On the metabolic engineering portion of our project, our ordering of priorities has shifted our timeline somewhat in the last year. Our initial milestones targeted June 1, 2015 as the date for when we could create a ranked list of 5-10 strain designs for methane conversion to methanol. However, during meetings between the Price and Leigh lab teams, it became apparent that there were unforeseen challenges in the experimental milestones that were hindering construction of a methanol-consuming *M. maripaludis* mutant. Though our computational designs are a vital piece of our metabolic engineering strategy, *in silico* designs could not be tested without first creating a viable host organism. In our internal discussions, it became apparent that creating the methanol-consuming mutant was the top priority in our project. Thus, the Price lab temporarily shifted its focus, devoting its resources to training in and performing wet lab procedures, including both cloning and chemostat experiments.

This shift was a boon to experimental efforts and further deepened conversations between the Price and Leigh lab members, enhancing our overall understanding of the system as well as adding manpower to the wet lab. Consequently, our computational strain designs have been substantially delayed, though this cost was well worth the time spent to working toward the other milestones. Coupled together with some unexpected difficulties involved in setting up our strain design software, this temporary shift has pushed back our timeline such that we now expect to achieve these designs by April 1, 2016. This change should not detrimentally affect the outcome of the project as a whole as it still falls well within the overall project timeline and will give us added time to successfully construct our methanol-consuming cells.

New Milestone date: April 1, 2016