



Vijay Singh, IBRL, UIUC

Dr. Vijay Singh is a Founder Professor in Grainger College of Engineering, Distinguished Professor of Bioprocessing in the college of ACES, Executive Director of Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Deputy Director of the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation. His research focuses on the development of bioprocessing technologies for corn/biomass to ethanol, advanced biofuels, food and industrial products.



Brian Jacobson, IBRL, UIUC

Brian Jacobson joined IBRL in February 2012 and is responsible for management of the IBRL, FSHN-PPP, and associated programs. He oversees the five technical departments (Fermentation, Downstream Processing, Food Processing, Laboratory, and Operations & Safety) and staff for these areas. In addition, his team is responsible for scheduling, facility & equipment maintenance, budgeting, and interaction with the HR and other business functions of the University.



Matt Stasiewicz, FSHN, UIUC

Dr. Stasiewicz is an Associate Professor of Applied Food Safety in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition UIUC. His work uses risk assessment and improved data analytics to advance food safety microbiology. At MSU he earned both a B.S. in Biosystems Engineering, focusing on food process engineering, and a B.A. in Philosophy, focusing on ethics. At Cornell he earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in food microbiology, working on risk analysis.



Marissa Nyland, IBRL, UIUC

Marissa Nyland joined IBRL in January 2022 as a member of the fermentation team. In February of 2024 she was promoted to the Assistant Director of Operations & Safety to manage safety programs, oversee construction projects, and ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of the pilot plant. She has a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Previously, Marissa worked as a chemist and nuclear equipment operator at Clinton Power Station and a technology transfer specialist at a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility.



Johannes Kung, Boston Bioprocess

Johannes is an expert in bioprocess development & process optimization of both, upstream and downstream unit operations. He holds a PhD in biochemistry and Masters in Biology with focus on microbiology, cell biology & organic chemistry. His experience from over 13 years work experience post-graduation include positions in strain development, protein expression & purification at both pharmaceutical & food development companies like Motif FoodWorks and Evelo Biosciences. His passion for working at a CDMO led him to join Boston Bioprocess in early 2023 as Head of Bioprocess to build an efficient, knowledgeable & devoted team to help bio-ingredient companies bring their best process to production scale.



Michael Tai, Boston Bioprocess

Michael is a bioprocess business leader that focuses on scaling up fermentation lab technology into economical commercialization. He has a PhD in Biological Systems Engineering, 6 years experience at ADM across R&D and production, and 2 years at Motif FoodWorks as Head of Bioprocess, developed heme bovine myoglobin bioprocess and successfully scaled up to metric ton level production. Michael co-founded Boston Bioprocess Inc. in 2022 as a scale up platform to help bio-ingredient companies develop and scale up their bioprocesses to get into commercial manufacture.



Michael McCutchen, Invert Bio

Michael McCutchen is a Boston based Product Manager at Invert, a software company focused on accelerating biomanufacturing through data management, analysis, and experimental coordination. He focuses on strategy and implementation for productized system integrations, including turnkey solutions for capturing and contextualizing data from bioreactors, LIMSs, and other equipment/software. Prior to Invert, Michael was a Senior Engineer at Resilience where he led a team of engineers to build digitally-accelerated biomanufacturing platforms. Michael earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park.



Richard Mathies, Alfa Laval

Richard Mathies, BS, ChE is a Business Development Manager at Alfa Laval. He has 30 years of practical engineering and sales experience helping customers solve separation related problems. Primarily focused on continuous centrifugation in Life Sciences applications and industries - Biotechnology, Industrial Fermentation but also in Brewery and Specialty Chemicals. In Biotechnology; mammalian and microbial cell separation is of particular focus.



Antoine Charbonneau, *Applexion*

Antoine Charbonneau is Process & Sales Manager for the Applexion American team, based in Denver. He has been working for Applexion for more than 6 years, specializing in various markets including food, functional ingredient and bio industries (fermentation) activities. Prior to that, he worked for several years as Process Engineer in Shanghai, China where he designed and engineered number of projects in the field of biotech and food & beverage, either for complete turnkey plants, or specific purification process units. He also published scientific articles in international reviews such as the Sugar Journal.



