

Special seminar

Perry Library Learning Commons

Room 1310-1311

Friday, March 21, 2014, 12:30-1:30 PM

Dr. Spiros N. Agathos, Ph.D.

Professor of Bioengineering

Earth and Life Institute (ELI)

Applied Microbiology & Bioengineering Cluster

Catholic University of Louvain

Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium



" Phototrophs and Marine Biotechnology - Towards Sustainable Bioprocessing "

Thanks to their sustainable capacity for solar energy conversion, algae have been capturing the imagination of researchers, investors and policymakers worldwide. These phototrophic organisms represent almost one third of the total primary biomass generated on the scale of our entire planet, while at the same time being are by far the most important carbon dioxide consumers. The future establishment of a microalgal industry necessitates large scale, inexpensive and dependable photobioreactor systems. Cutting down the construction and operational costs might emerge as the primary principle that should guide the development of future industrial photobioreactor systems. An adaptation of the biorefinery concept to algae and other phototrophic microorganisms holds much promise for a future expansion of the bio-economy in an environmentally responsible and sustainable society.

Host:

Dr. Chris Platsoucas, Ph.D. D.Sc. (h.c.)

Dean, College of Sciences