

Systems Biology Program
National Centre of Biotechnology (CNB-CSIC)
Madrid, Spain



The impact of Synthetic Biology in Microbial Biotechnology

Pablo I. Nikel

Jornadas Bioeconomía Argentina
Innovación y desarrollo para un futuro sostenible

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Microbial Biotechnology



Biomass (*inoculants, single cell protein*)

Polyhydroxyalkanoates

Single cell oil

Amino acids

Rhamnolipids

Citrate

Pigments

Biofuels (*ethanol, butanol, 2,3-butanediol, H₂, CH₄*)

1,2-Propanediol

1,3-Propanediol

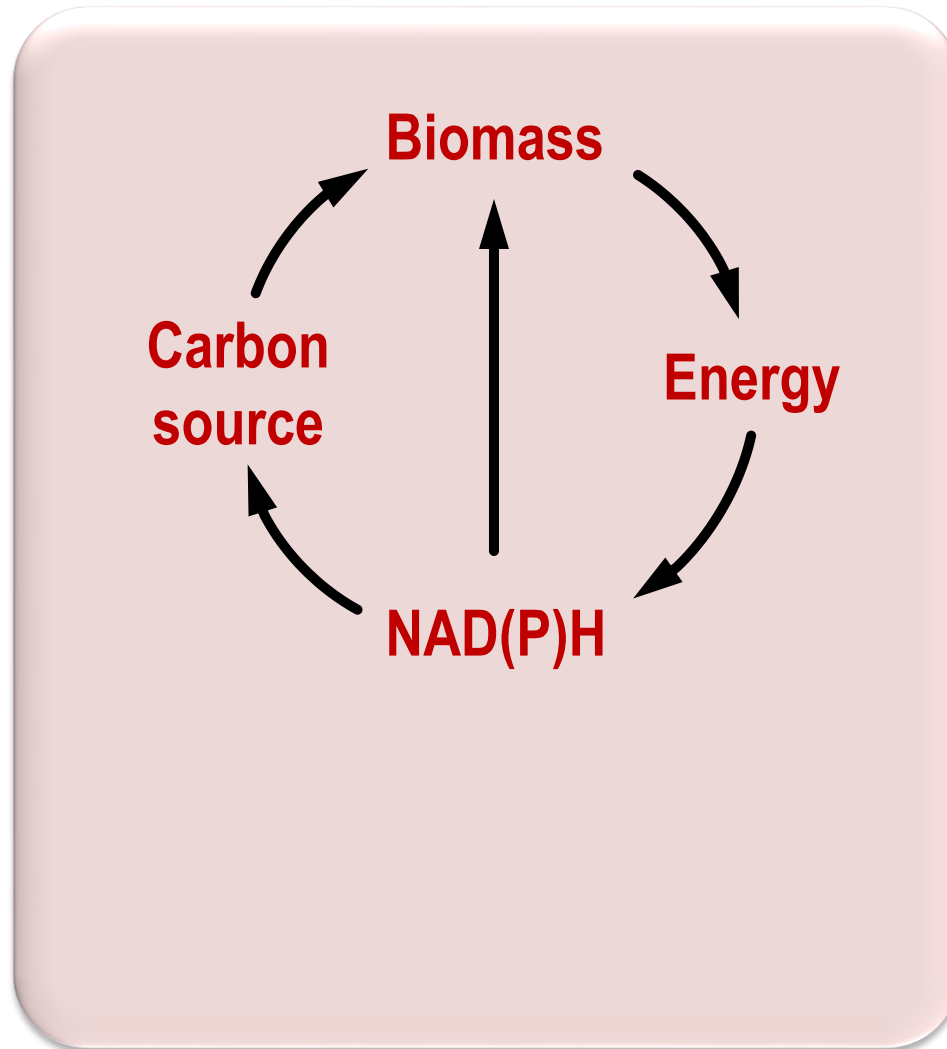
Triacylglycerols

Succinate

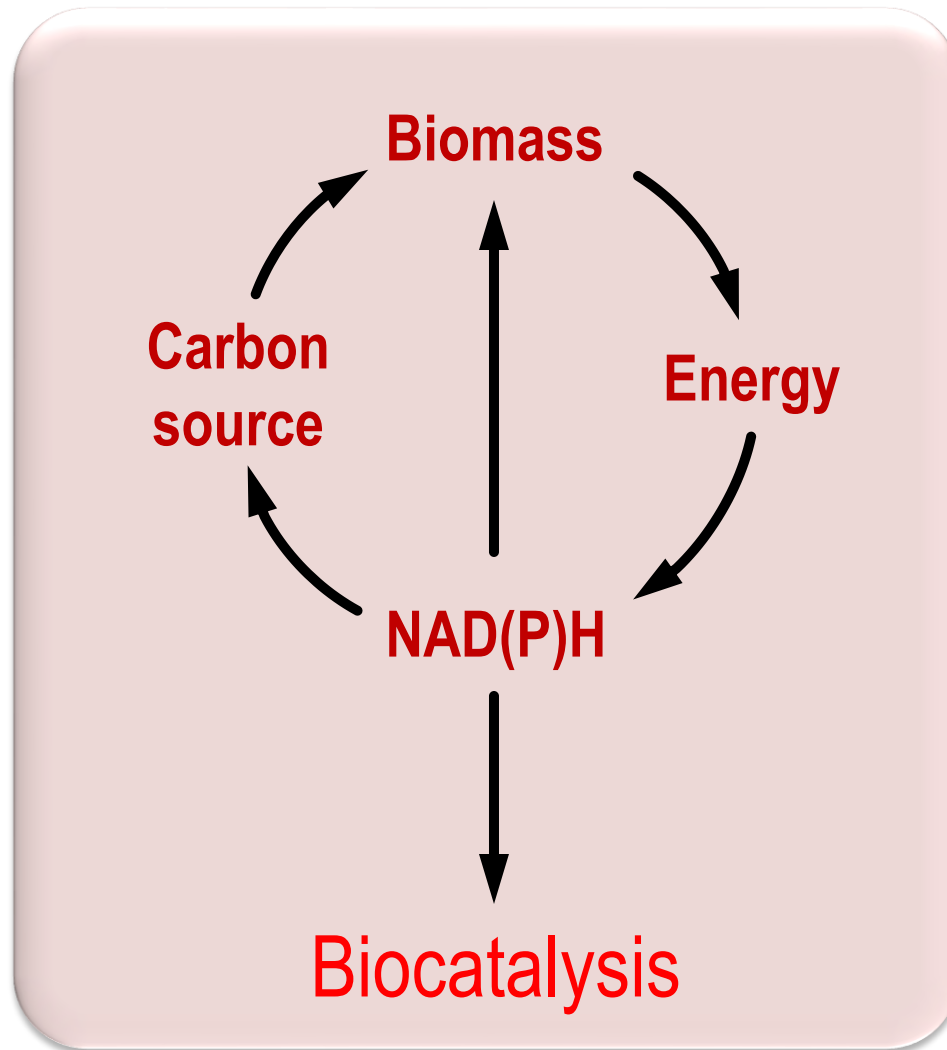
Propionate

Specialty chemicals

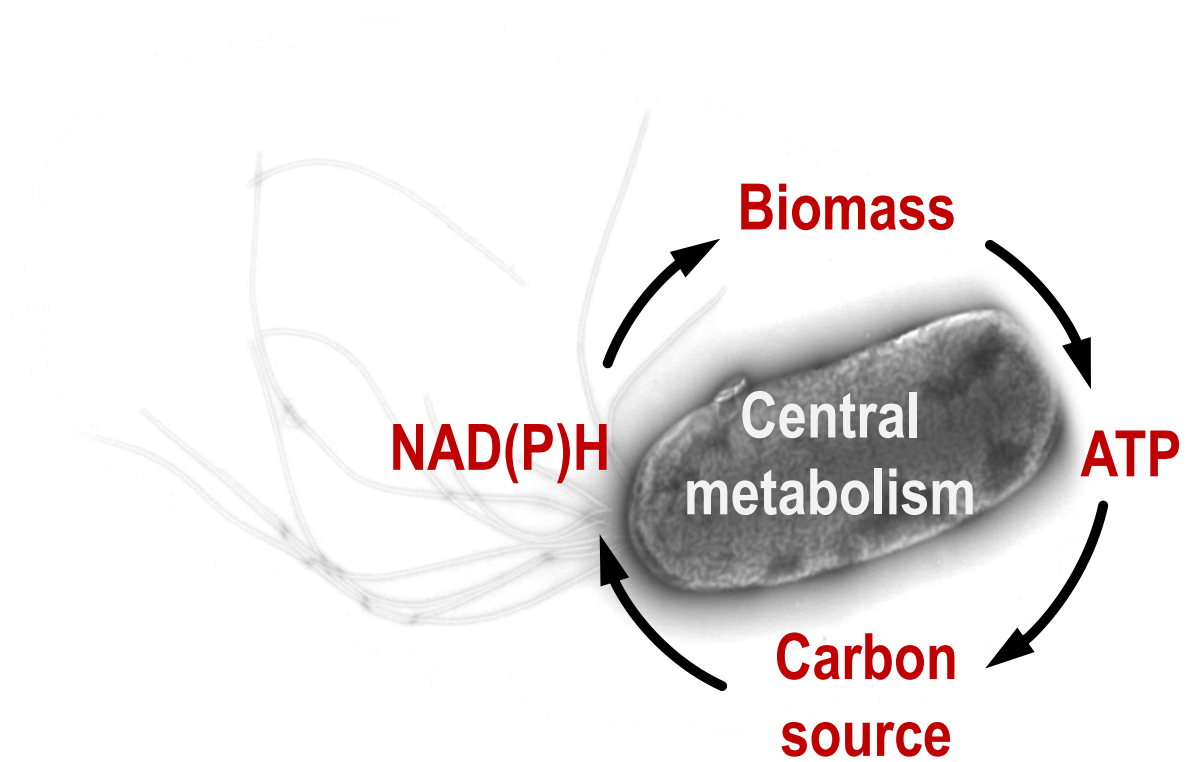
A textbook vision of microbial metabolism



