



# Puidukeemia ja biotöötluste tuumiklabor

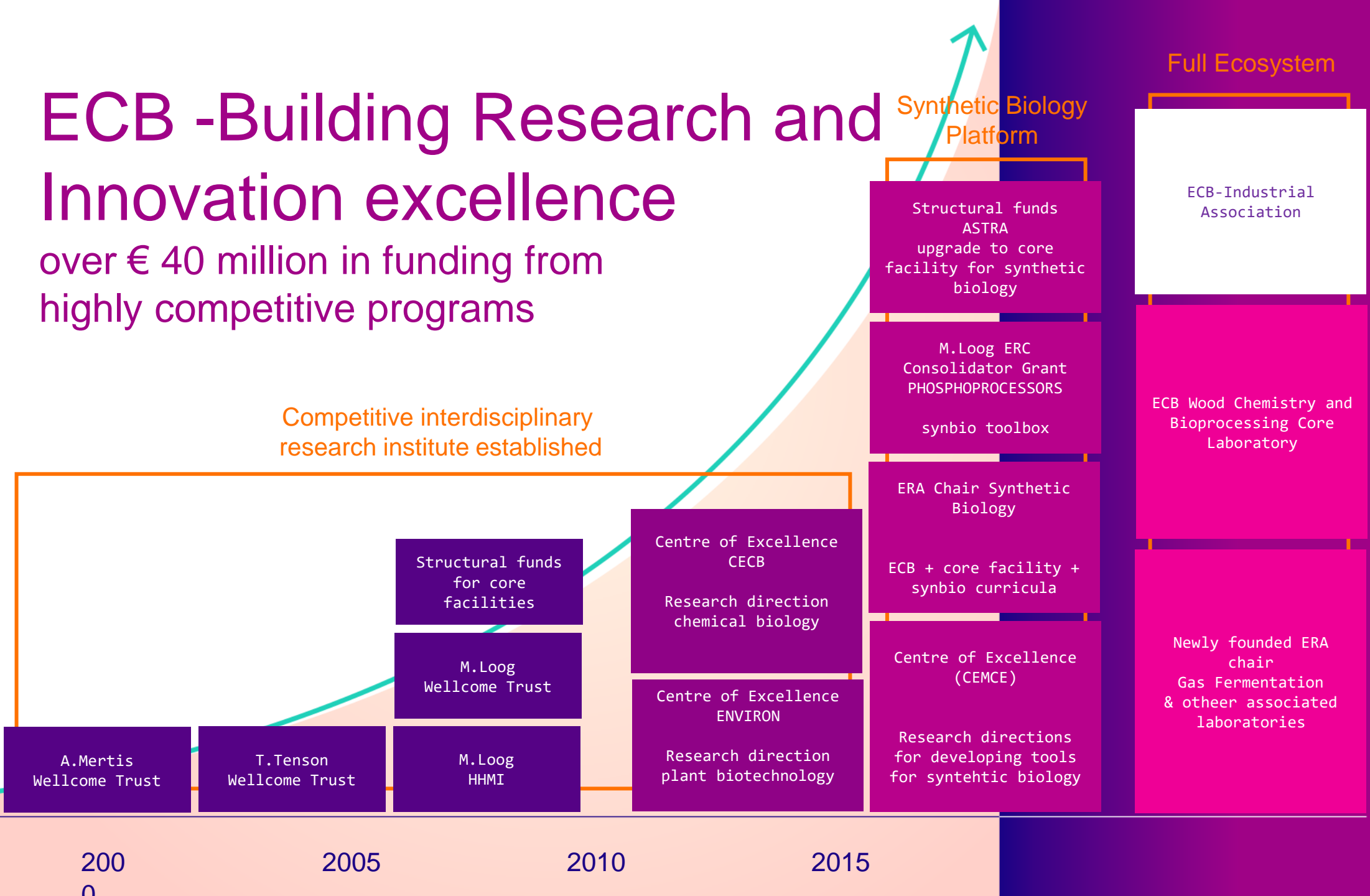
Mart Loog

Estonian Centre for Biosustainability (ECB)

Tehnoloogiainstituut, Tartu Ülikool

# ECB -Building Research and Innovation excellence

over € 40 million in funding from highly competitive programs





# woodbiotech

wood. rethought. remade.

## Associated laboratories



- Laboratory of systems and synthetic biology - **Prof. Mart Loog** ([www.looglab.com](http://www.looglab.com))
- The laboratory for novel bio-based chemicals and polymers - **Dr. Lauri Vares, Prof. Patric Jannasch**
- Laboratory of Synthetic Biology and Bioprocess optimization - **Dr. Petri-Jaan Lahtvee**
- Laboratory of Gas Fermentation Technologies - **Dr. Kaspar Valgepea**
- Chair of Organic Chemistry - **Prof. Jaak Järv, Dr. Siim Salmar**

Synthetic biology in Estonia:  
a historical opportunity

Local substrate



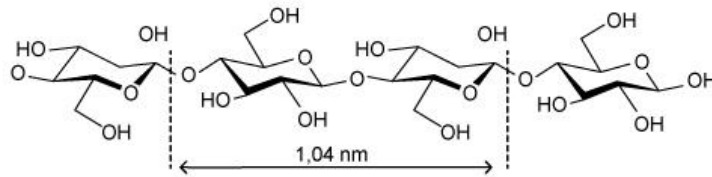
Value added chemicals



# Atmosfääriline CO<sub>2</sub>

↓ fotosüntees

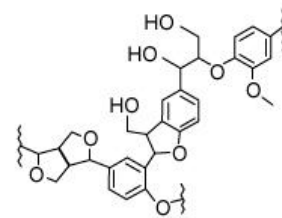
## Puit



Tselluloos (40-50%)



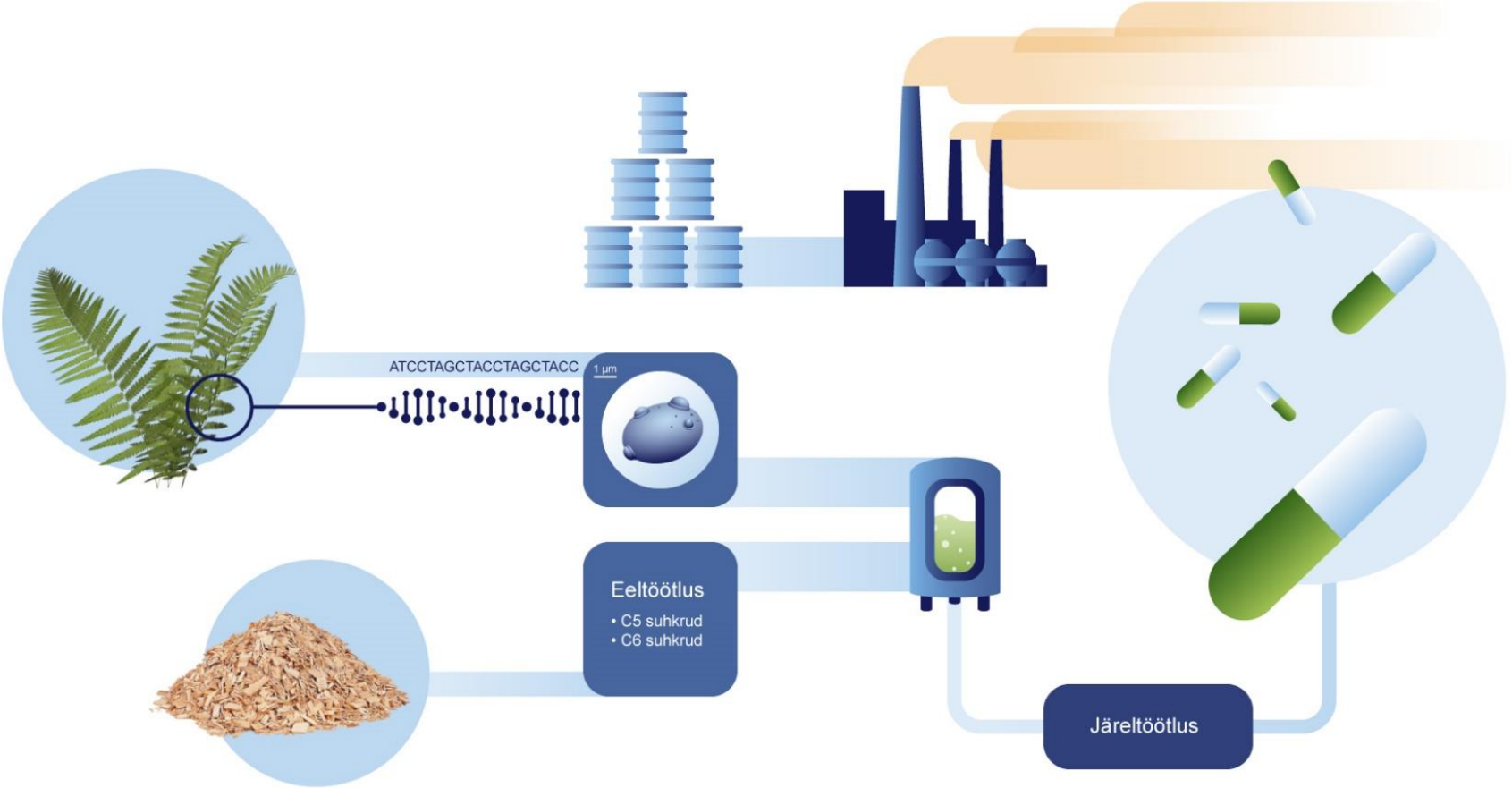
Hemitselluloos (25-35%)



