Accelerating Innovation:
Physical Science Startups at Cyclotron Road

Raymond Weitekamp PhD

President Obama’s recent announcement of “Mission Innovation” at COP21 in Paris solidified a multinational commitment to innovate our way to sustainable energy utilization. If accelerated innovation is going to be a critical component of addressing climate change, we need new models for translating technology from the lab to the marketplace. Raymond will share his experiences as part of the first cohort of entrepreneurs at Cyclotron Road, an incubator at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for early-stage startups in energy and advanced manufacturing. Specifically, he will discuss the implications of leveraging business-model-agnostic resources to dramatically change the trajectory of early-stage ventures. Finally, Raymond will give an update on his startup polySpectra, which is developing functional materials chemistry from Caltech towards applications in energy efficiency and advanced manufacturing.

About Raymond

Raymond Weitekamp leads the polySpectra project at Cyclotron Road, a startup accelerator at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. His interdisciplinary work is focused on the interactions of light with polymeric materials, including block copolymer photonic crystals and photoinitiated catalysis. While his interests are diverse, the common goal of his research is to apply fundamental scientific insights to challenges in sustainability and energy. In 2015, Raymond received his PhD in Chemistry from Caltech, where he worked between the labs of Bob Grubbs and Harry Atwater. At Caltech, he was awarded a Resnick-Goldhirsh Fellowship in 2011, as well as a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship in 2012. In 2010, he graduated with honors from Princeton University with an A.B. in Chemistry and won the Robert T. McCay Prize in Physical Chemistry.