



Montana Biofilm Science & Technology Meeting



July 15-17, 2026



Pre-Meeting Workshop Tuesday, July 14, 2026

The heat is on: Biocalorimetry approaches to study biofilms

Sponsored by

SYMCEL^o

Morning Session 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

8:00–8:15	Welcome and Introductions Matthew Fields and Darla Goeres	Barnard 323
8:15–8:30	Symcel and microcalorimetry Fauve Vergauwe, Symcel	Barnard 323
8:30–8:45	Experimental design considerations Ross Carlson	Barnard 323
8:45–10:00	In the lab: Sample preparation and adaption Fauve Vergauwe, Kelli Buckingham-Meyer, Ross Carlson, Chris Jones, Lindsey Miller, Campbell Putnam	Barnard 367
10:00–10:15	Break	
10:15–10:45	In the lab: CalScreener use and operation Fauve Vergauwe	Barnard 367
10:45–11:45	Data analysis and interpretation Fauve Vergauwe, Ross Carlson, Chris Jones	Barnard 323
11:45–12:00	Potential application areas; brainstorm for all	Barnard 323

Afternoon Session 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. (Morning schedule repeats)

1:00–1:15	Welcome and Introductions Matthew Fields and Darla Goeres	Barnard 323
1:15–1:30	Symcel and microcalorimetry Fauve Vergauwe, Symcel	Barnard 323
1:30–1:45	Experimental design considerations Ross Carlson	Barnard 323
1:45–3:00	In the lab: Sample preparation and adaption Fauve Vergauwe, Kelli Buckingham-Meyer, Ross Carlson, Chris Jones, Lindsey Miller, Campbell Putnam	Barnard 367
3:00–3:15	Break	
3:15–3:45	In the lab: CalScreener use and operation Fauve Vergauwe	Barnard 367
3:45–4:45	Data analysis and interpretation Fauve Vergauwe, Ross Carlson, Chris Jones	Barnard 323
4:45–5:00	Potential application areas; brainstorm for all	Barnard 323



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AM Session: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

PM Session: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

CBE laboratory, Montana State University

The 2026 CBE Biofilm Methods Workshop will focus on biocalorimetry, specifically microcalorimetry, as a method to investigate biofilm growth, development, treatment, and removal. This half-day workshop will include hands-on demonstrations on the latest biocalorimetry technologies available at the Center for Biofilm Engineering. Participants will gain insights into optimizing biofilm growth, technique applicability, sample preparation, data analysis, and biocalorimetry limitations. Biocalorimetry enables a direct measurement of viable microbial activity in biofilms, even in complex samples or on surfaces. The workshop will cover topics such as assessing biofilm regrowth after treatment, sterility testing, metabolic activity analysis, studying multispecies biofilms, and evaluating product preservation.

In addition to small-group discussions with CBE experts on biocalorimetry, researchers from Symcel, MBM workshop sponsor, will be on hand to demonstrate the biocalorimetry capabilities at the CBE. Attendance at either the morning or afternoon session maximizes the opportunity for participation and allows attendees to meet with additional CBE staff or explore southwest Montana.

This workshop is ideal for those new to biofilm research, experienced researchers who are interested in new application areas, and folks who would appreciate focused time with experienced biofilm researchers. The topics covered are highly relevant for professionals in industrial processing, hospital disinfection, premise plumbing, medical device development, pharmaceutical manufacturing, food safety, and surface disinfection.

10 ppl per morning and afternoon session.

CBE gratefully acknowledges the support from our workshop sponsor



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