Ligniini (15-20%)

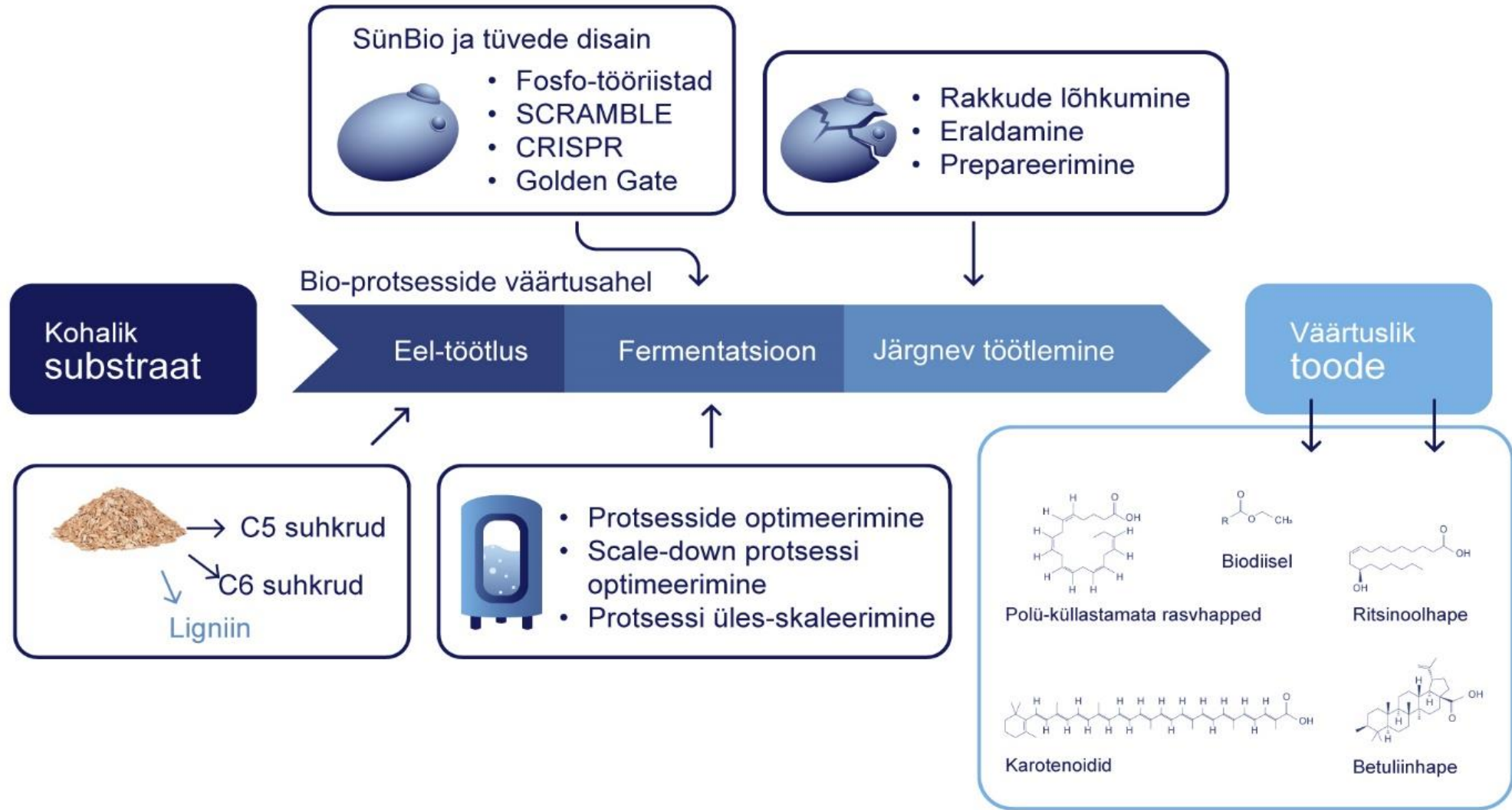
# Rakuvabrikud ja biotöötlus

# Traditsiooniline keemiatööstus



# Rakuvabrikud ja biotöötus







# SCOTT BOTTOMS



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

## EDUCATION

- Purdue University  
BSc. Microbiology
- University of Wisconsin  
MSc. Bacteriology
- Technical University of Munich  
PhD Candidate. Biotechnology



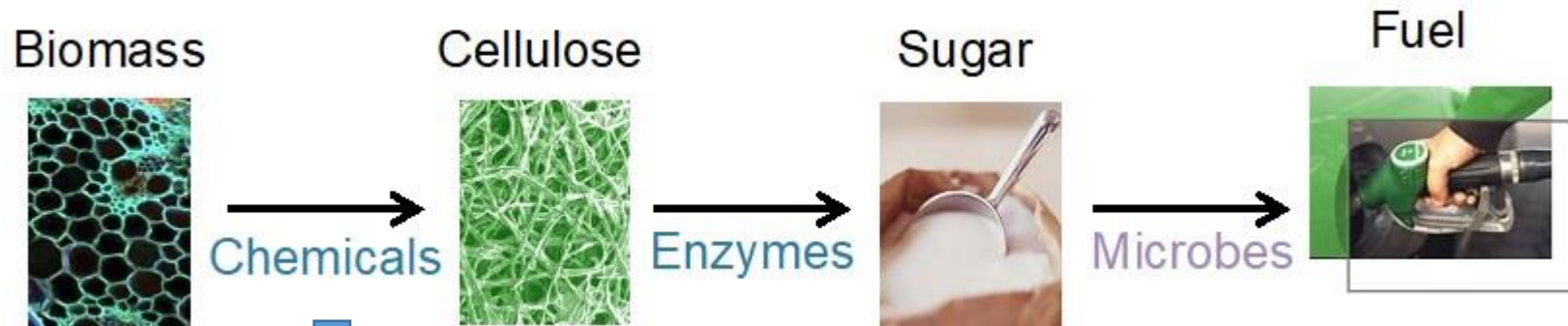
## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Chemical genomic guided engineering of gamma-valerolactone tolerant yeast. **Microbial Cell Factories** **2018**, **12:17(1)5**. DOI: [10.1186/s12934-017-0548-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12934-017-0548-9)
- Mechanism of imidazolium ionic liquids toxicity in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and rational engineering of a tolerant, xylose-fermenting strain. **Microbial Cell Factories** **2016**, **15:17**. DOI: [10.1186/s12934-016-0417-7](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12934-016-0417-7)
- Inhibition of microbial biofuel production in drought-stressed switchgrass hydrolysate. **Biotechnology for Biofuels** **2016**, **9:237**. DOI: [10.1186/s13068-016-0637-0](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13068-016-0637-0)
- SynergyScreen, an R package for design and analysis of compound synergy screens. **F1000Research** **2016**, **5(ISCB Comm J):1886**. DOI: [10.7454/f1000research.1112863.1](https://doi.org/10.7454/f1000research.1112863.1)
- Diverse lignocellulosic feedstocks can achieve high field-scale ethanol yields while providing flexibility for the biorefinery and landscape-level environmental benefits. **GCB Bioenergy** **2018**; **1–16**. DOI: [10.1111/gcbb.12533](https://doi.org/10.1111/gcbb.12533)
- Identifying and engineering ancient variants of enzymes using Graphical Representation of Ancestral Sequence Predictions (GRASP). (Pre-print 2020: DOI: [10.1101/2015.02.20.091057](https://doi.org/10.1101/2015.02.20.091057) Under review)

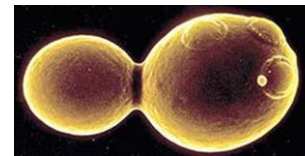
## PATENT / INVENTION

- “Recombinant Yeast Having Increased Tolerance to Ionic Liquids and Methods of Use”. **United States Patent Application: US20160333362A1**. Publication Date: November 17, 2016.

