

## Important Update on GP-write and the Center of Excellence for Engineering Biology

Four years ago, the GP-write Founding Leadership Team, Jef Boeke, George Church, Andrew Hessel and Nancy J Kelley joined together to launch a Grand Challenge: a vision of writing genomes in order to understand the blueprint for life, the sequel to HGP-read.

Focused on writing and building the human (and other) genomes, the GP-write Founding Leadership Team hoped that the project would spark advances in biology, medicine, energy, agriculture, chemicals and bioremediation, as well as improve technologies related to DNA synthesis.

Now, with the upcoming publication of a manuscript from the Technology Working Group – which identifies current bottlenecks in large-scale genome engineering capabilities – and the completion of the Roadmaps and Charters of all the other Working Groups, we turn to the next phase: **implementing the first Community Project, *Ultra-safe Cells***.

As with all projects of this size and duration, the leadership occasionally evolves. Nancy J Kelley is leaving the project to devote more time to the other scientific and medical projects she is involved with through her firm, Nancy J Kelley + Associates. She will remain engaged in engineering biology, not only through GP-write, but through leadership in other projects such as the Biodesign Challenge.

We want to express our deep gratitude to Nancy for her hard work and dedication throughout the last four years, without which none of this would have been possible. On behalf of the GP-write Consortium, we wish her the best of luck in her ongoing scientific endeavors.

Further, we are pleased to announce that the new GP-write Co-Executive Directors will be Andrew Hessel and Amy Schwartz. We hope to have more exciting announcements about the future of GP-write in the coming months.

We hope to see all of you at the upcoming Sc2.0-GP-write Meeting this November 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at NYU Langone, to learn about and recognize accomplishments of the membership and forge ahead!

Yours truly,  
The GP-write Founding Leadership Team



CENTER of EXCELLENCE  
for ENGINEERING BIOLOGY

