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**Dear readers,**

Spring is definitely a “green” time. The trees and lawn are green. The creeks and the mountains are green. Even the stock market turned back to green lately.

The topic of this issue is also about green: the green fuel.

Different from fuels from chemical resources, production of green fuel often involves enzymatic conversion and fermentation, both of which are processes well established in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. That is why biotechnologists have become interested in green fuel and that is why we decided to put together the first TBI issue focused on this seemingly unrelated subject.

A Chinese inventor has recently created an internet sensation by claiming to have turned coca-cola into a “green” cell phone battery. Although it looks so novel, scientists have been using biological processes to produce electricity from sugars or cellulose for quite some time. The concept of turning cellulose into biofuel can even be traced back to 100 years ago when German scientists chemically hydrolyzed wood waste to sugar and then converted it to alcohol by fermentation. The chemical process was later replaced by a much cleaner biochemical process using enzymes. Although, no details were given for the latest cell phone battery invention, anyone with a basic biochemistry education would be able to think of a few “pathways” that could convert the small amount of sugar in coca-cola into water and carbon dioxide while giving out electrons. This simple example demonstrated how much a biochemist would be able to do if he just turned his head to another green tree!

Spring is also a budding season. Flowers are everywhere.

It is also so true for our fellow organizations. In a period of two months, from April to June, all our fellow organizations had organized their annual conferences. The CABS in the San Francisco Bay Area has just held its 12th Annual Conference, now named as BioPacific Conference 2010 ([www.biopacificconference.org](http://www.biopacificconference.org)). This event attracted over 600 attendees from US and China. CABS is now planning to bring this event to China soon. Similar conferences organized in San Diego by SABPA, in Boston by CABA, in Philadelphia by SAPA-GP and in Washington DC by CBA were all runaway successes. Readers are encouraged to take a review of these meetings in this issue through the eyes of the reporters.

I would like to thank Connie Sun, Co-chair of the Science and Technology Committee of CABS for organizing the “Clean Energy through Biotechnology” workshop in the San Francisco Bay Area (a detailed report of the workshop was published in the last issue) and for putting together this session. I also deeply appreciate the effort of all meeting reporters. They have opened a window with a view of blossoms for us who did not have the chance to attend all these conferences in person.

Best wishes

John Wang  
Editor-in-Chief