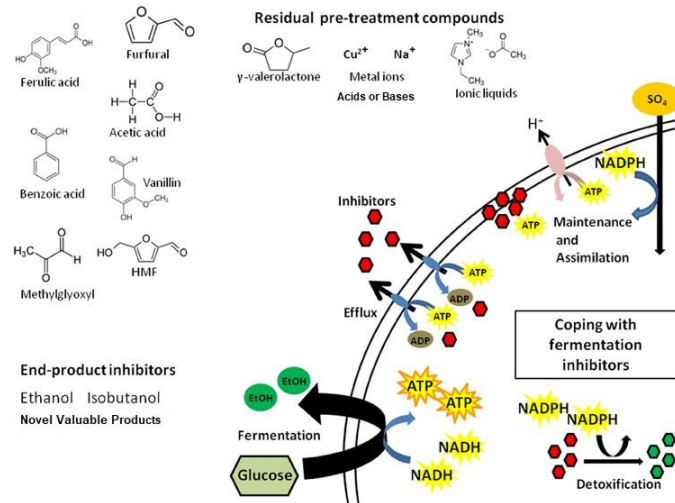
# From Forest to Valuable Products



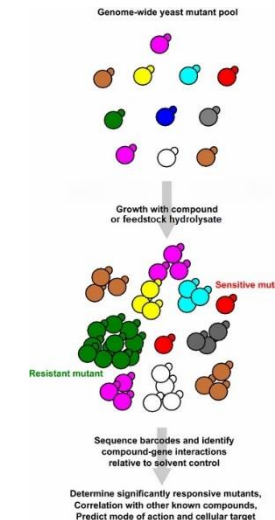
Lignin  
Monomer  
Inhibitors



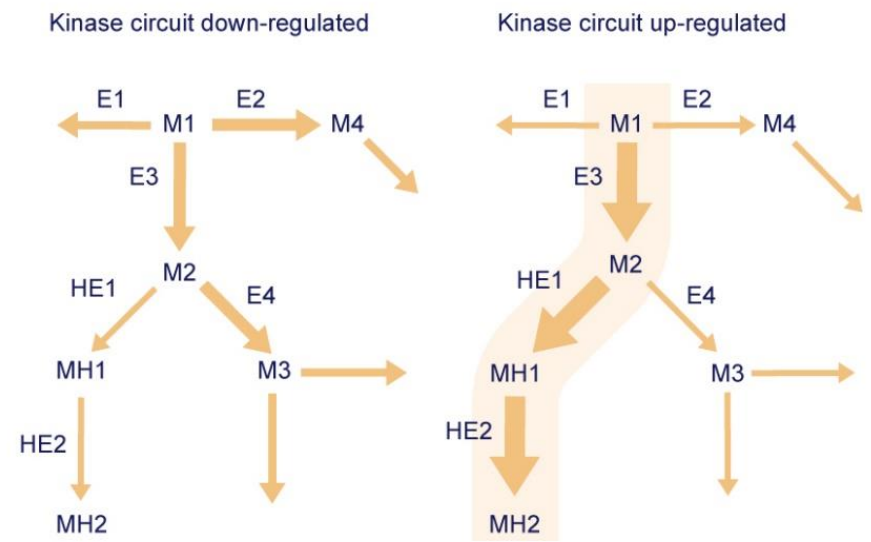
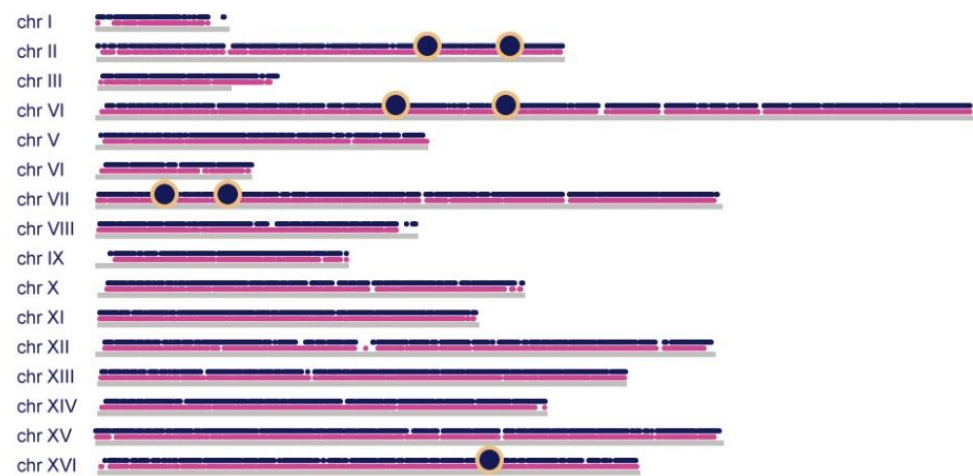
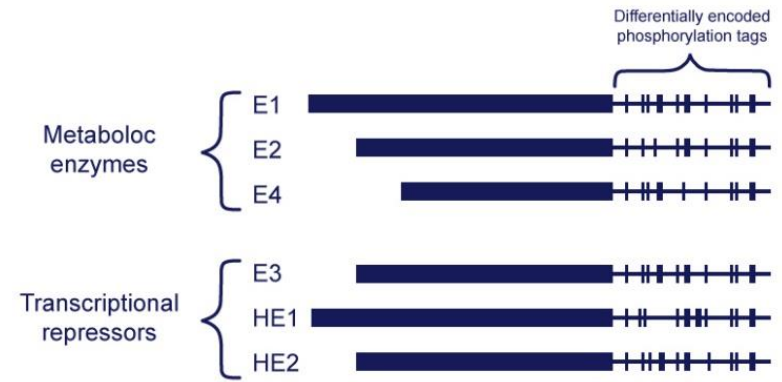
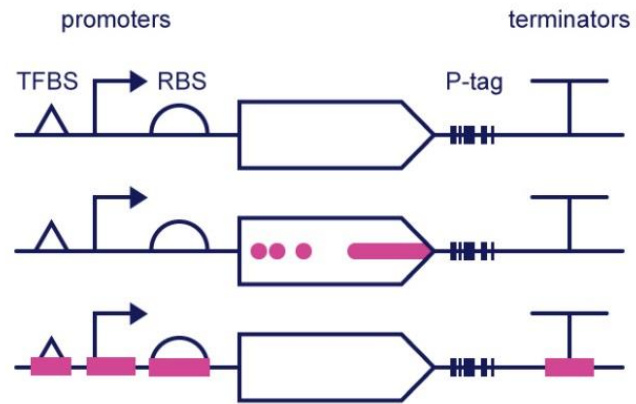
- Challenge to Using Lignocellulosic Feedstocks
  - Cellular inhibition by lignin monomers
- Microbial Strain Development is Essential
  - The Chemical Genomics Approach