A textbook vision of microbial metabolism

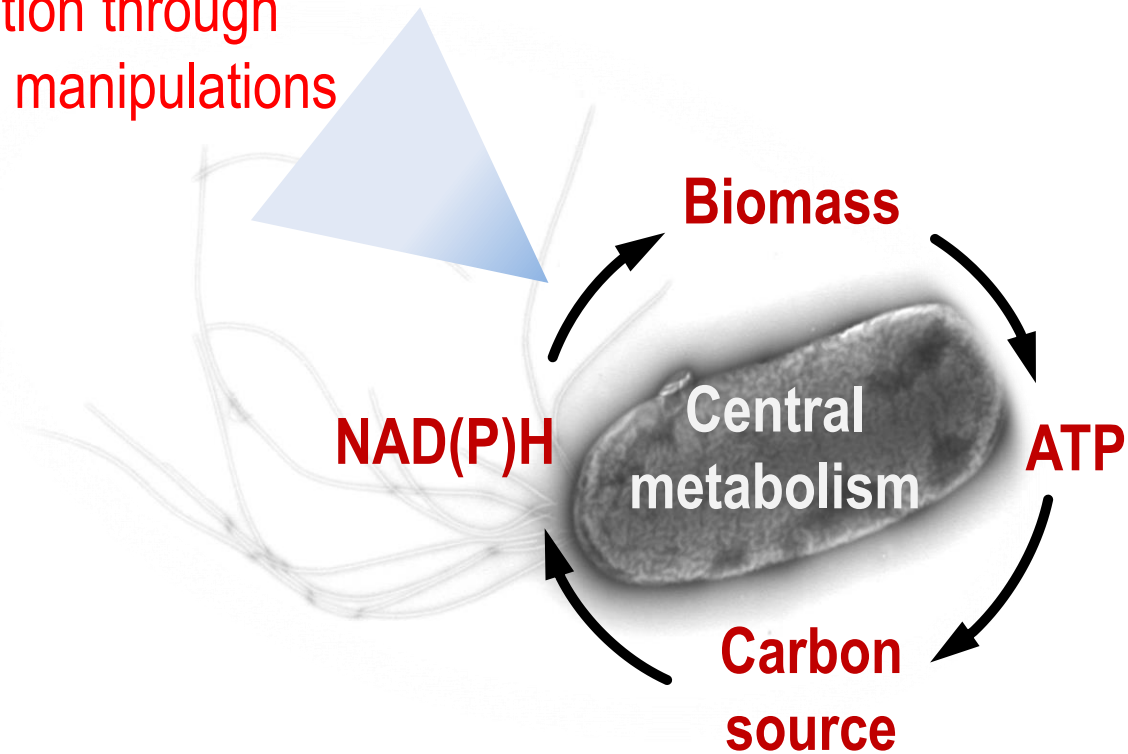


The promise of Genetic Engineering



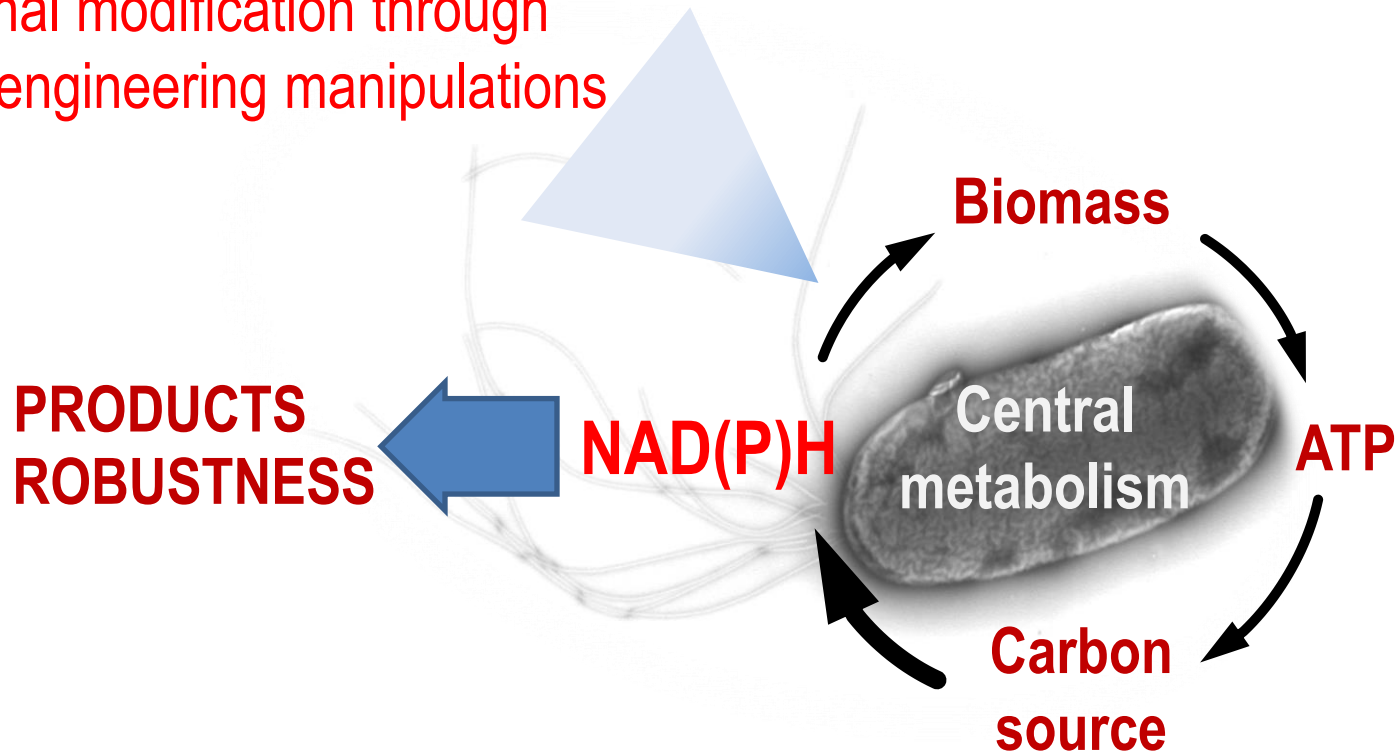
The promise of Genetic Engineering

Rational modification through genetic engineering manipulations



The promise of Genetic Engineering

Rational modification through genetic engineering manipulations



The Holy Grail of Genetic Engineering

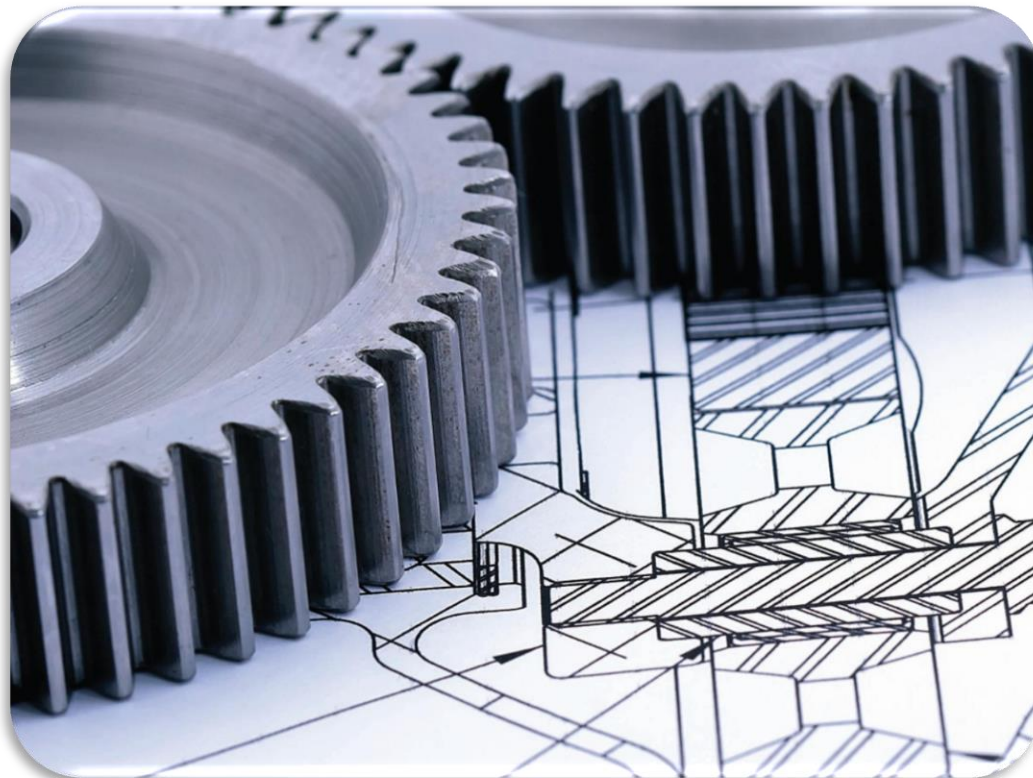
Rational modification through
genetic engineering

