

# The Marriage of Biology and Engineering—Now Preparing North Alabama for a Sea Change of Opportunity

A joint meeting at UAHuntsville of PMI-NAC with the Alabama Partnership for Biotechnology Research

**Date:** May 20, 2010 (Thursday Evening)

**Time:** 5:30 – 8:00 PM

**PDU:** 2

**Venue:** UAHuntsville's Chan Auditorium

**Speaker:** Andrew Hessel, Bioinformatics/Biotechnology Co-Chair, Singularity University

**Cost:** \$10 includes vegetarian meal in memory of UAHuntsville's Dr. Gopi Podila of PBR

Register at <http://northalabamapmi.org>, choose **Registration**

The social and economic impact of the information technology industry is staggering, having revolutionized our society. Synthetic biology is the marriage of the engineering and software development skills possessed by local industry with biology. Its nature and work, strikingly similar to Information Technology (IT), is predicted by some to have an even greater potential impact on our daily lives and economy. Andrew Hessel has become a leading spokesman for this phenomenon, traveling extensively with a unique understanding of not only the technology involved, but also the practical business and investment aspects.

Certain to follow will be paradigm changes in the treatment of disease, cleanup of the environment, bioterrorism, defense and much more. How will your organization and career be affected, and what are the opportunities? How can you, as project managers, prepare yourself and your workforce? Where are the global "hot spots" for the technology and what are they doing? What's it like from a management standpoint at such a threshold in time?

To learn more about synthetic biology and its future possibilities, visit the following links.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niQ0kkgPxJk> (an introduction to synthetic biology)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HeQlrtUOu4> (on the future of synthetic biology)

I- 565 East to Exit 15 (Sparkman Drive). Go to Sparkman Drive stoplight, and then turn LEFT onto Sparkman Drive. Go through five stop lights to Ben Graves Drive. Turn RIGHT onto Ben Graves Drive, traveling around the loop. Chan Auditorium is in the fourth building on the left. Parking lot is in front of the building.

## About Andrew Hessel: Bioinformatics/Biotechnology Co-Chair, Singularity University

Andrew Hessel, MSc, iGEM Program Development, Alberta Ingenuity Fund, is a consulting biologist and author interested in synthetic biology and open source biology. DNA is a programming language that scientists have been working to reverse engineer with increasing success. Synthetic biology allows forward engineering, permitting scientists to write code de novo and allowing logical, fully understandable evolution of biological outputs ranging from single proteins to, eventually, synthetic cells and synthetic organisms.



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