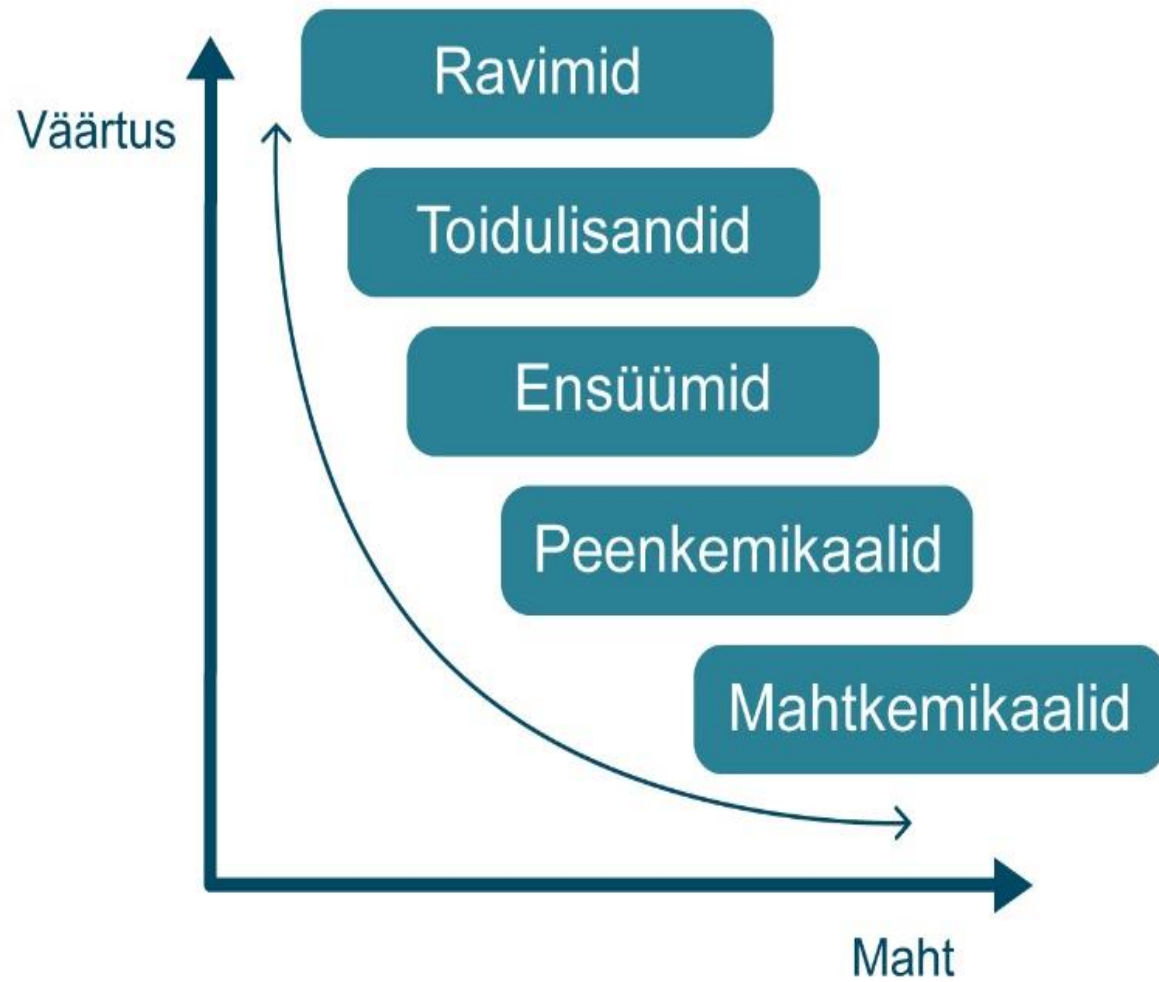


Piotrowski et al., 2015 (modified)



Bottoms et al., 2016





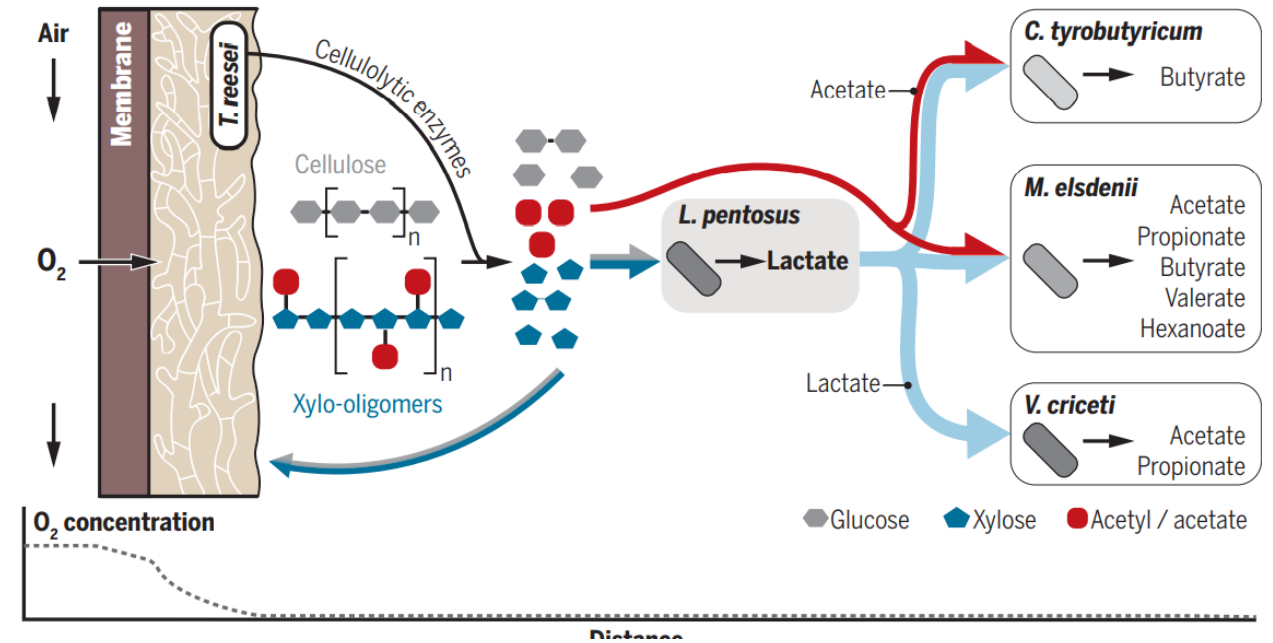
## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## MICROBIAL ENGINEERING

# A heterogeneous microbial consortium producing short-chain fatty acids from lignocellulose

Robert L. Shahab<sup>1,2</sup>, Simone Brethauer<sup>2</sup>, Matthew P. Davey<sup>3</sup>, Alison G. Smith<sup>3</sup>, Silvia Vignolini<sup>4</sup>, Jeremy S. Luterbacher<sup>1</sup>, Michael H. Studer<sup>2\*</sup>

Microbial consortia are a promising alternative to monocultures of genetically modified microorganisms for complex biotransformations. We developed a versatile consortium-based strategy for the direct conversion of lignocellulose to short-chain fatty acids, which included the funneling of the lignocellulosic carbohydrates to lactate as a central intermediate in engineered food chains. A spatial niche enabled in situ cellulolytic enzyme production by an aerobic fungus next to facultative anaerobic lactic acid bacteria and the product-forming anaerobes. *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*, *Veillonella criceti*, or *Megasphaera elsdenii* were integrated into the lactate platform to produce 196 kilograms of butyric acid per metric ton of beechwood. The lactate platform demonstrates the benefits of mixed cultures, such as their modularity and their ability to convert complex substrates into valuable biochemicals.



196 kilograms of butyric acid per metric ton of beechwood.

A membrane-aerated bioreactor featuring an oxygen gradient (depicted at the bottom) allows for the consolidated bioprocessing of lignocellulose to short-chain fatty acids by a heterogeneous consortium consisting of an aerobic, cellulolytic fungus growing as a biofilm in the oxygen-replete spatial niche, a facultative anaerobic lactic acid bacterium to funnel the carbohydrate mixture to lactate, and a lactate-consuming obligate anaerobic bacterium for product formation.