PRODUCE
ROBUST

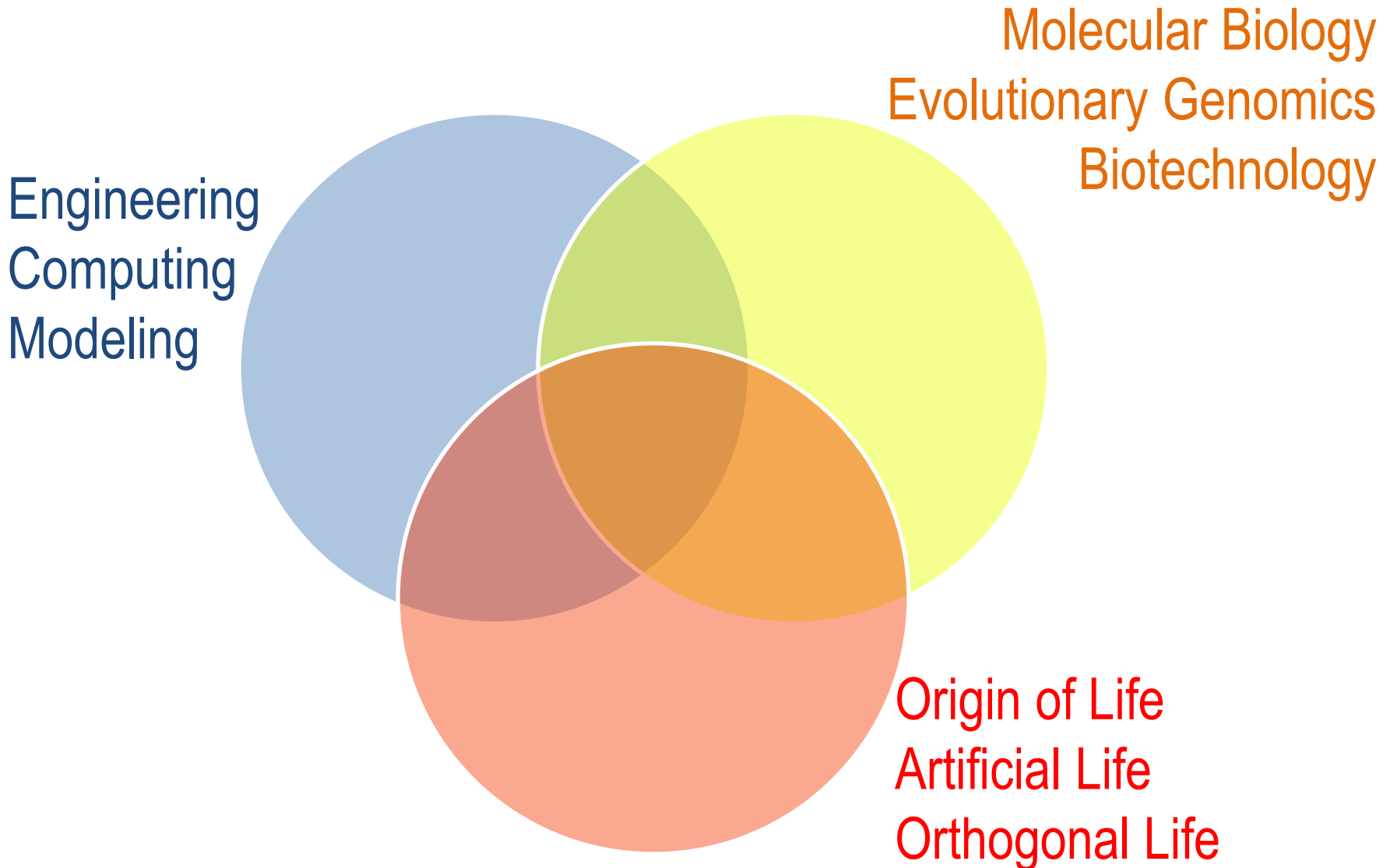


Synthetic Biology

Looking at *live systems* using engineering as a metaphore/interpretative frame



The three roots of Synthetic Biology



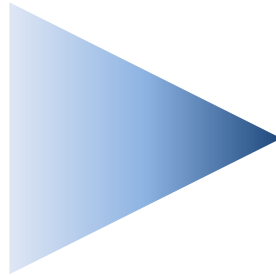
The promise of Synthetic Biology



The promise of Synthetic Biology



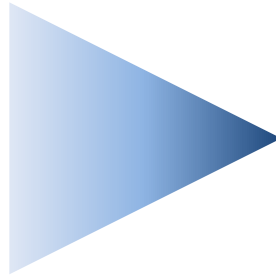
TAMING



The promise of Synthetic Biology



TAMING



CYBORGIZATION

