



BIOBRIDGE is a UCSD program linking San Diego's scientific and educational communities. Our central school-based initiative inspires students and reinvigorates teachers through introducing new and exciting hands-on lab activities that reflect the current research questions and issues of science. To this end, we invite members of your science team to participate in our first ever student MicroBlitz.

MicroBlitz, a collaboration of UCSD, Pro-Natura USA, BioAtla, and the E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation, offers a highly novel opportunity for middle and high school students to work side-by-side with scientists and university students to discover new organisms while exploring the invisible microbial universe. Of significant importance to our learning outcomes is the fact that microbes constitute one of the most important forces sustaining life on Earth, being largely responsible for generating our atmosphere, fuels, and food. As *less than 1%* of all microbes on the earth have yet been identified or characterized, students will be directly engaged in meaningful scientific exploration. Using the powerful techniques of molecular biology (e.g., Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR], molecular cloning, automated DNA sequencing) it is now possible to detect and isolate individual microbes from among complex organic/inorganic mixtures that exist in every square meter of the planet.



?? How do we get involved ??

- **By April 10th** - Invite a team of 2 science teachers from your site to join our team in the development and optimization of the MicroBlitz project. Please recruit teachers who will provide feedback to peers MicroBlitz will be disseminated district-wide next year.
- **Friday, May 1st (UCSD)** – Your teacher team will participate in a day-long training pilot at UCSD covering topics of science background, lab set-up and implementation, student groupings and content standards. *Substitute release costs paid by BioBridge.*
- **Saturday May 9th (UCSD)** – On Saturday morning between 8:30 and 1:00, teachers will pilot the MicroBlitz activity with small group of 4-6 enthusiastic students; teachers will team with these *student leaders* to determine best strategies to teach this lab and brainstorm roles such student leaders can assume during classroom lab implementation. *Teacher stipends of \$100 or 2 units of extension credit from BioBridge.*
- **Before Summer** – Teacher/student teams pilot activity with 1-2 science class sections during or after school.
- **Sign up soon as space is limited** –email jbabendure@ucsd.edu with questions and to secure your site's involvement in this new, stimulating training session.