# Complete biosynthesis of cannabinoids and their unnatural analogues in yeast

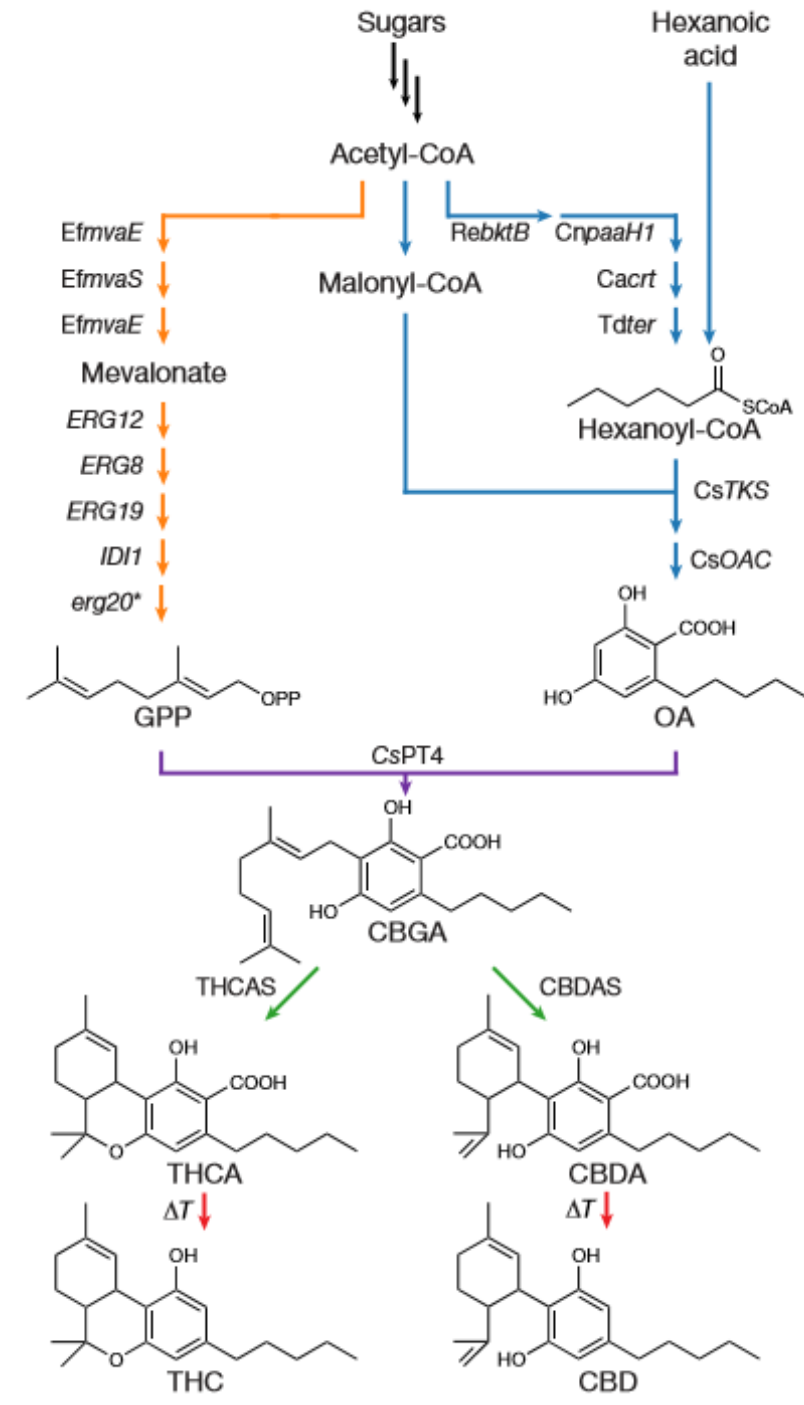
Xiaozhou Luo<sup>1,15</sup>, Michael A. Reiter<sup>1,2,15</sup>, Leo d'Espaux<sup>3,12</sup>, Jeff Wong<sup>3,12</sup>, Charles M. Denby<sup>1,13</sup>, Anna Lechner<sup>4,5,14</sup>, Yunfeng Zhang<sup>1,6</sup>, Adrian T. Grzybowski<sup>1</sup>, Simon Harth<sup>3</sup>, Weiyin Lin<sup>3</sup>, Hyunsu Lee<sup>3,7</sup>, Changhua Yu<sup>3,5</sup>, John Shin<sup>3,4</sup>, Kai Deng<sup>8,9</sup>, Veronica T. Benites<sup>3</sup>, George Wang<sup>3</sup>, Edward E. K. Baidoo<sup>3</sup>, Yan Chen<sup>3</sup>, Ishaan Dev<sup>3,4</sup>, Christopher J. Petzold<sup>3</sup> & Jay D. Keasling<sup>1,3,4,5,10,11\*</sup>

*Cannabis sativa* L. has been cultivated and used around the globe for its medicinal properties for millennia<sup>1</sup>. Some cannabinoids, the hallmark constituents of *Cannabis*, and their analogues have been investigated extensively for their potential medical applications<sup>2</sup>. Certain cannabinoid formulations have been approved as prescription drugs in several countries for the treatment of a range of human ailments<sup>3</sup>. However, the study and medicinal use of cannabinoids has been hampered by the legal scheduling of *Cannabis*, the low in planta abundances of nearly all of the dozens of known cannabinoids<sup>4</sup>, and their structural complexity, which limits bulk chemical synthesis. Here we report the complete biosynthesis of the major cannabinoids cannabigerolic acid,  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, cannabidiolic acid,  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabivarinic acid and cannabidivarinic acid in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, from the simple sugar galactose. To accomplish this, we engineered the native mevalonate pathway to provide a high flux of geranyl pyrophosphate and introduced a heterologous, multi-organism-derived hexanoyl-CoA biosynthetic pathway<sup>5</sup>. We also introduced the *Cannabis* genes that encode the enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of olivetolic acid<sup>6</sup>, as well as the gene for a previously undiscovered enzyme with geranylpyrophosphate:olivetolate geranyltransferase activity and the genes for corresponding cannabinoid synthases<sup>7,8</sup>. Furthermore, we established a biosynthetic approach that harnessed the promiscuity of several pathway genes to produce cannabinoid analogues. Feeding different fatty acids to our engineered strains yielded cannabinoid

of hexanoyl-CoA<sup>11</sup>. To increase the supply of hexanoyl-CoA, we fed the yCAN01 strain with 1 mM hexanoic acid, which can be converted to hexanoyl-CoA by an endogenous acyl activating enzyme (AAE), and observed a sixfold increase in olivetolic acid production (1.3 mg l<sup>-1</sup>). A known byproduct of TKS, hexanoyl triacetic acid lactone (HTAL)<sup>6</sup>, was also detected (Extended Data Fig. 1).

To optimize the conversion of hexanoic acid to hexanoyl-CoA, we introduced CsAAE1, an AAE from *Cannabis* that is thought to catalyse this step in planta, into yCAN01<sup>12</sup>. When fed with 1 mM hexanoic acid, the resulting strain (yCAN02) showed a twofold increase in olivetolic acid titre (3.0 mg l<sup>-1</sup>) compared with yCAN01 (Fig. 2a). To produce hexanoyl-CoA from galactose and complete the olivetolic acid pathway, we introduced a previously reported hexanoyl-CoA pathway into yCAN01<sup>5</sup>. The resulting strain (yCAN03) produced 1.6 mg l<sup>-1</sup> olivetolic acid (Fig. 2a).

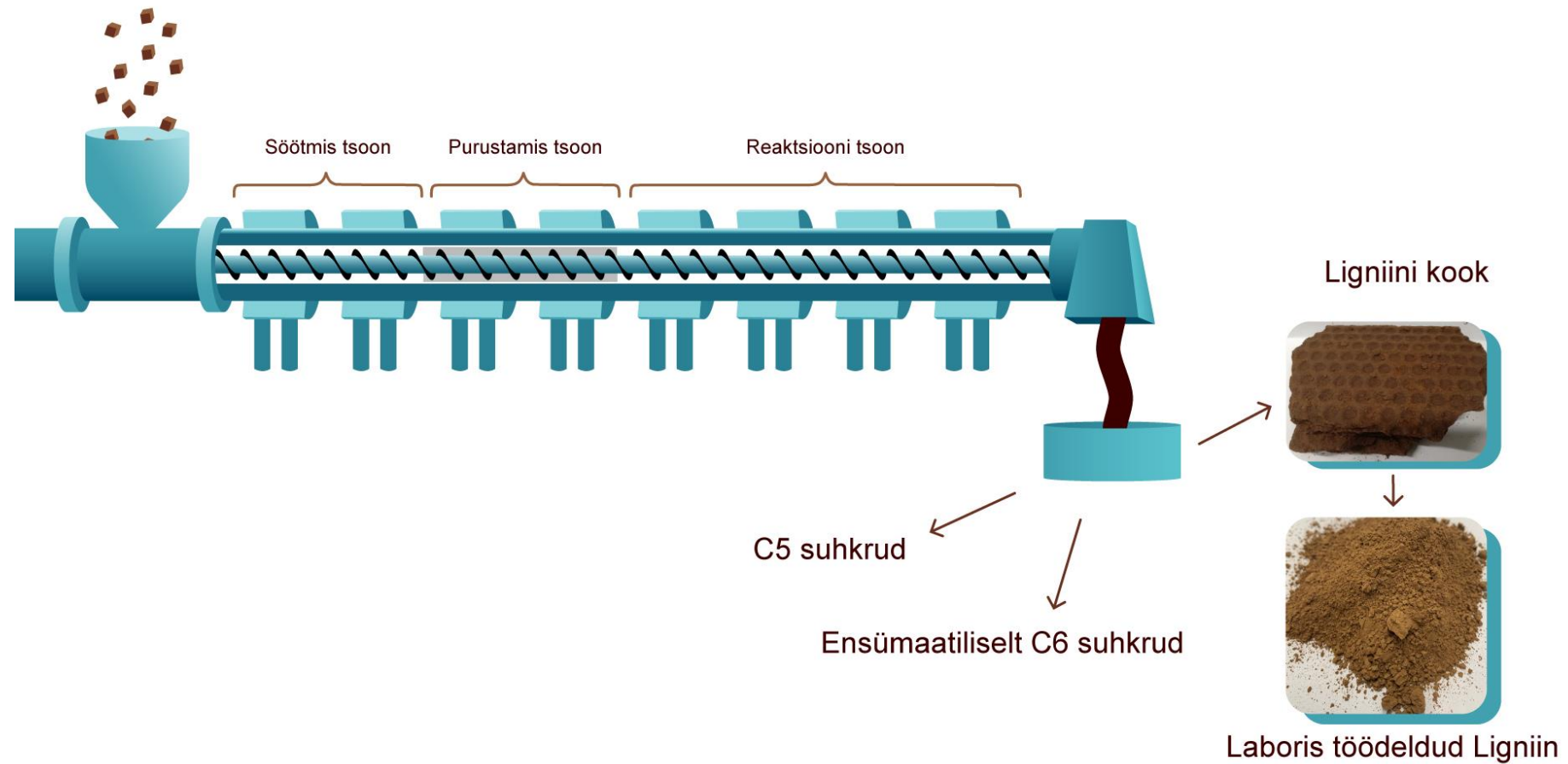
Cannabigerolic acid (CBGA)—the precursor to  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), cannabidiolic acid (CBDA) and numerous other cannabinoids—is produced from olivetolic acid and the mevalonate-pathway intermediate geranyl pyrophosphate (GPP) by a geranylpyrophosphate:olivetolate geranyltransferase (GOT). GOT activity was detected in *Cannabis* extracts two decades ago<sup>13</sup>, and a *Cannabis* GOT (CsPT1) was patented ten years later<sup>14</sup>. To test CsPT1 in vivo, we constructed a GPP-overproducing strain (yCAN10) with an upregulated mevalonate pathway<sup>15</sup> and a mutant version of the endogenous farnesyl pyrophosphate synthase ERG20 (ERG20(F69W/N127W) that preferentially produces GPP over FPP<sup>16</sup>). However, we



