can accelerate discoveries and develop new therapies. He co-leads
19 the Data Working Group with Richard Durbin. His team at UCSC is developing and implementing new, more effective
20 and more efficient methods to represent, exchange, store and analyze genome information. To bring these tools to
21 bear on a medical challenge of great significance to many of us, in 2014, his team launched the Treehouse Childhood
22 Cancer Project to enable international comparison of childhood cancer genomes. Building on Treehouse, in 2015,
23 the team won the prestigious California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine (CIAPM) grant competition,
24 launched by Gov. Brown. The CIAPM demonstration project, California Kids Cancer Comparison aims to identify new
25 treatment options for difficult-to-treat pediatric cancer patients through genome comparisons. The overall goal is
26 to enable international comparison of childhood cancer genomes, and to develop and share infrastructure to
27 support both research in and the clinical application of precision medicine.

28 Haussler is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow
29 of AAAS and AAI. He has received a number of awards, including the 2015 Dan David Prize, the 2011 Weldon
30 Memorial prize for application of mathematics and statistics to biology, 2009 ASHG Curt Stern Award in Human
31 Genetics, the 2008 Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award from the International Society for Computational
32 Biology, the 2006 Dickson Prize for Science from Carnegie Mellon University, and the 2003 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell
33 Award in Artificial Intelligence.

34 **Markus Meister** is the Anne P. and Benjamin F. Biaggini Professor of Biology at Caltech. Markus studies the function
35 of large brain circuits, with a focus on the visual and olfactory systems. Early in his career he pioneered the use of
36 multi-electrode arrays for parallel recording from many nerve cells. Applying this to the retina, in combination with
37 new approaches to data analysis, this helped reveal how much visual processing is accomplished already in the eye.
38 In recent years, Markus has been exploring neural function in the mammalian superior colliculus to understand the
39 next stage of visual processing. Markus studied physics at the Technische Universität München, Germany, then at
40 Caltech, where he received a Ph.D. After postdoctoral research at Stanford University he took a professorship at
41 Harvard University in 1991, where he worked until his return to Caltech in 2012. Meister was named a Pew Scholar
42 in 1993, won the 2009 Lawrence C. Katz Prize for Innovative Research in Neuroscience and the Golden Brain Award
43 for Vision and Brain Research from the Minerva Foundation. He serves on the advisory boards of research
44 organizations and foundations including the Allen Brain Institute, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Max
45 Planck Institute for Neurobiology, the Pew Scholars Selection Committee, the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, and
46 the McKnight Fund for Neuroscience.

1 **David Piwnica-Worms**, M.D., Ph.D., is Professor and Chair, Department of Cancer Systems Imaging, and Deputy
2 Head, Research Affairs, Division of Diagnostic Imaging at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He
3 earned his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University, received his medical and doctorate
4 degrees (Cell Physiology) as a Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) awardee at Duke University Medical School,
5 completed residency training in diagnostic radiology and a fellowship at the Brigham & Women's Hospital, followed
6 by his first faculty appointments at Harvard Medical School. For two decades, Dr. Piwnica-Worms was at Washington
7 University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he was Director of the BRIGHT Institute and the Molecular Imaging
8 Center, driving inter-disciplinary innovation in molecular imaging until 2013, when he was recruited to MDACC.

9 A pioneer and leader in the field of molecular imaging, Dr. Piwnica-Worms has created several innovative strategies
10 to visually capture and measure biological processes in living animals, model systems and humans at the molecular
11 and cellular level using remote imaging detection methods. Dr. Piwnica-Worms has focused on genetically-encoded
12 bioluminescent and radiotracer reporter systems for imaging signal transduction, protein-protein interactions, and
13 transcriptional regulation of gene expression at scales ranging from single cells to cell populations to live animals
14 and humans in vivo. He was an RSNA Scholar, an established investigator of the American Heart Association, a
15 founding member and former president of the Society for Molecular Imaging and is recipient of the Society for
16 Molecular Imaging Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Piwnica-Worms has been honored with a Distinguished
17 Alumnus Award from Duke University Medical School, the Gerald Dewey Dodd, Jr., Endowed Distinguished Chair in
18 Diagnostic Imaging, is a recipient of the Texas STARS Faculty Award, an Elected Fellow of the American Association
19 for the Advancement of Science and an Elected Member of the National Academy of Medicine.

