

Charge to the MPS-AC Subcommittee on Synthetic Biology

A subcommittee of the MPS-AC is hereby formed and charged to study and provide recommendations to the MPS concerning activities involving synthetic biology.

Synthetic Biology has made great strides over the last decade. It has recently evolved in scope from a focus on top-down genetic modification to the point where detailed manipulation and bottom-up synthesis is not only possible, but practical for scale up. This has important implications for future chemical and materials science discovery as well as RD&D (Research, Development, and Deployment).

Considering the many efforts, for example see national reports by the UK and Germany, towards applying synthetic biology tools to the development of materials and more complex material systems - this MPS subcommittee is charged to explore the opportunity space and recommend both short and long-term strategies for MPS to accelerate the convergence of science and engineering communities working in materials with synthetic biology. The subcommittee is encouraged to include participation of experts as needed, and to prepare a white paper with short recommendations upon conclusion of work in a 6-12 month timeframe.

Recommendations will be presented at a future MPS-AC meeting.

This subcommittee will consist of a chair or co-chairs selected from the MPS-AC membership who will be responsible for calling together the committee of a size and composition that best suits this task.