# Ligniini väärindamine



# Graanul Invest: BBI-JU SWEETWOODS project



# Hüdrolüüsi Ligniin



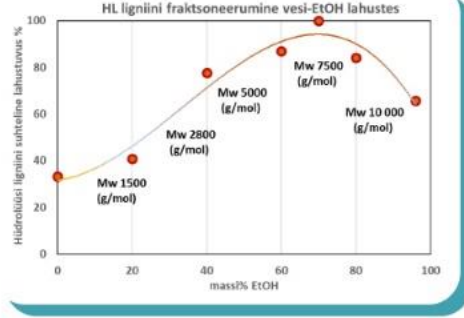
Alus-happekatalüüs

Vesi-orgaanilised lahustid

Ultrahelitehnoloogia, mehhanokeemia, voogkeemia TF.



Lahustamine, fraksioneerimine, depolümeerisatsioon



Erinevate omadustega ligniini lahused (pH2-13)

Erineva lahustuvus-omadustega ligniinid

Erineva molekulmassiga ligniini fraksioonid

Nanoligniin

Naturaalne S-vaba puhas ligniin

TF kondensaat

Keemiline töötlus, süntees, puhastamine

Ensümaatiline töötlus

Bioloogiline töötlus

Vahud-liimid, plastikud/polümeerid  
polüuretaanid  
polüfenoolid  
polüepoksiidid  
Biolagunevad materjalid

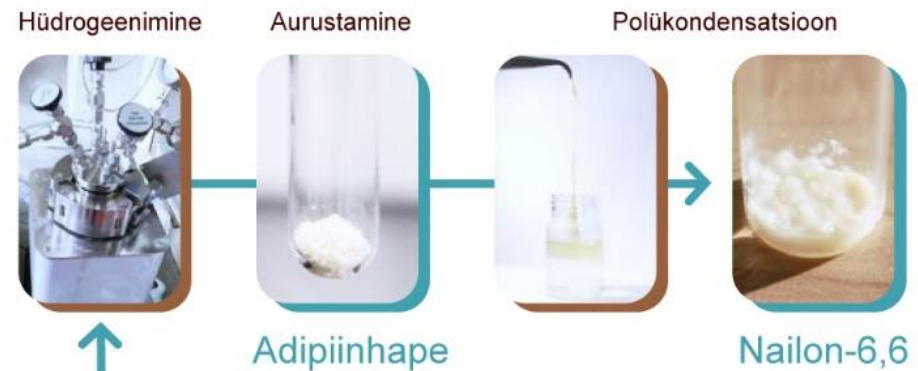
Dispergandid  
Puidukaitse/immutusvahendid  
Kosmeetika  
UV-kaitse, antibakteriaalsed omadused, antioksüdandid  
Tehnilised adsorbendid, tardained, klombistuvad agendid