20 **Martha Schlicher** serves as Mallinckrodt Pharmaceutical's Vice-President for Specialty Generics. Prior to joining
21 Mallinckrodt, Martha led Monsanto's bioenergy and sustainability efforts in the technology organization focused on
22 utilizing Monsanto's scientific expertise and capabilities to support the existing renewables industry, to develop
23 Monsanto's sweet sorghum and sugarcane product pipeline in Brazil and to identify and act upon new opportunities
24 to create value for growers in the field of renewables. Most notably Martha was the architect of Monsanto's
25 commitment to carbon neutral agricultural production. Martha has over 25 years of direct pharmaceutical,
26 agricultural and bioenergy industry experience from roles at Mallinckrodt, Monsanto, leadership of the National
27 Corn to Ethanol Research Center and as the head of Technology and Business Development for a London based
28 renewable company. Martha has held roles within Monsanto leading the Environmental and Regulatory Sciences
29 and Regulatory Policy Groups, the Ag Biotech Crop Teams and Strategy, and the US Western Corn Belt Commercial
30 Business.

31 Martha has a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Indiana University, a Ph.D. in Bio-organic Chemistry from the University
32 of Illinois and an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

33 Martha serves as a Trustee for the St. Louis Academy of Science, as a past-member of the United States Department
34 of Energy Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee, the International Center for Advanced
35 Renewable Energy Research at Washington University in St. Louis, the Department of Agricultural Economics at
36 University of Missouri - Columbia, and the National Corn Grower Association.

37

1 Appendix C: Workshop agendas and participants

2 Agendas for the Brooklyn and Berkeley workshops follow below. We are grateful for the
3 assistance of DOE's Corey Williams-Allen and Karen Gibson in operation of the task force.



SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences
New York University | Center for Urban Science and Progress
1 MetroTech Center, 19th Floor | Brooklyn, NY 11201

Meeting Participation by Invitation Only

March 10, 2016

Teleconference Number: 1-877-805-0965 | Participant Code: 1449536

Purpose: Outline the framework of current and past DOE-NIH collaborative efforts and key issues for action. Briefings cover imaging, materials, ultra-high performance computing and bioinformatics, instrumentation, and systems and synthesis.

Administrative Session (*Task Force Members Only*)

- 9:00 AM **Welcome and Review of Day:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus
- DOE Ethics Briefing: Susan Beard and Tina Hymer, DOE General Council
 - Introductions, Orientation, Review of Charge
 - Task Force Activities

General Sessions

- 10:00AM **Past and Current Collaborative Efforts between DOE-NIH**
- Human Genome Project: Ari Patrinos, U.S. Department of Energy
 - DOE beam lines: Sharlene Weatherwax, U.S. Department of Energy
 - BRAIN initiative: Markus Meister, California Institute of Technology
 - Computer modeling of cancer: Warren Kibbe, National Cancer Institute
- 12:00PM **Lunch**
- 12:30PM **Materials Session**
 Session Co-Chair: Paula Hammond*
- Justin Hanes, Johns Hopkins University
 - Angela Belcher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - Jennifer West, Duke University
 - Monica Moya, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- 2:30PM **Systems and Synthesis**
 Session Co-Chairs: Drew Endy* and Harold Varmus
- Peter Sorger, Harvard University
- 3:30PM **Break**
- 3:45PM **Imaging Session**
 Session Co-Chair: David Pivnicka-Worms
- Keith Hodgson, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
 - Bridget Carragher, New York Structural Biology Center
 - Rafael Yuste, Columbia University
 - David Dean, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- 5:45PM **Adjourn**
- 6:00PM **Dinner** (*Task Force Members Only*)

* Participating Remotely



SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences
New York University | Center for Urban Science and Progress
1 MetroTech Center, 19th Floor | Brooklyn, NY 11201

Meeting Participation by Invitation Only

March 11, 2016

Teleconference Number: 1-877-805-0965 | Participant Code: 1449536

Purpose: Outline the framework of current and past DOE-NIH collaborative efforts and key issues for action. Briefings cover imaging, materials, ultra-high performance computing and bioinformatics, instrumentation, and systems and synthesis.