Sarah Al-Roubaie, *Dedert*

Sarah Al-Roubaie is a Key Account Manager at Dedert Corporation with a background in chemical / process engineering. She has expertise in drying and evaporating technologies. Her experience includes process modeling, equipment design and sizing, troubleshooting, project execution, and customer relations. She is originally from Montréal, Canada and attended McGill University where she earned a Master's of Engineering in Chemical Engineering. She has worked globally in Canada, the UK, the US, and now calls Denmark home. When she is not working, she enjoys nature walks and trying new cafés and restaurants.



Daniel Reyna, *Dedert*

Daniel R. Reyna is a Technical Sales Engineer at Dedert Corporation. He has been working at Dedert Corporation for two years. He started with drying technology and has since added evaporators to his repertoire. He is from the Chicago suburbs and attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana where he studied Chemical Engineering. When Daniel is not in the office, he is most likely traveling internationally or spending time with friends and family.



Jason Bell, *SmartFlow Technologies*

With a career dedicated to biotechnology innovation, Jason Bell, Chief Application Scientist at SmartFlow Technologies, is deeply engaged in advancing precision fermentation. At the heart of his work lies the optimization of precision fermentation techniques to align with SmartFlow Technologies' mission to Concentrate Nature's Bioactivity™ through efficient cell mass harvesting. As SmartFlow continues to innovate in precision fermentation and cell mass harvesting under Jason's leadership, the vision of a greener future for bioprocessing becomes increasingly achievable.



Phillip Crawford, *Synonym*

Phillip is the Associate Director of Project Engineering at Synonym & has 10 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical & industrial fermentation industries. Before Synonym, he worked at C16 Biosciences leading the tech transfer & startup of their first microbial oil production facility & worked at Novavax designing a facility for COVID-19 vaccine production. Early in his career, he worked at Genentech manufacturing biopharmaceuticals & managing equipment improvement projects & at Impossible Foods developing the soy leghemoglobin recovery process & increasing heme commercial production capacity. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and PMP.



April Hoffart, *ADM*

April Hoffart is the Sr. Modeling Capability Manager at ADM in the Science & Technology division, where she leads a team of engineers and student interns in building computer simulations to help optimize existing processes and to bring to light the value and risk potentials for new technology development. She has over 18 years of experience in the food and beverage industry, and has held a variety of roles in production, quality assurance, process development, and project management and R&D. She is a graduate of the University of North Dakota, where she earned a B.A. in Psychology, a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, and a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering.



David Ziskind, *Stantec*

As a strategic leader in the food manufacturing sector, David has a client-focused and solutions-oriented approach that centers on manufacturing scale-up, risk management, and strategic planning. He serves as the Market Lead for Food & Beverage. Passionate about the future of food, he works with precision fermentation, cultivated meat, other food tech, food innovation, and alternative protein solutions. He brings engineering, project management, and leadership expertise with cross-functional teams to food innovation capital projects, helping companies sustainably solve their manufacturing infrastructure challenges.



Sam Rad, *Life Foundry*

Sam is the co-founder of LifeFoundry, which he created with the intent to transform the paradigm of R&D biotechnology. LifeFoundry has done just that with D.A.R.W.In, which facilitates protein engineering, metabolic pathway construction, large-scale genome optimization, etc. The company currently has over 45 members and 20,000 sq. ft. of facilities and uses that space to collaborate with customers across animal feed, personal care, agriculture, and pharmaceutical. Before founding LifeFoundry, Sam earned his PhD at the University of Illinois. As part of his thesis, he developed various computational tools to accelerate metabolic engineering approaches. This success led him to a profound career during which him and his colleagues have developed iBioFab, a fully automated and highly versatile robotic system for synthetic biology, as well as a series of high throughput molecular biology methods.