The central question...

How to

- describe,
- de-construct, and
- re-construct

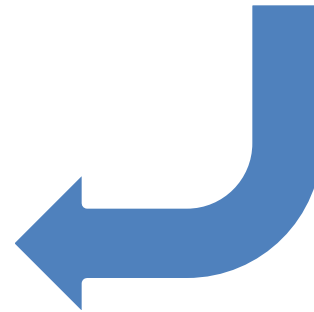
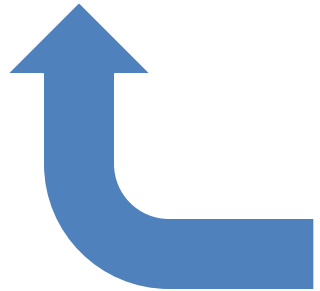
the extant biological complexity?



omics



**Systems Biology &
Metabolic Engineering**

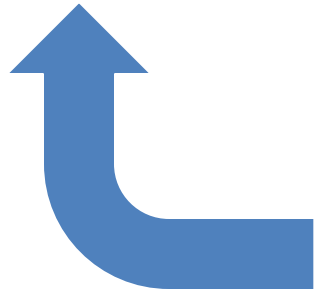




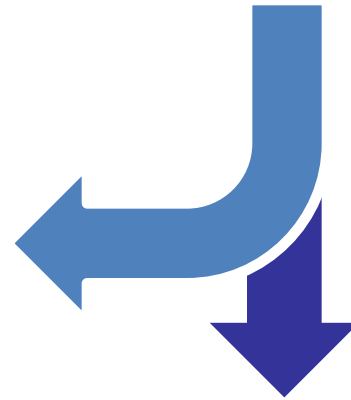
omics



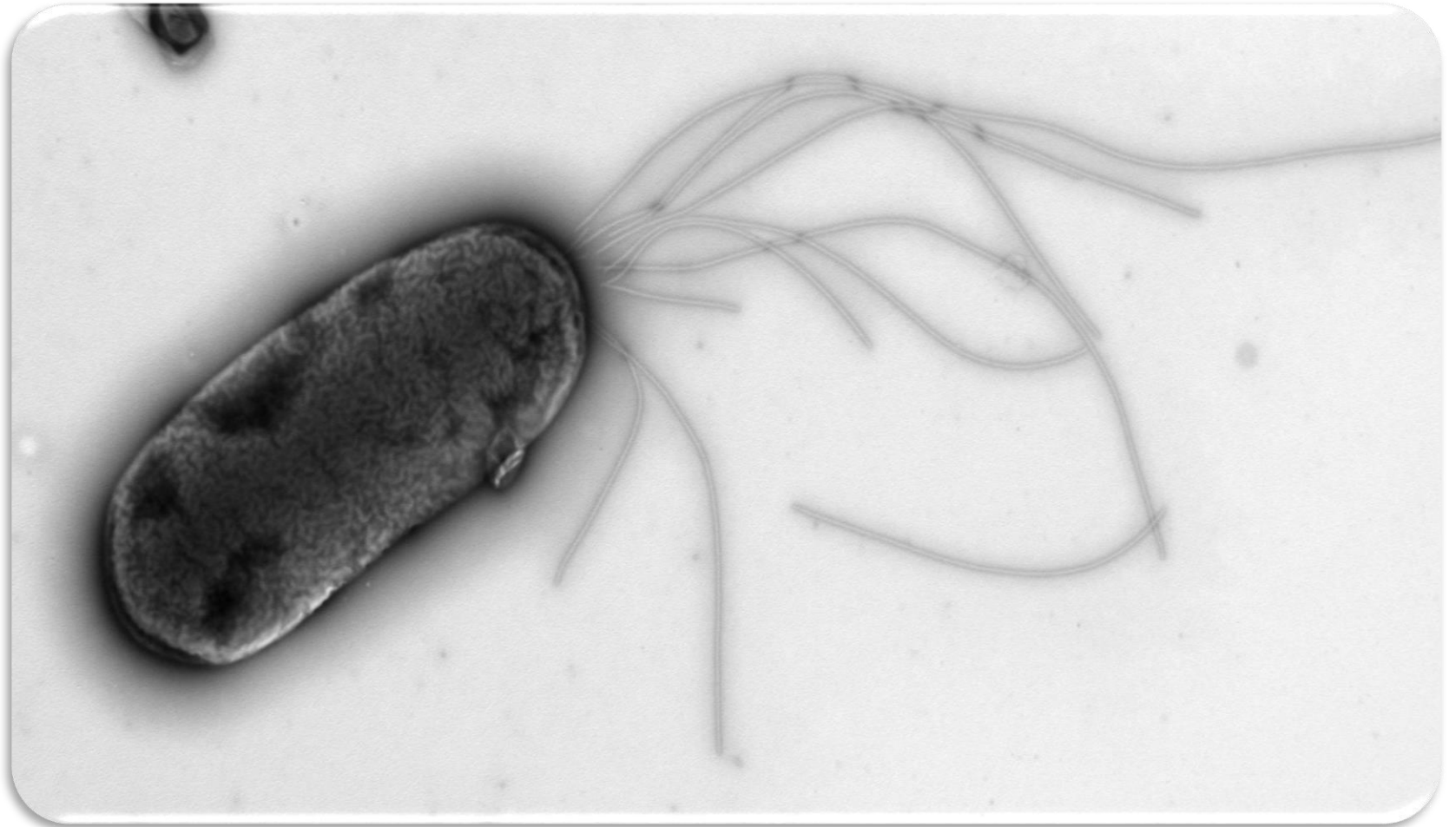
**Systems Biology &
Metabolic Engineering**