Administrative Session (*Task Force Members Only*)

8:00 AM **Review of Previous Day:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus (Task Force Only)

General Sessions

8:30AM **Ultra-High Performance Computing and Bioinformatics Session**
 Session Co-Chairs: Stuart Feldman and David Haussler

- Rick Stevens, Argonne National Laboratory
- Kathy Yelick, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Folker Meyer, Argonne National Laboratory

10:00AM **Break**

10:15AM **Instrumentation**
 Session Co-Chairs: Markus Meister and Steven Koonin

- Gyorgy Buzsaki, New York University
- Alan Litke, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Loren Frank*, University of California, San Francisco

11:45AM **Lunch**

12:15PM **Concluding General Discussion:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus
 ▪ Assignments and plan for future workshop(s) and report

2:00PM **Adjourn**

* Participating Remotely



1
2
3 **SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences**
4 **New York University | Center for Urban Science and Progress**
5 **1 MetroTech Center, 19th Floor | Brooklyn, NY 11201**

6 **March 10-11, 2016**

7 **Meeting Participation by Invitation Only**

8 **Full Participants List**

9 **Task Force Members and DOE Staff**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Drew Endy, Stanford* | 7. David Piwnica-Worms, MD Anderson |
| 2. Stuart Feldman, Google (Retired) | 8. Martha Schlicher, Mallinckrodt
Pharmaceuticals* |
| 3. Paula Hammond, MIT* | 9. Harold Varmus, Weill Cornell |
| 4. David Haussler, UC Santa Cruz | 10. Corey Williams-Allen, DOE |
| 5. Steven Koonin, NYU | 11. Karen Gibson, DOE |
| 6. Markus Meister, CalTech | |

Invited Participants

1. Angela Belcher, MIT
2. Steve Binkley, DOE
3. Gyorgy Buzsaki, NYU
4. Bridget Carragher, New York Structural Biology Center
5. David Dean, Oak Ridge National Lab
6. Loren Frank, UC San Francisco*
7. Susan Gregurick, NIH
8. Justin Hanes, Johns Hopkins
9. Keith Hodgson, Stanford
10. Warren Kibbe, NIH
11. Dimitri Kusnezov, DOE
12. Alan Litke, UC Santa Cruz/CERN
13. Betty Mansfield, Oak Ridge National Lab
14. Folker Mayer, Argonne National Lab
15. Monica Moya, Livermore National Lab
16. Aristides Patrinos, DOE
17. Roderic Pettigrew, NIH
18. Dave Rakestraw, Livermore National Lab
19. Peter Sorger, Harvard
20. Rick Stevens, Argonne National Lab
21. Sharlene Weatherwax, DOE
22. Susan Weiss, NIH
23. Jennifer West, DUKE
24. Kathy Yelick, Berkeley National Lab
25. Rafael Yuste, Columbia

*** Participating Remotely**

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SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
One Cyclotron Road | Berkeley, CA 94720

Meeting Participation by Invitation Only

July 18, 2016

Teleconference Number: INSERT | Participant Code: INSERT

Purpose: Outline the framework of current and past DOE-NIH collaborative efforts and key issues for action.

Administrative Session (*Task Force Members Only*)

- 8:30 AM **Welcome and Review of Day:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus
- Review Task Force timeline, agenda, member focus assignments

General Sessions

- 9:00 AM **Laboratory Welcome**
- Michael Witherell, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (CONFIRMED)
- 9:05 AM **NIH Needs**
- Session Chair: Harold Varmus
- Overall Framing: Speaker TBD
 - Neuroscience: Walter Koroshetz, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (CONFIRMED)
 - Computation: Philip Bourne, National Institutes of Health (CONFIRMED)
- 10:35 AM **Break**
- 10:45 AM **Advanced Molecular and Cellular Technologies**
- Session Chair: Drew Endy
- Panel Discussion on DNA Synthesis and Sequencing Applications:
 - Drew Endy, Stanford University (CONFIRMED)
 - Eddy Rubin, Metabiota (CONFIRMED)
 - Jay Keasling, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (CONFIRMED)
 - Presentations on Single-Cell Biology:
 - X. Sunney Xie, Harvard University (CONFIRMED)
 - Aviv Regev*, Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (CONFIRMED)
- 12:30 PM **Break/Lunch**
- 1:15 PM **Computation and modeling (30 min each)**
- Session Co-Chairs: Stuart Feldman and David Haussler
- Patrick Riley, Google (CONFIRMED)
 - Dan Rokhsar, University of California, Berkeley (CONFIRMED)
- 2:15 PM **Break**

