

Introduction to the Proceedings of the Twelfth Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals

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At this point, commercial attention is largely focused on the application of biotechnology to the production of health care and other high value products. However, interest is growing in the use of biological processes to treat effluent streams and restore contaminated water and soil. Bioprocessing also shows promise to produce low cost fuels that can address mounting concerns about energy security, international trade, urban air pollution, and global climate change. Chemicals and materials can also be made by biologically-catalyzed reactions from renewable feedstocks that are available domestically.

This Twelfth Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals continues to provide an annual forum for researchers from industry, universities, and government laboratories to exchange information on recent developments in emerging bioprocessing technologies. As in the past, innovative processing concepts are stressed that are in the early stages of development. The meeting began with a session on Thermal, Chemical, and Biological Processing, followed by two sessions on Applied Biological Research. Next, topics in Bioengineering Research were presented, and a special session on Biotechnology, Bioengineering, and the Solution of Environmental Problems concluded the Twelfth Symposium. Both presentations and posters provided information exchange among meeting participants, and several discussion groups were organized to consider topics of interest to the meeting participants.

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Session Chairpersons and Cochairpersons

Session 1: Thermal, Chemical, and Biological Processing

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Session 2: Applied Biological Research I

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Session 3: Applied Biological Research II

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Session 4: Bioengineering Research

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Jack S. Watson, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

Session 5: Biotechnology, Bioengineering, and the Solution of Environmental Problems

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