Biokemikaalid  
Biokütused  
Aromaatsed ligniini derivaadid

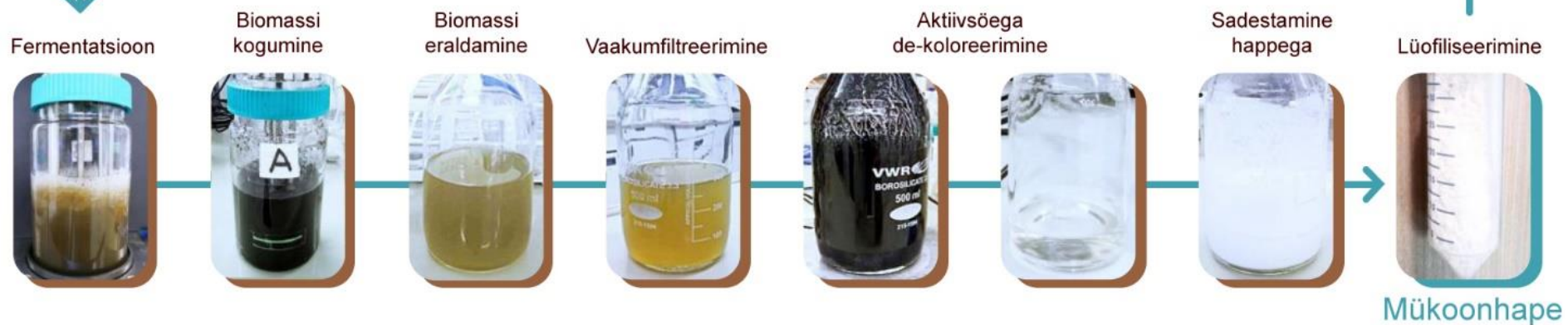
## Ligniini depolümeriseerimine



## Hüdrogeenimine ja polümeriseerimine



## Bio- ja järeltöötlus



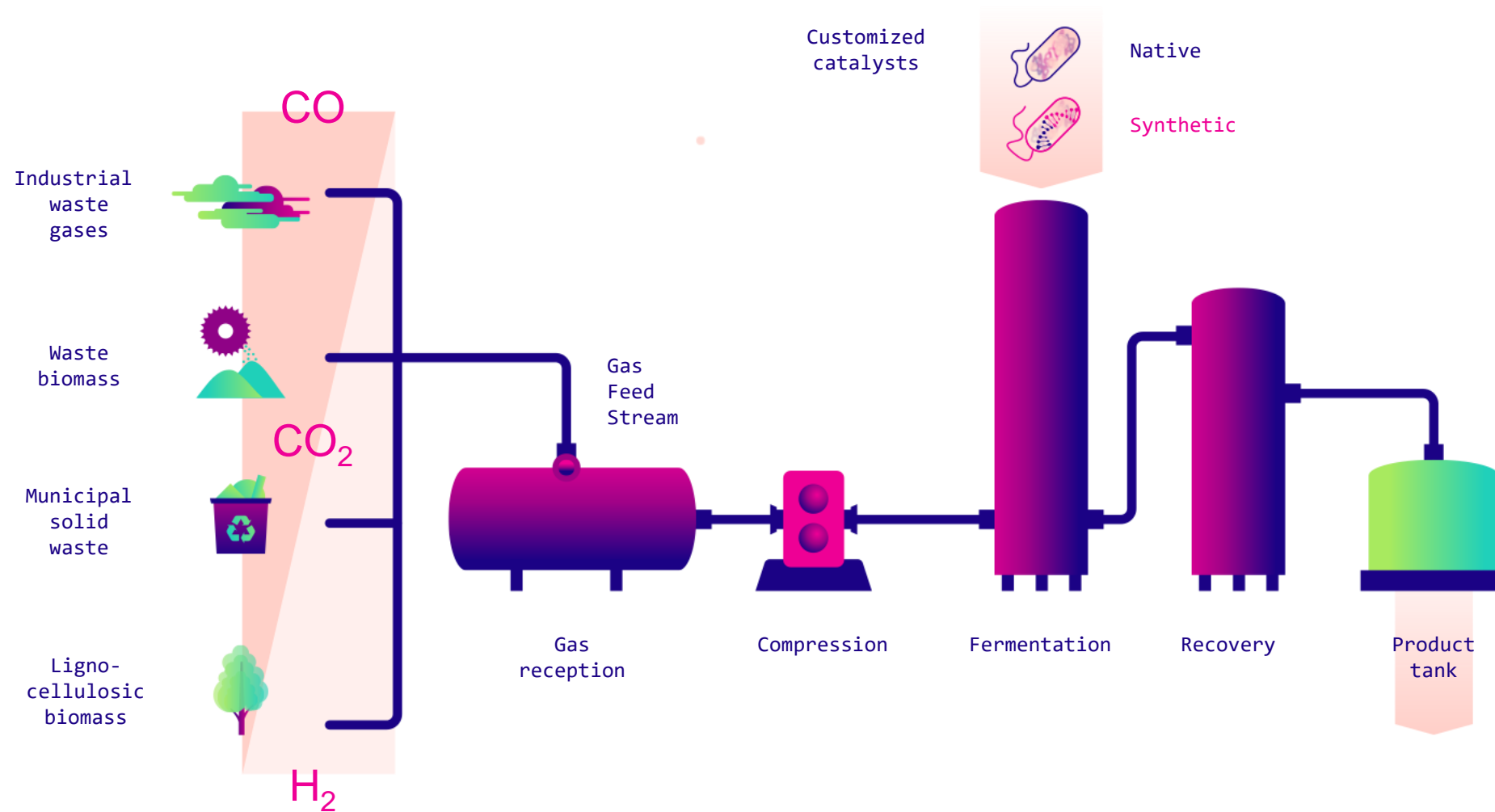
# Gaasfermentatsioon



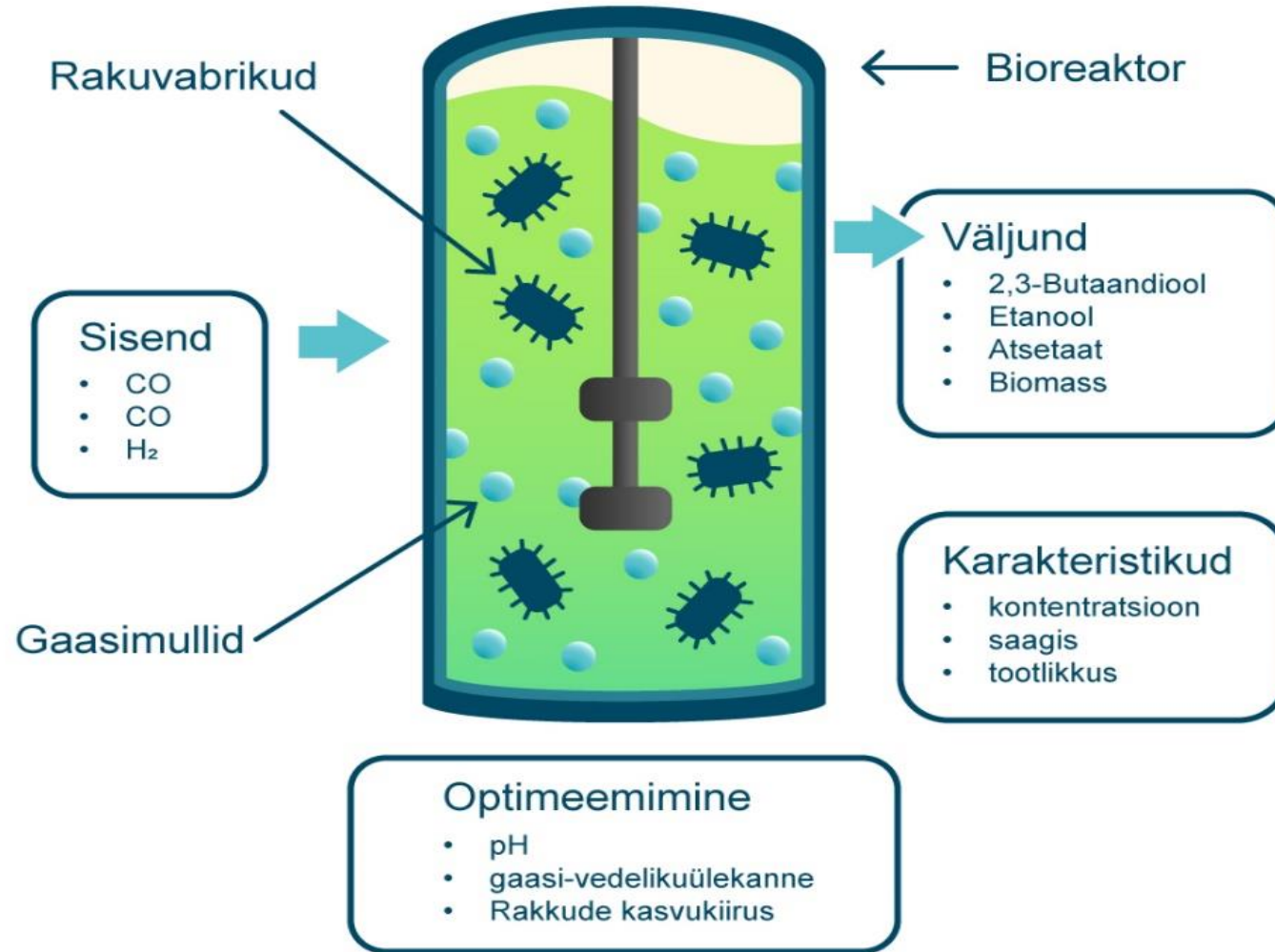
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# Gaasfermentatsioon



# Gaasfermentatsioon





 **Kaspar Valgepea, PhD**  
Group Leader/Senior Research Fellow

SEARCH

## NEWS

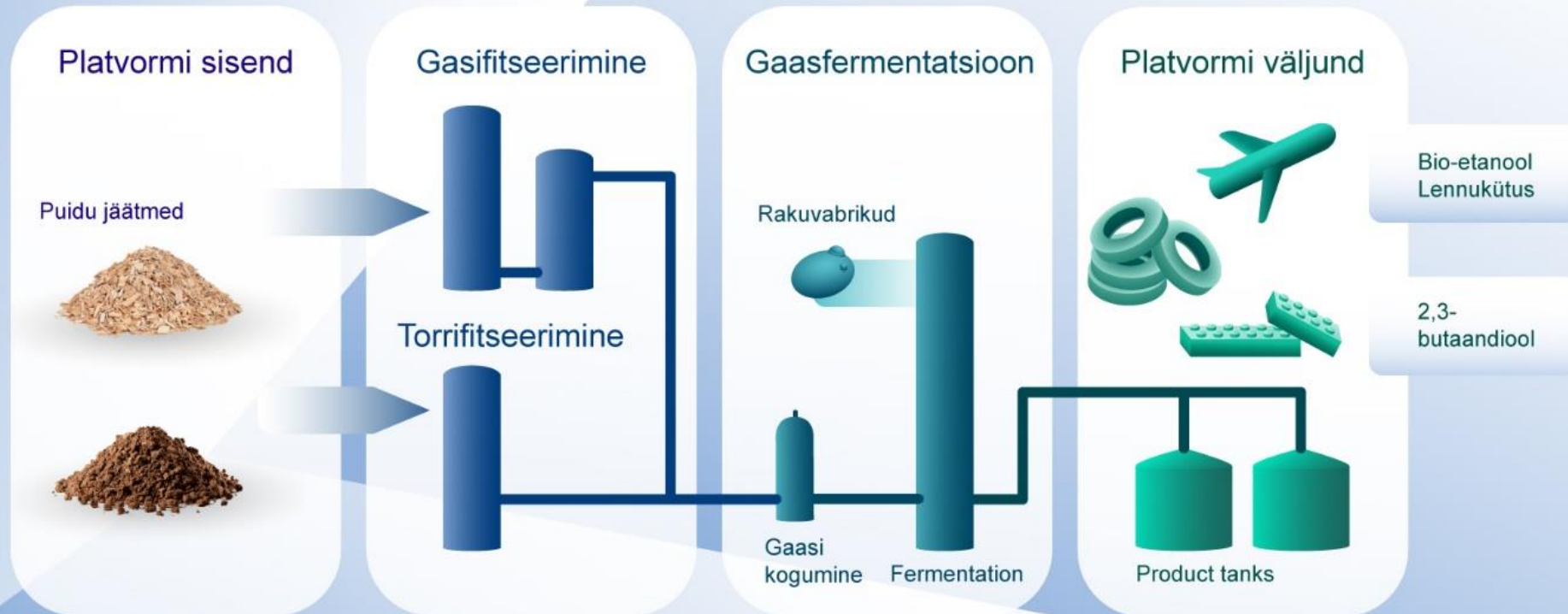
- Research article published from the ERA Chair and collaborators in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
- Research article published from the ERA Chair and collaborators in Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology
- Start-up of the state-of-the-art gas fermentation facility at GasFermTEC
- Preprint from the ERA Chair and





