

Dr. Kevin Solomon is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue University. His work focuses on the development of sustainable microbial processes to supply the energy, materials, and medicines of tomorrow. He holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering from McMaster University (Canada) and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from MIT. Dr. Solomon was part of the inaugural class of trainees in the National Science Foundation's Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SynBERC), the first American interdisciplinary research center dedicated to engineering biology. As part of his graduate work, Dr. Solomon developed new tools to increase biomanufacturing efficiency. His research and mentorship, at the intersection of metabolic engineering and synthetic biology, were recognized with multiple awards including a Lemelson Presidential Fellowship, an NSERC Julie Payette Award, and a Science Education Leadership Award from SynBERC. As a postdoctoral fellow at UC Santa Barbara, he applied the latest advances in sequencing technologies to interrogate how microbes interact with their environment and identify new tools for synthetic biology. Using these techniques, he spearheaded efforts to molecularly characterize in depth a class of elusive microbes with tremendous potential for biofuel production, agriculture, and drug discovery. Dr. Solomon has published more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, is a holder of 1 US patent, and has several pending and provisional patents that are currently licensed to multinational corporations.