

ASHBi

DISTINGUISHED SEMINAR

The UK vision for an Engineering Biology ecosystem – from Academia to Commercialisation

Lecturer: **Paul Freemont Ph.D.**
Professor, Imperial College London



Date: **Wednesday, 5 February 2025**

Time: **11:00 - 12:00**

Venue: **Conference Room**
B1F, Faculty of Medicine Bldg. B

Eligibility: **Academic Researchers and Students**

Register here



The UK government announced its national vision for Engineering Biology in December 2023 which set out a 10-year plan to harness the promise of EngBio technology innovation and economic growth. The plan was built upon earlier efforts of the Synthetic Biology Leadership Council which led to the first UK roadmap for synthetic biology in 2012 followed by an updated roadmap entitled Biodesign for the Bioeconomy in 2016. Through public funded investments over that period, the UK established a strong academic base. The most recent investments have established six research mission hubs focused on environmental biotechnology; microbial foods; advanced therapeutics; environmental processing and free-metal recovery; glycan biomanufacturing for health; addressing plastic pollution. In addition, a series of investigator-led mission awards have led to investments in a wide range of engineering biology application areas as well as foundational tool development. In addition, earlier investments established a series of Biofoundries distributed around the UK including the Edinburgh Genome Biofoundry specialising in DNA assembly and mammalian systems, Earlham Biofoundry specialising in plant synthetic biology and the London Biofoundry at Imperial College providing an end-to-end solution for many different applications areas and tool development as well as supporting start-up and small companies. In my talk, I will describe some of these current research developments and show how the academic discovery pipeline is being commercialised through public-funded infrastructure like biofoundries.

Hosted by Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (WPI-ASHBi)

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