

Synthetic Biology

Newsletter #4, September 2008

Dear Synthetic Biologist

Welcome to our fourth EMERGENCE newsletter on Synthetic Biology. This autumn is full of European events in Synthetic Biology and with this newsletter, we try to give you an overview about some of them. If we forgot some important meetings or if you have some comments that you would like to send to us, please contact us via

SB-Newsletter@ethz.ch

Important: The EMERGENCE team will organize an advisory board meeting next to the Synthetic Biology SB4.0 in Hong Kong on Friday evening, October 10th. More information will be soon available and posted on our EMERGENCE website.

For more information about the EMERGENCE project, please visit us at

<http://www.emergence.ethz.ch>

Kind regards, the EMERGENCE Team

Synbiosafe e-conference

[SYNBIOSAFE](#) is the first initiative in Europe that focuses particularly on the safety, security and ethical concerns and tries to facilitate a socially acceptable development of synthetic biology.

One of the recent activities of Synbiosafe was carrying out an open online conference in May/June 2008. The aim of this open e-conference was to further stimulate a debate on safety, security and ethical issues in a proactive way at a relatively early stage. The discussions and consultations during the e-conference are an important contribution to the production of final recommendations, which will be delivered by the Synbiosafe consortium to national governments, international organizations, research centers, universities, and other stakeholders at the end of 2008.

Everyone interested in Synthetic Biology was encouraged to actively participate in the online discussion, either to submit a professional expertise, opinion, or point of view. The participation was open to everybody interested in the ethical, safety and security issues of synthetic biology.

More information on the e-conference, and on the discussions and contributions of the various participants can be found [here](#).

To all users of Synthetic Biology

Do you want to organize a SB-relevant workshop and would like to get support from EMERGENCE?

A standardized three-tiered meeting structure that allows efficient review and distribution of the conclusions obtained at individual meetings was developed. You, as an interested researcher/institution can propose to the Steering Board of Emergence an initial meeting to discuss a particular subject of acute interest in SB. Please detail the topic, relevance to the CA, deliverables, number (and, whenever relevant, identity of participants), anticipated costs and requested contribution, location etc.

Once the proposed meeting is approved, financed, successfully conducted and the deliverable (usually a report) is produced, further meetings of increasing dimension or complementary could be proposed along the same basic structure. This simple and iterative procedure provides a swift means to react to acute needs in the field, and enables consolidation and deepening when the topics so demand.

Interested? Then please go to the [EMERGENCE webpage](#), fill out the provided template and send it to Vitor Martins dos Santos, vds@helmholtz-hzi.de

Recent publications from the EMERGENCE team

- M.A. Marchisio & J. Stelling, Computational design of synthetic gene circuits with composable parts, *Bioinformatics*, accepted 21(17), 2008.
- de Lorenzo, V. and Danchin, A. (2008) Synthetic Biology: discovering new worlds and new words. *EMBO Rep* (In Press).
- de las Heras, A., Carreño, CA, de Lorenzo, V. (2008) Stable implantation of orthogonal sensor circuits in Gram-negative bacteria for environmental release. *Env Microbiol* (In Press).
- Silva-Rocha, R. and de Lorenzo (2008) Mining logic gates in prokaryotic transcriptional regulation networks. *FEBS Lett* 582: 1237-44.

Upcoming Events in Synthetic Biology

- Fourth International Conference on [Synthetic Biology SB4.0](#), October 10 - 12, 2008, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology.
 - [Workshop Synthetic Biology](#), November 6-8, 2008, Groningen, The Netherlands.
 - [Systems and Synthetic Biology - Scientific and Social Implications](#), November 7-8, 2008 at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany.
 - [Life under \(Re\)Construction](#), VBC PhD Symposium on Synthetic Biology. November 13-14, 2008, Vienna, Austria.
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Imprint

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