

Michelle Miller

From: Marine Bio-Technologies Center of Innovation (MBCOI) <mmiller@mbcoi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 11:19 AM
To: mmiller@mbcoi.net
Subject: Happy New Year from MBCOI - Your Nexus Partner Advancing the Blue Economy

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**A Nexus for Marine Biotechnology
Supporting the Blue Economy**

JANUARY 2016

REFLECTING ON MBCOI'S MANY ACHIEVEMENTS

MBCOI continues to grow as the **NEXUS** for marine biotechnology. We have successfully connected our stakeholders across many sectors including the academic community, government agencies, economic development organizations, entrepreneurs, and small and large businesses (Further details of our accomplishments can be found [here](#)).

BioMarine Business Convention - First time in the US!

The international 2015 BioMarine Business Convention attracted top level executives representing industry, government, and academic institutions from 19 countries to North Carolina. The impact of the convention on NC's economy will continue to be realized over many years as the outcomes of the networking opportunities come to fruition. Highlights included:

- The University of North Carolina Wilmington sponsored a Business & Innovation Tour where approximately 50 delegates toured aquaculture facilities, shellfish hatcheries, and the public-private [MARBIONC](#) building at UNCW CREST Research Park.
- BioMarineTV streamed keynote addresses, CEO interviews, workshops, and panel discussions live during the course of the convention to an international audience of as many as 65,000 viewers.
- The Investment Pitch sessions gave 15 companies (5 from North Carolina) an opportunity to present their business models to delegates.
- The 1:1 Partnering meetings resulted in 285 total meeting requests from 99

delegates.

- MBCOI co-hosted an international delegation to Carteret County, NC for a tour of marine biotechnology and aquaculture facilities in Morehead City and Beaufort.

Dr. John W. Hardin, Executive Director, OSTI, NC Dept. of Commerce was present to formally hand over the North Carolina flag to Norway, the hosts of BioMarine 2016, from 19-21 October, in Oslo, Norway.



Photo credit: BioMarine Organization

Click [here](#) to see photos, interviews, and more.

MBCOI IN 2016: FATHOMING THE OPPORTUNITIES

We will continue to expand our Nexus model and mission of bringing together key decision makers in the marine bio-resources sectors. We will be strengthening our existing partnerships, and fostering new collaborations by **Fathoming** the many **Opportunities** available to our stakeholders, especially in [aquaculture](#) and [genomics](#).

Aquaculture - the fastest-growing sector of animal food production across the globe

The growth in this sector has outpaced combined growth rates of poultry and livestock by three times over the past 40 years. In 2015 MBCOI conducted an assessment of North Carolina's aquaculture assets.

Based a number of different analyses conducted by MBCOI and our partners, we believe that NC has the potential to take a leadership role in developing new businesses and innovations for the aquaculture industry. With a combination of leading research universities, seafood and agriculture history, and biotechnology businesses throughout the state, the fundamentals are in place for NC organizations and individuals to make a lasting impact in this industry.

Genomic Fingerprinting - MBCOI has an exclusive partnership to provide access to a novel Genomics, bioinformatics and motif Fingerprinting technology (GF Platform)

- Unprecedented **Speed**: processes data at speeds which are unobtainable by traditional heuristic methods, thereby affording analytical scale and timelines that are impractical with other methods.
- Unparalleled **Accuracy**: unambiguous assignment of genetic sequences (motifs), whereas traditional genomic analysis tools exhibit false positive and negative rates as high as 80% and 25%, respectively.
- Discovers "**unknown**" DNA **Sequences**: compares short DNA sequences against the entire (pre-established) motifs database to generate greater insight into unknown yet potentially important DNA sequences, which may be overlooked using traditional processing methods.
- Easily **Scalable**: not limited by the size or quantity of genomic data to be processed.

- DOD-quality **Data Security**: used for evaluating pathogens and potential bio-weapon samples for the US Department of Defense and Homeland Security, indicating compliance with highly secure data protection protocols.

New XPRIZE will map the world's oceans

Benjamin Bathke Globe Correspondent, December 14, 2015

After a promising ending to the Paris climate talks, the XPRIZE Foundation is announcing its latest competition, the [Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE](#).

Following in the footsteps of the \$10 million Ansari XPRIZE and the ongoing \$30 million Google Lunar XPRIZE, the new \$7 million competition wants to explore the earth's last frontier to find sources of pollution and make medical discoveries. The three-year competition, the foundation's 12th, is the third of five prizes part of its 10-year Ocean Initiative. The competition officially launched in December at the American Geophysical Union fall meeting.

XPRIZE, a 20-year-old nonprofit whose board members include Elon Musk, Arianna Huffington, and Larry Page, tries to solve major global challenges by creating and managing large-scale incentive competitions. To date, more than \$30 million in prize money has been awarded, although the six active competitions (including the Ocean Discovery XPRIZE) add up to roughly \$90 million.

SAVE THE DATE

- NC [Aquaculture](#) Association Meeting, 12-13 February, 2016, New Bern, NC.
- [CED](#) Life Science Conference, 1-2 March, 2016, Raleigh Convention Center, NC.
- MBCOI is proud to be a Sponsor for the Marine Natural Products Gordon Research Conference ([GRC](#)), Ventura, California, March 6-11, 2016. Register early - the official deadline is February 7 - but the conference is filling up fast.
- [BioMarine](#) Business Convention, 19-21 October, 2016, Oslo, Norway.

FUNDING & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

- **Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET**. The forthcoming second transnational joint call for research projects within the framework of ERA-MarineBiotech aims to stimulate joint European research and development activities in marine biotechnology. Multilateral research projects under the topic "**Bioactive molecules from the marine environment - Biodiscovery**" should be related to valorization of bioactive molecules from the marine environment. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Horizon 2020 Call**: BGT-01-2016: "**Large-scale algae biomass integrated biorefineries**." Contact Dr. Bridget Breen, Scientific Co-Ordinator bridget.breen@lit.ie at Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre (ABC) in Ireland.

***We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016,
and look forward to working with you.***

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