

Dr. Gerardo Toledo is Director of Microbiology at Synthetic Genomics Inc. where he leads the microbiology-related activities for internal and partnered projects. His background is in molecular microbial ecology and has additional experience in molecular taxonomy, and biotechnological microbiology cultivating diverse microorganisms for commercial product development. He worked for almost 6 years at Diversa Corporation where he isolated over 500 aerobic and anaerobic microbial strains used to develop or improve some of the microbial-derived enzymes for various applications. He also managed a Moore Foundation grant to conduct a molecular biodiversity inventory in Yellowstone Lake as well as a grant from the University of Hawaii to discover lead compounds from novel marine microbes using novel cultivation approaches. At Diversa he participated in the small molecule discovery program and in the technology development of the High Throughput Cultivation (HTC) technology for the cultivation of previously uncultivated microbial strains.

Gerardo received a Ph.D. in marine biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California in San Diego as well as a master's degree with honors in marine biology from the National Polytechnic Institute in La Paz, Mexico and a bachelor in marine biology from the Autonomous University of South Baja California in La Paz, Mexico. Since 2002 he is adjunct professor at the CICESE in Ensenada where he teaches a class in marine natural products.