**Synthetic
Biology**



Pseudomonas putida KT2440



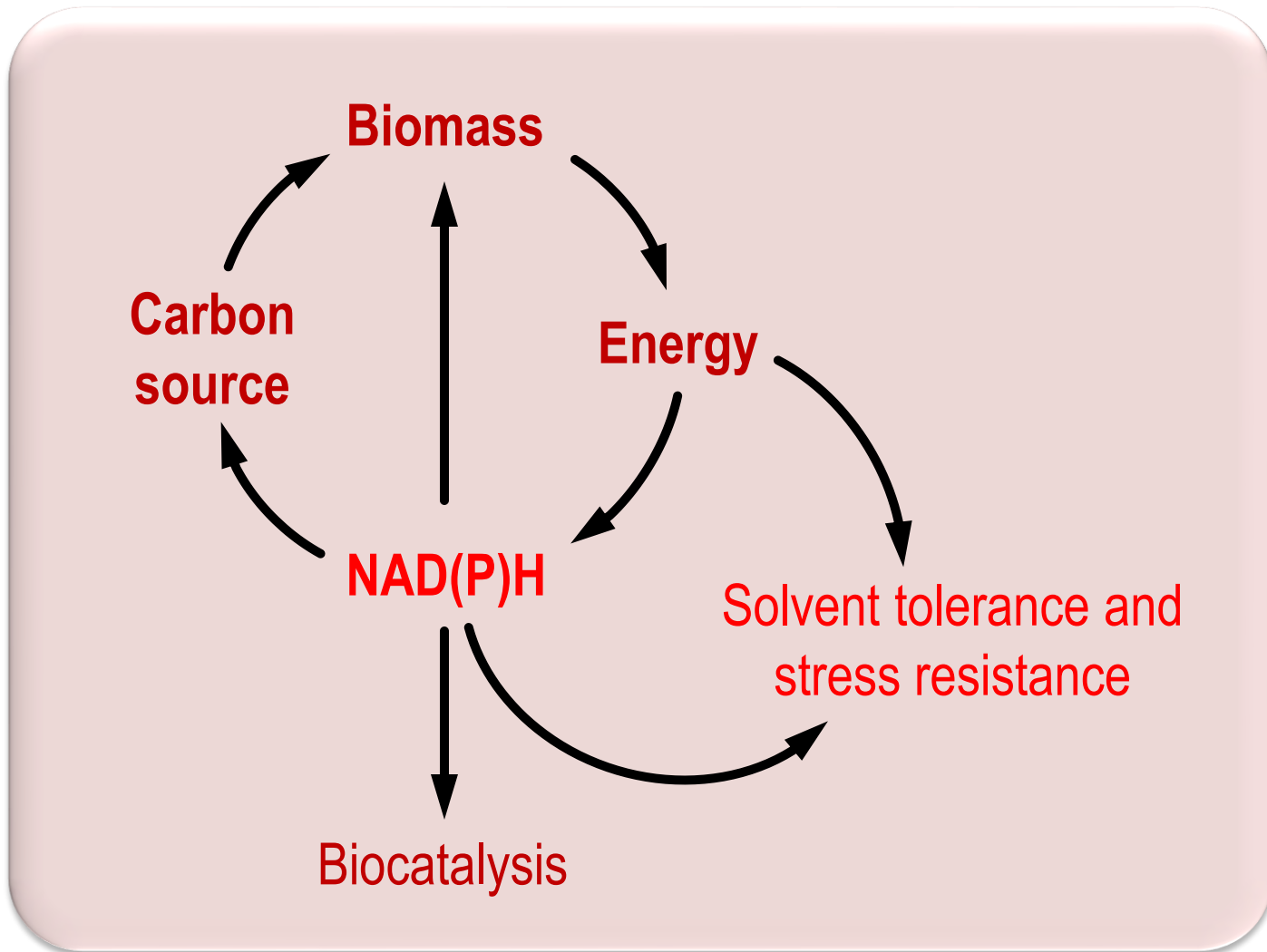
Nikel *et al.* (2014) *Nature Reviews Microbiology* **12**: 368-379

