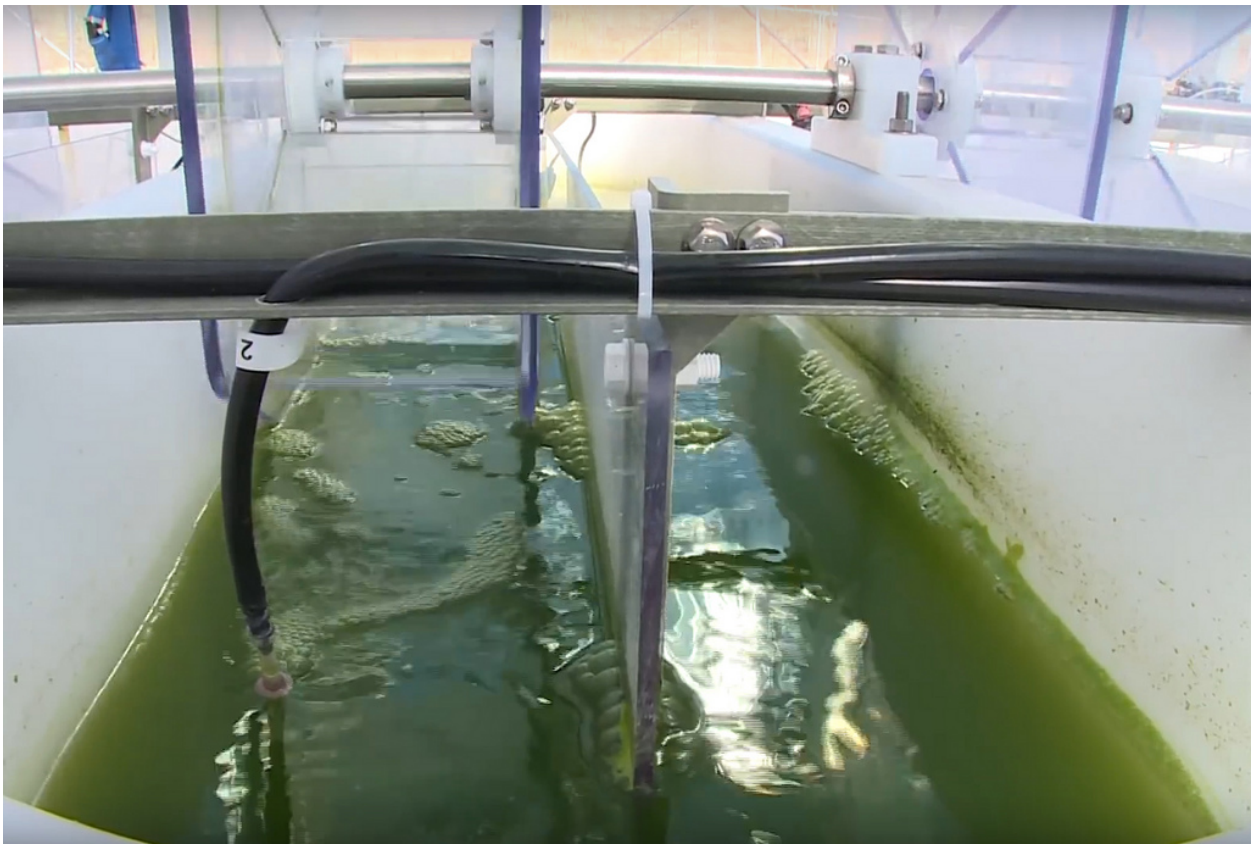
Frontiers in Science talks explore new strategies to improve photosynthesis, increase energy yields

December 6, 2015



First talk is Monday, Dec. 7 in Albuquerque

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Dec. 3, 2015—Los Alamos National Laboratory molecular biologist Richard Sayre discusses how improving photosynthetic efficiency may result in substantial increases in crop yields during two Frontiers in Science lectures titled *"Hacking Photosynthesis: Growing Plants to Power Our Engines and Feed the World"* beginning Dec. 7 in Albuquerque.

"Photosynthesis uses light from the sun and carbon dioxide from the air to make sugars that can be converted into energy-rich biofuels," said Sayre, of the Laboratory's Bioenergy and Biome Science Group. "Plants, however, transform less than five percent of the solar energy they capture into harvestable chemical energy."

1:48

Growing Plants to Power Our Engines and Feed the World

Sayre will describe strategies to improve the energy yield of algae and plant systems, while substantially reducing carbon emissions relative to petroleum.

All Frontiers in Science presentations begin at 7 p.m. and are free of charge. The talks are

- Monday, Dec. 7 in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road N.W., in Albuquerque.
- Friday, Dec. 11 in the Duane Smith Auditorium at Los Alamos High School on Diamond Drive, Los Alamos.

Sponsored by the Fellows of Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Frontiers in Science lecture series is intended to increase local public awareness of the diversity of science and engineering research at the Laboratory.

For more information, call (505) 665-9196 or email Linda Anderman at anderman@lanl.gov.