

PROGRAM

DAY 1: AUGUST 26, 2025

Creature Comforts, 271 W Hancock Ave

5:00PM–7:00PM

Symposium Welcome Dinner

DAY 2: AUGUST 27, 2025

Special Collections Library – Exhibition Hallway

8:00AM–8:45AM

Check In/Breakfast

8:45AM–9:00AM

Opening Remarks

*Dr. Anna Stenport, Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, UGA
Dr Harshavardhan Thippareddi, CAES Associate Dean for Research, UGA*

Special Collections Library – Room 285

Session 1: Engineering Regulation: Single Genes to Multi-Gene Networks

9:00AM–9:30AM

TBA

Dr. Gözde Demirer, Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology

9:30AM–9:45AM

TBA

Dr. Wayne Parrott, Institute for Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics, University of Georgia

9:45AM–10:00AM

TBA

Dr. Brad Nelms, Plant Biology, University of Georgia

10:00AM–10:15AM

TBA

Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins, Horticulture, University of Georgia

10:15AM–10:30AM

Break

(Day 2 continued on next page)

PROGRAM

(continued) DAY 2: AUGUST 27, 2025

Special Collections Library – Room 285

10:30AM–11:00AM	TBA <i>Dr. Sonali Quantius, Computational Biology, Inari</i>
11:00AM–11:15AM	TBA <i>Dr. Kelly Dawe, Plant Biology, University of Georgia</i>
11:15AM–11:30AM	TBA <i>Dr. Bob Schmitz, Genetics, University of Georgia</i>
11:30AM–12:00PM	Trainee Lightning Talks

Special Collections Library – Exhibition Hallway

12:00PM–1:30PM	Networking Lunch
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Special Collections Library – Room 285

Session 2: Functional Molecules and Metabolisms

1:30PM–2:00PM	TBA <i>Dr. Wolfgang Busch, Salk Institute for Biological Sciences</i>
2:00PM–2:15PM	TBA <i>Dr. CJ Tsai, Warnell School of Forestry, University of Georgia</i>
2:15PM–2:30PM	TBA <i>Jianli Zhang, Biosynthetic Engineering and Biocatalysis Laboratory (BEBL), University of Georgia</i>
2:30PM–2:45PM	Break

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PROGRAM

(continued) DAY 2: AUGUST 27, 2025

Special Collections Library – Room 285

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| 2:45PM–3:15PM | TBA
<i>Dr. Ryan Nett, Molecular Cell Biology, Harvard University</i> |
| 3:15PM–3:30PM | TBA
<i>Dr. Chenxin Li, Center for Applied Genetic Technologies, University of Georgia</i> |
| 3:30PM–3:45PM | TBA
<i>Dr. Bree Urbanowicz, Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia</i> |
| 3:45PM–4:15PM | Panel Discussion: Innovating Bioproducts–Food, Feed, Fuel, Fibers & Beyond
<i>Moderator: Dr. Anumantha Kanthasamy, University of Georgia</i> |

Special Collections Library – Exhibition Hallway

4:15PM – 5:00PM **Student Poster Setup**

Special Collections Library – Room 285

5:00PM – 7:00PM **Dinner**

Special Collections Library – Exhibition Hallway

7:00PM – 9:00PM **Student Poster Competition and Evening Social**

(Day 3 begins on next page)

PROGRAM

DAY 3: AUGUST 28, 2025

Special Collections Library – Exhibition Hallway

8:00AM–9:00AM **Breakfast**

Special Collections Library – Room 285

Session 3: Designing Organism–Environment Interactions and Resiliency

8:45AM–9:15AM	TBA <i>Dr. Yumin Tao, Chief Science Officer, Living Carbon</i>
9:15AM–9:30AM	TBA <i>Dr. Robin Buell, Crop and Soil Sciences, University of Georgia</i>
9:30AM–9:45AM	TBA <i>TBA</i>
9:45AM–10:00AM	Coffee Break
10:00AM–10:30AM	Directed evolution of plant proteins for broad-spectrum disease resistance <i>Dr. Ellen Rim, University of California-Davis</i>
10:30AM–10:45AM	TBA <i>Dr. Melissa Mitchum, Plant Pathology, University of Georgia</i>
10:45AM–11:15AM	TBA <i>Dr. Yasuo Yoshikuni, Joint Genome Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, U.S. Department of Energy</i>
11:15AM–11:45AM	Panel Discussion: Emerging Global Challenges & Synthetic Biology Solutions <i>Moderator: Dr. Marshall Shepard, University of Georgia</i>
11:45AM–12:00PM	Concluding Remarks