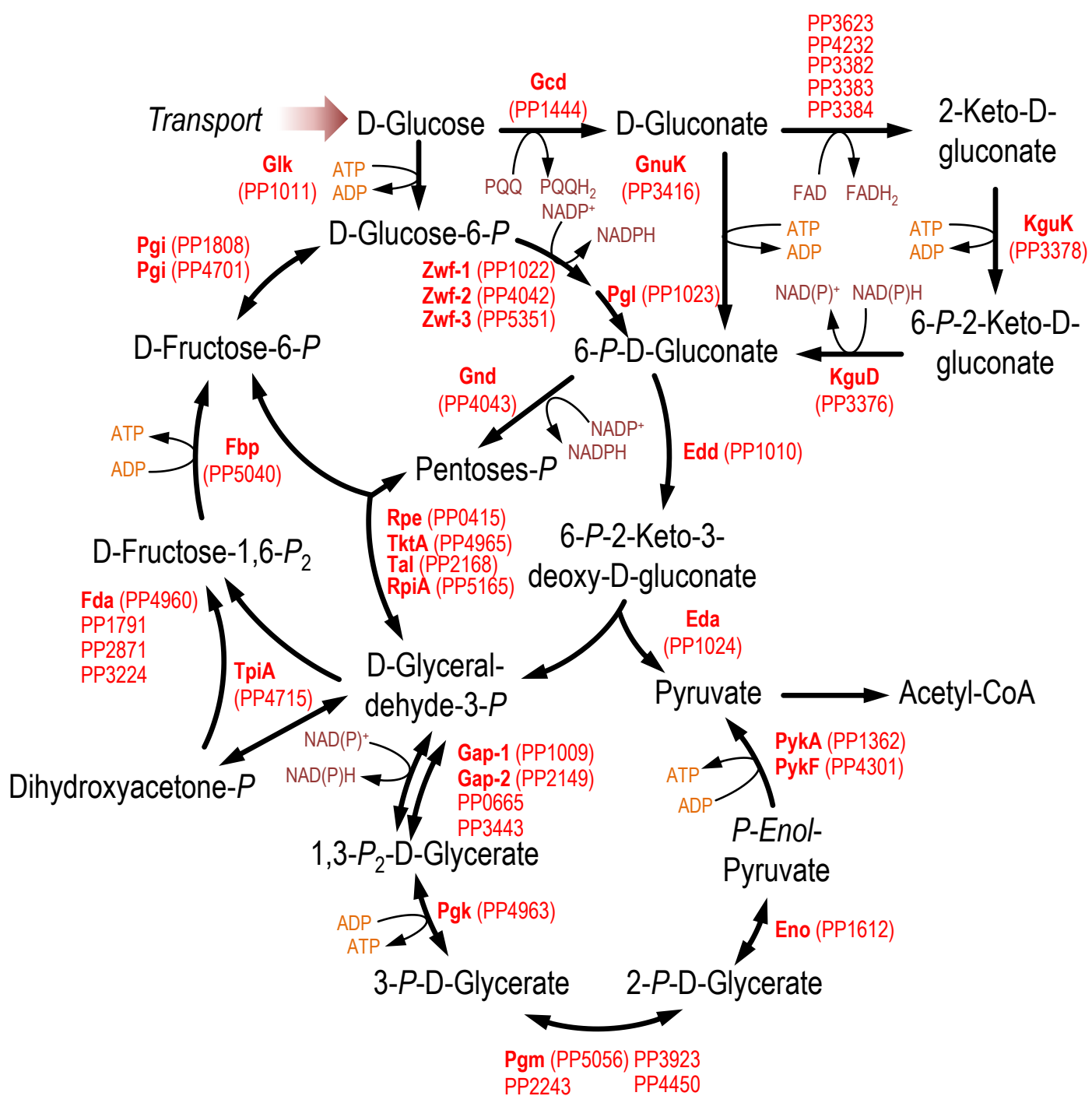
Pseudomonas putida KT2440 as a model organism for biotechnological processes

