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Dr. Karas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at Western University, London, ON, Canada and CEO at Designer Microbes Inc, London, ON, Canada. Dr. Karas received his Ph.D. degree in Biology (2010) from Western University where his research was focused on deciphering genetics of nitrogen-fixing root nodule symbiosis. Next, he worked at the Synthetic Biology and Bioenergy group at J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) in La Jolla, CA, USA. At JCVI, his work focused on developing technologies for cloning of whole natural or synthetic chromosomes as centromeric plasmids in yeast, where they can be manipulated using powerful yeast genetic tools and then transplanted inside microbial cells of the same or different species.