Announcing the First Annual BARC-UMD Fall Symposium—2011

Trends in Agriculture

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/fallSymposium2011>

Thursday, October 20th 2011

We are pleased to announce the upcoming BARC and UMD joint Symposium Series that we are calling the “Annual BARC-UMD Fall Symposium”. It is the goal of the Symposium series to bring together regional scientists for the purpose to enhance collaborations and cross-campus interactions. Our first symposium in the series will be held on Thursday, October 20th 2011, Patuxent Research Facility on Powder Mill Road. The theme “Trends in Agriculture” reflects a program that spans the wide view of agriculture and integrates molecular technologies as they feed into applications for agricultural industries. Please refer to the web site at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/fallSymposium2011> for detailed information about the Symposium.

We are pleased to have attracted an internationally recognized platform of speakers, who will provide exciting and potentially controversial presentations designed to spur discussion and target key issues facing agriculture, broadly defined and including basic biology, engineering, and many interdisciplinary research approaches and applications.

**Dr. Lynn Margulis -** University of Massachusetts - Department of Geosciences,

**Dr. Wes Jackson** - The Land Institute, Salina, KA

**Dr. Robert M. Goodman** - Executive Dean, Rutgers University

**Dr. Steven Salzberg -** Johns Hopkins University - Institute of Genetic Medicine & Department of Biostatistics and University of Maryland - Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

Our UM and BARC researchers are invited to participate in poster presentations ([see web site](http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=22013)), with the meeting culminating in a stimulating round table discussion with the four speakers in order to elaborate on topics raised earlier in the day.

BARC has held themed symposia in the past. Copies of the published proceedings of these meetings are available at the NAL. This new series of Symposiums will follow a similar format, with these years’ presentations to be video-archived and the option for poster presentations to be made available on the web. A slight variation in this symposium is geared to match the changing times. Due to shrinking budgets it is our hope that interactions at venues, such as this symposium will enable us to more effectively exploit our many mutual interests and more readily position ourselves to obtain outside funding for small lab-lab projects or larger Institution-Institution initiatives. It is our intent to hold a workshop in the weeks following the symposium to bring together those scientists with sufficient mutual ground to discuss joint funding opportunities and expand those interests into concrete proposals (for upcoming NIFA and AFRI grant application deadlines).

There will be a modest breakfast and lunch served and overflow parking/shuttle bus available as needed. The Patuxent facility only hosts ~200 attendees and parks only 100 cars. Registration fee (to guarantee no overbooking) will be $25 for faculty level and $15 for Fellows or Grad students. Online fee collection is available via PayPal and supported by Friends of Agriculture-Beltsville (FAR-B). Abstract submission and registration are available on the website above on a first come first served basis. [Register NOW!](http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=22029)

On Behalf of the Organizing Committee, please forward to other interested parties.

We look forward to seeing you in October.