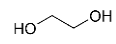

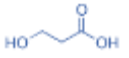
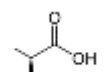
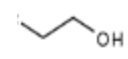

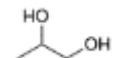


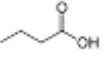
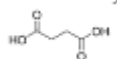
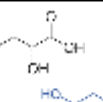
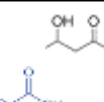
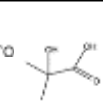

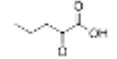

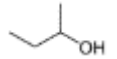
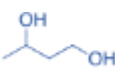
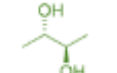

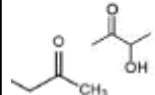
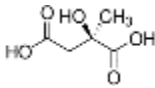
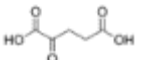
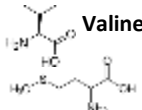
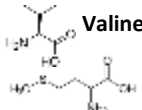

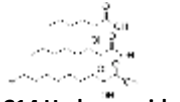
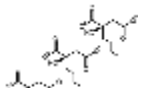
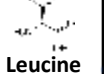
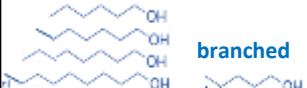


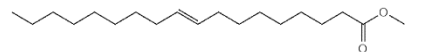
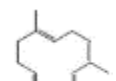


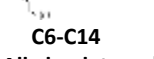

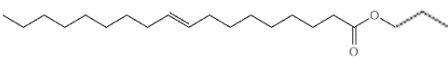
# Gas fermentation platform at ECB




## Integreeritud gasifitseerimise ja gaasfermentatsiooni platvorm



# Demonstrated range of chemistries and functional groups directly from gas

	Acids						Alcohols		Diols			Aromatics	Dienes	Esters	Ketones	Terpenes
	Carboxylic	Dicarboxylic	Hydroxy	Dihydroxy	Keto	Amino	Linear	Branched	1,2-	1,3-	2,3-					
C2	 Acetic						 Ethanol		 MEG							
C3		 Lactic	 3-hydroxypropionic			 Alanine	 n-propanol	 Isopropanol	 1,2-PDO (R,S,mix)	 1,3-PDO (R,S,mix)				 Acetone		
C4	 Butyric	 Succinic	 2-HB	 3-HB (R,S,mix)	 4-HB	 2-HIBA	 Ketovaleric	 n-butanol	 2-butanol	 1,3-BDO (R,S,mix)	 2,3-BDO (RR,meso,mix)		 Butylene	 Acetoin MEK		
C5		 Citramalic	 Ketoglutaric		 Methionine	 Valine							 Isoprene			
C6+		 C6-C14 Hydroxyacids		 Leucine		 Isoleucine	 C6-C14 Alcohols					 PHAB	 Salicylic	 FAEE		 Farnesene
		 PHB	 Mevalonic	 Alkylmalates								 Aromatic Compound	 FABE			



**Commercial**




**Pilot**



**Labscale**



**PoC**



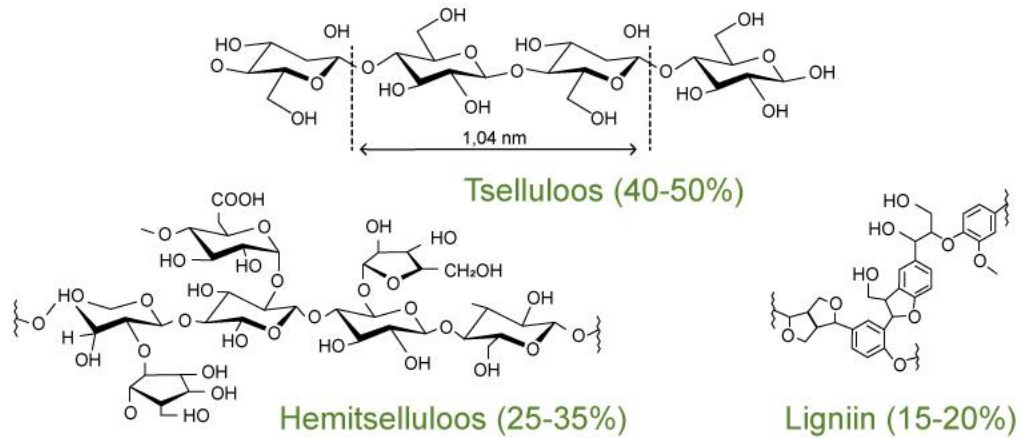
**Modelled**  
>500 molecules

Uute (puidu)bio-põhiste kemikaalide ja polümeeride süntees

# Atmosfääriline CO<sub>2</sub>

↓ fotosüntees

## Puit



↓  
kemikaalid/monomeerid

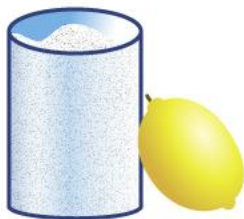
↙  
Peenkemikaalid  
(ravimid, toidulisandid, kosmeetika jt)

↘  
plastid/materjalid



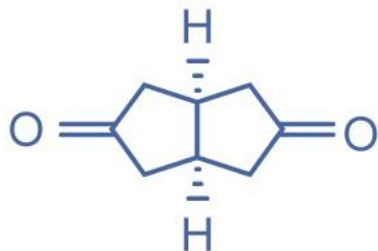
# C6 suhkrud

fermentatsioon

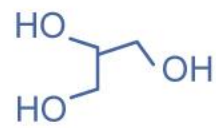


Sidrunhape (ca 0,6€/kg)

Bitsükliline diketoon



Hiljuti meie poolt väljatöötatud meetodiga  
(patenditaotlus GB2002792.6)



glütseriin  
(<1€/kg)



TMP  
(saadaval ka  
biotoormes)

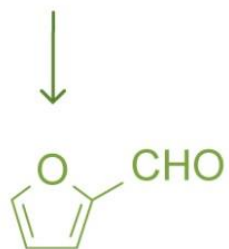


- Polükarbonaadid
- Polüestrid
- Polüamiid
- Polüuretaanid

Valik uuritavaid spiro-mono-  
meere ja nendest tehtavaid  
polümeere/materjale

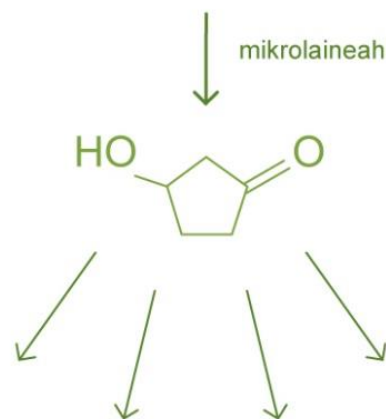
A

C5 suhkrud puidust



furfuraal  
(platvormkemikaal)

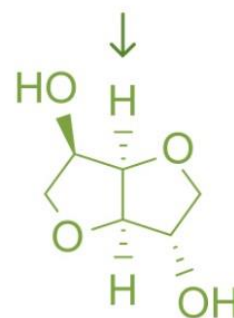
mikrolaineahi



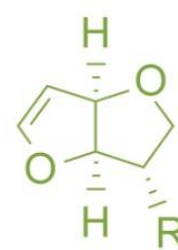
Erinevad derivatiseerimise ja polümeriseerimise võimalused

B

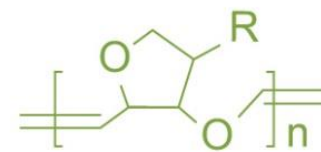
C6 suhkrud puidust



Vares, et al. JOC 2016, 7510.



Grubbs katalüsaator  
(ringi avamise polüm.)



Eeldatavalt täielikult  
biolagunev polümeer

Synthetic biology in Estonia:  
a historical opportunity

Local substrate



Value added chemicals