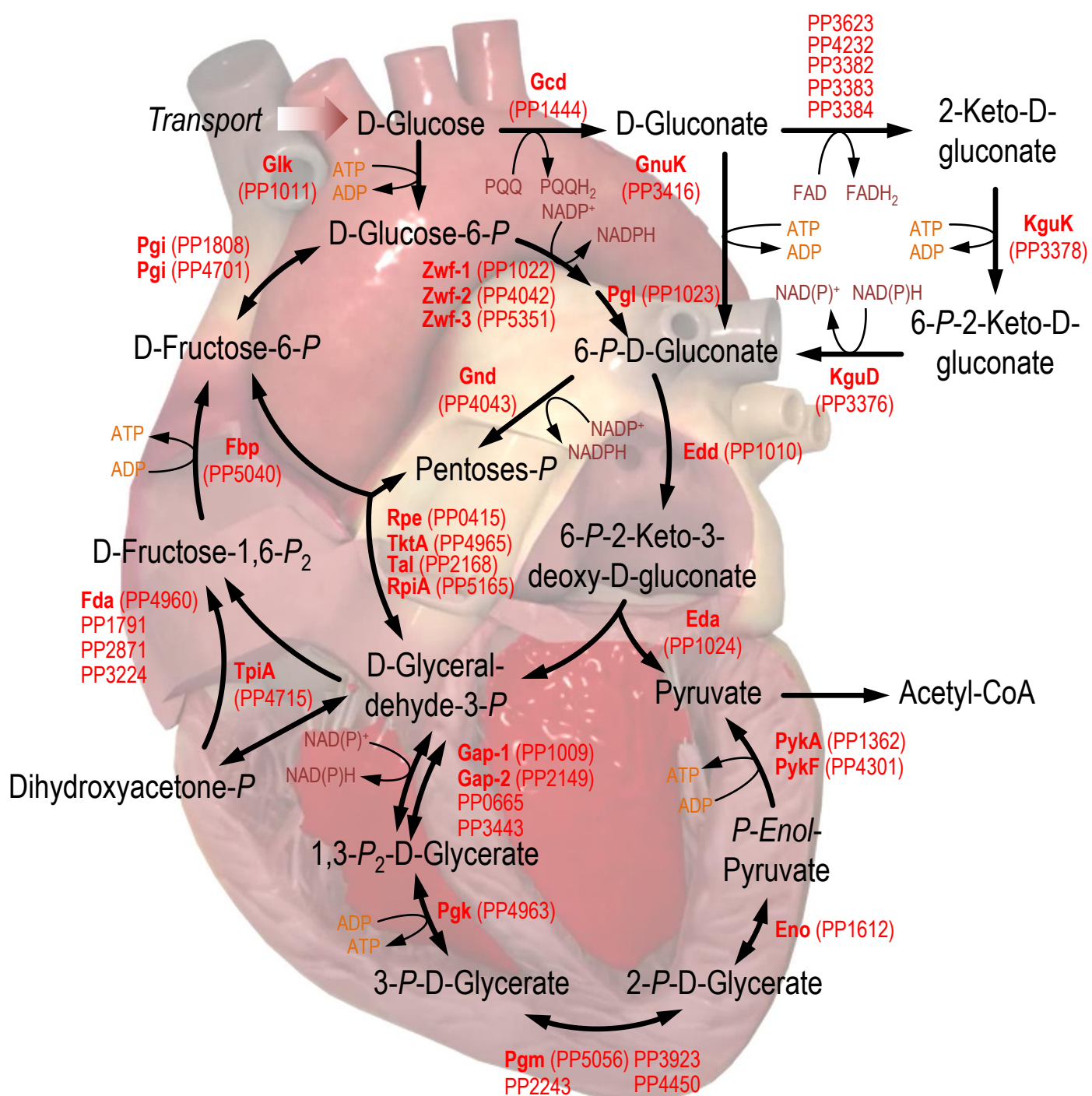
- Non-pathogenic (and *GRAS* certified).
- Complete genome sequence available and molecular tools described.
- Extensively studied for biodegradation of aromatic compounds.
- Useful for *in situ* bioremediation processes and other industrial applications (e.g., biotransformations).
- Remarkable adaptability to thrive in different environments.



Redox balance enables growth on (and resistance to) non-conventional C substrates





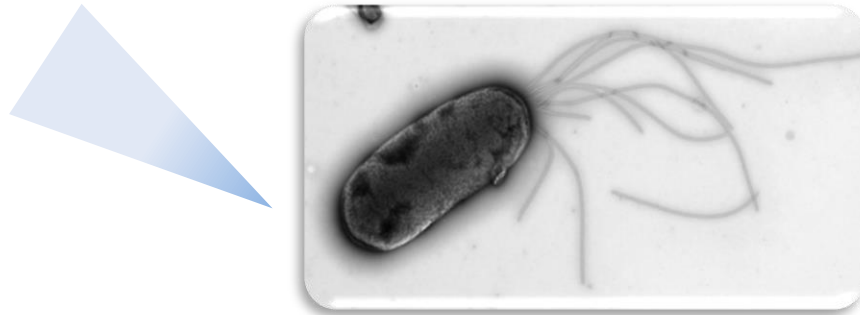


Changing the lifestyle of *P. putida* through Synthetic Biology



Changing the lifestyle of *P. putida* through Synthetic Biology

ATP generation gene from
Escherichia coli



Changing the lifestyle of *P. putida* through Synthetic Biology

ATP generation gene from
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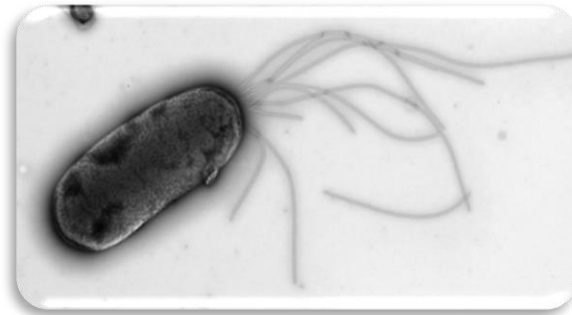
NAD⁺ regeneration genes
from *Zymomonas mobilis*



Changing the lifestyle of *P. putida* through Synthetic Biology

ATP generation gene from
Escherichia coli

NAD⁺ regeneration genes
from *Zymomonas mobilis*



Haloalkane degradation genes
from *Pseudomonas pavonaceae*

Changing the lifestyle of *P. putida* through Synthetic Biology



P. putida strain able to survive in the absence of O₂ and capable of degrading the pollutant 1,3-dichloropropene

Nikel and de Lorenzo (2013) *Metabolic Engineering* **15**: 98-112

Synthetic Biology & Microbial Biotechnology

We Can Do Better than Nature!



Thanks!...