#### **Adventures on Science**

Bill Brinkman Director, Office of Science August 9, 2010





#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORIES





Office of Science lab

#### SC/BES Facilities for X-ray Scattering National Synchrotron Light Source



# Number of Users by Discipline at SC/BES Light Sources

BES provides complete support for the operations of the facilities as well as being the dominant supporter of light source research, including funds for beamlines, instruments, and PI support. Many other agencies, industries, and private sponsors provide support for instrumental



#### 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry based on X-ray Crystallography



Venkatraman Ramakrishnan

Ada Yonath

Thomas Steitz

- Three molecular biologists who mapped the structure and inner workings of the ribosome

   the cell's machinery for churning out proteins from the genetic code have won the
   Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009.
- Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, who works at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK; Ada Yonath of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and Thomas Steitz at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, share the prize equally.

#### Linac Coherent Light Source or "LCLS" at SLAC

The World's First X-ray Laser







First X-rays: ~ 1 PM PDT 4/15/2009



Detection of X-ray at Far Hall ~ 1 PM PDT 4/22/2010

SC-1 Briefing to OSTP

# Early Studies at LCLS: Nanocrystals inJohn Spence et al. ASUWater Microjet



10<sup>13</sup> photons / pulse





## Greenland Ice Mass Loss 2002 to 2009

Increasing rates of ice mass loss from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets revealed by GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) satellite:



**Figure 1.** Time series of ice mass changes for the Greenland ice sheet estimated from GRACE monthly mass solutions for the period from April 2002 to February 2009. Unfiltered data are blue crosses. Data filtered for the seasonal dependence using a 13-month window are shown as red crosses. The best-fitting quadratic trend is shown (green line). The GRACE data have been corrected for leakage and GIA.

#### I. Velicogna, Geophysical Research Letters, VOL. 36, L19503, 2009

- In Greenland, the mass loss increased from 137 Gt/yr in 2002–2003 to 286 Gt/yr in 2007–2009
- In Antarctica, the mass loss increased from 104 Gt/yr in 2002–2006 to 246 Gt/yr in 2006–2009

#### Reducing uncertainties in climate predictions Atmospheric System Research



## Terrestrial Ecosystem Research (Carbon Cycle)

- Advances the fundamental science concerning the effects of climate change on terrestrial ecosystems and the role of terrestrial ecosystems in global carbon cycling.
- Plans are proceeding for the next generation ecosystem experiment (arctic tundra warming) with infrastructure prototype development underway.







## The DOE Bioenergy Research Centers

- New paradigm for research—single focus, multi-disciplinary, team-based transformational science
- BioEnergy Science Center (ORNL)
  - Multi-institutional partnership with strategic focus on overcoming biomass "recalcitrance" as route to cost-effective cellulosic biofuels
  - Goal of "Consolidated Bioprocessing" one-microbe or microbial community approach going from plants to fuel
- Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (U. W.-Madison, Mich State U)
  - Goal of re-engineering plants to produce more starches and oils
  - Using HTP technologies to optimize chem/bio process for biomass deconstruction
  - Major research thrust on sustainability of biofuels
- Joint BioEnergy Institute (led by LBNL)
  - Experimenting with new pretreatment process using room temperature ionic liquids
  - Beyond cellulosic ethanol: re-engineering *E.coli* and yeast to produce hydrocarbons goal of "green" gasoline, diesel, jet fuel







# The DOE Joint Genome Institute

A User Resource for the Biological Sciences

- Using high throughput tools, technologies and comparative analysis, the JGI serves as a discovery platform to understand the organization and function of complex genomes for bioenergy, carbon cycle, and bioremediation.
- Genome and metagenome expression and sequencing of microbes, plants, and other complex systems, such as microbial communities or the rhizosphere.
- Genome annotation, functional analysis and verification of genomescale biological system models. Systems-level integration and validation of genomic data from multiple sequencing and functional analyses.
- Sequencing more than 4 Terabases per year (more than 1300 human genome equivalents)









DOE Joint Genome Institute Enabling Advances in Bioenergy & Environmental Research

#### Leadership Computing: Scientific Advances



Turbulence Understanding the statistical geometry of turbulent dispersion of pollutants in the environment.

Energy Storage Understanding the storage and flow of energy in nextgeneration nanostructured carbon tube supercapacitors





#### Biofuels

A comprehensive simulation model of lignocellulosic biomass to understand the bottleneck to sustainable and economical ethanol production.



Nuclear Energy High-fidelity predictive simulation tools for the design of next-generation nuclear reactors to safely increase operating margins.

Fusion Energy Substantial progress in the understanding of anomalous electron energy loss in the National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX).





Nano Science Understanding the atomic and electronic properties of nanostructures in nextgeneration photovoltaic solar cell materials.

#### ITER

- ITER (Latin for "the way") is a first of a kind major international research collaboration on fusion energy.
- U.S. is a 9.09% partner.
- ITER Goals
  - Designed to produce 500 MW of fusion power (Q ≥ 10) for at least 300-500 seconds
  - Burning plasma dynamics and control
    - U.S. emphasizes the value of ITER, its flexibility, and its diagnostics as a scientific instrument: develop a predictive capability of the burning plasma state
  - Will optimize physics and integrate many of key technologies needed for future fusion power plants



ITER Tokamak – Cross Sectional View

#### The search for the Higgs

Tevatron Run II Preliminary, L ≤ 6.7 fb<sup>-1</sup>



## Gamma ray view of the sky



Einstein said "The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible"

This comprehensibility is true beauty of science, it is what we scientist most admire