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1 of 3

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- 2:30 PM **Organizations and Mechanisms for DOE/NIH Collaboration**
Session Chair: Koonin
- Alex Lazelere, Council on Competitiveness (CONFIRMED)
 - Keith Yamamoto, University of California San Francisco (CONFIRMED)
 - Group Discussion
- 3:30 PM **Materials Science**
Session Chair: Martha Schlicher
- Mark Davis, California Institute of Technology (INVITED)
- 4:00 PM **Adjourn**
- Administrative Session** (*Task Force Members Only*)
- 4:00 PM **Discussion of the Day:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus
- 5:30 PM **Adjourn; Depart for Hotel**
- 6:30PM **Dinner** (*Task Force Members Only*)

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SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences

**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
1 Cyclotron Road | Berkeley, CA 94720**

Meeting Participation by Invitation Only

July 19, 2016

Teleconference Number: INSERT | Participant Code: INSERT

Purpose: Outline the framework of current and past DOE-NIH collaborative efforts and key issues for action.

Administrative Session (*Task Force Members Only*)

8:00 AM **Review of Previous Day:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus

General Sessions

- 8:30 AM **Materials Science Continued**
Session Chair: Martha Schlicher
- Ron Zuckermann, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (CONFIRMED)
- 9:30 AM **NIH Needs Continued**
Session Chair: Harold Varmus
- Cancer Needs: Douglas Lowy, National Cancer Institute (CONFIRMED)
- 10:15 AM **Break**
- 10:30 AM **Infectious Disease and Radiation**
Session Chair: Koonin
- David Relman, Stanford University (CONFIRMED)
 - Duane Lindner, Sandia National Laboratories (CONFIRMED)
 - Gayle Woloschak, Northwestern University (CONFIRMED)

12:00 PM **Adjourn**

Administrative Session (*Task Force Members Only*)

- 12:00 PM **Working lunch:** Steven Koonin and Harold Varmus
- Block outline of the report, writing assignments, report writing mechanics, future task force timeline and activities (meetings?, conference calls?); individual writing time

3:00 PM **Adjourn**

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3 of 3



**SEAB Task Force on Biomedical Sciences
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
ALS User Support Building (Building 15) | 2nd Floor, Conference Room 253
One Cyclotron Road | Berkeley, CA 94720**

July 18-19, 2016

Meeting Participation by Invitation Only

Full Participants List

Task Force Members and DOE Staff

1. Drew Endy, Stanford University
2. Stuart Feldman, Google (Retired)
3. David Haussler, UC Santa Cruz
4. Steven Kookin, NYU
5. Markus Mesiter, CalTech
6. David Piwnica-Worms, MD Anderson
7. Martha Schlicher, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
8. Harold Varmus, Weill Cornell
9. Corey Williams-Allen, DOE
10. Karen Gibson, DOE

Invited Participants

1. Teeb Al-Samarrai, DOE
2. Paul Alivisatos, UC Berkeley
3. Philip Bourne, NIH
4. Mark Davis, CalTech
5. Susan Gregurick, NIH
6. Jill Heemskerk, NIH
7. Jay Keasling, Berkeley Lab
8. Walter Koroshetz, NIH
9. Dimitri Kusnezov, DOE
10. Alex Lazelere, Council on Competitiveness
11. Duane Lindner, Sandia Lab
12. Douglas Lowy, NIH
13. Betty Mansfield, Oak Ridge National Lab
14. James Olds, NSF
15. Aristides Patrinos, DOE
16. David Rakestraw, Livermore National Lab
17. Aviv Regev, Broad Institute and MIT*
18. David Relman, Stanford University
19. Patrick Riley, Google
20. Dan Rokhsar, UC Berkeley

*** Participating Remotely**

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