



**Christopher A. Voigt, Ph.D.**

Department Head of Biological Engineering, MIT

**Date** Friday, February 13, 2026

**Time** 12:00 to 1:00 PM

**Location** CBB 108

**Title:** *Engineering Bacteria for the Field*

**Bio:** Christopher Voigt, PhD is the Department Head of Biological Engineering at MIT. He is an expert in Synthetic Biology and his lab has applied genetic engineering to problems in agriculture, health, computation, medicine, chemicals/materials, national security, and infrastructure. He holds the Daniel I.C. Wang Professorship and is Co-Director of the Synthetic Biology Center. He received his BSE in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan (1998) and PhD in Biophysics from Caltech (2002). He is a founder of Pivot Bio (microbial agricultural products), Asimov (human cell synthetic biology), and Fieldstone (national security and biotechnology). He is on the board of the Novo Nordisk Foundation; it oversees ~150 companies, including Novo Nordisk, and is the second-largest philanthropic organization in the world. He serves on the science advisory boards of DSM-Firmenich, Empress Bio, Aanika, Senti Bio, Robigo, Anthology Bio, Codebreaker TX, Meristem, Aptamino, Generate Biomedicines, Full Circle, and Twist Bioscience. He is an advisor to the Khalifa Center for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (UAE) and the Stonybrook Laufer Center. He is an equity partner at the venture firms DCVC Bio, Bio-innovation, and Pillar. He has been honored with a National Security Science & Engineering Faculty Fellowship (NSSEFF), Bush Fellows Research Study Team (BFRST), and is the Director of the Army Center for Synthetic Biology. He has been honored as a Sloan Fellow, Pew Fellow, Packard Fellow, NSF Career Award, Vaughan Lecturer, MIT TR35, Schmidt Innovation Fellow, and SynBiobeta Entrepreneurial Leadership Award. He founded the first synthetic biology journal, ACS Synthetic Biology, and a founder of the SEED (Synthetic Biology, Engineering and Design) Conference Series.