

Synthetic Biology

Newsletter #6, November 2009

Dear Synthetic Biologist

Welcome to our 6th and last EMERGENCE newsletter on Synthetic Biology. We would like to take the opportunity to inform the community about recent activities in Synthetic Biology such as the *iGEM jamboree* in the beginning of November 2009.

EMERGENCE officially ends in November 2009.

For more information about the EMERGENCE project and the achievements of the team, please visit us at

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

Kind regards, the EMERGENCE Team

iGEM 2009

iGEM 2009 is officially over. During the first weekend of November, 112 teams from all over the world presented their work at the iGEM Competition Jamboree at MIT. For the first time, this year all 3 winner teams came from Europe. The grand prize, the BioBricks trophy, went to the team from the University of Cambridge. The so-called “*E. chromi*”-team from the British university successfully expressed a spectrum of pigments in *E. coli*, creating a color generator. The second and the third price went to the teams from the University of Heidelberg and the University of Valencia, [more information](#).

Looking back at iGEM`s history, the competition was a great success and has grown rapidly, from five teams in its first year (2004) to 34 teams in 2006 and finally 112 teams in 2009.

If you are interested in frequent news about iGEM you can join the mailing list [here](#).

If you are interested in sponsoring iGEM, please contact Randy Rettberg at

Randy@iGEM.org

First documentation about Synthetic Biology on DVD

The documentary film “SYNBIOSAFE-Synthetic Biology and its Safety and Ethical Aspects” by Markus Schmidt and Camillo Meinhard was recently lanced as one of the outputs of the EC-FP6 program SYNBIOSAVE. „SYNBIOSAFE“ gives a fundamental insight into Synthetic Biology and its real world applications. The documentary film also sheds a light on the benefits and risks of this new technology and what it means for our future society. It is about synthetic biology and its safety and ethical aspects.



If you are interested in the DVD you can order it [here](#)

The SYNBIOSAFE DVD contains the 38 minutes documentary film plus some 15 in-depth expert interviews.

New England Biolabs and Ginkgo BioWorks release the first BioBrick assembly kit

Biobricks are DNA sequences that encode a defined biological function and can be readily assembled with any other Biobrick. The BioBrick™ Assembly Kit that is now available from New England Biolabs provides a streamlined method for assembly of Biobricks into multi-component genetic systems. The process for assembling any two Biobricks is identical and results in a new composite Biobrick, [more information](#).

ESF EuroCORES

9 Projects were recommended for funding and transferred to the national funding agencies for further review. Results are to be expected in mid December 2009.

Upcoming Events in Synthetic Biology

- The National Academies Keck Futures Initiative will be [Synthetic Biology: Building on Nature's Inspiration](#) on 19-22 November, 2009, at Irvine, CA, USA.
Ten podcast tutorial interviews with synthetic biology leaders are [available online](#)
 - Synthetic Biology in Pharma Conference, The Wellcome Trust Conference Centre, Cambridge, UK, 30-31 March, 2010
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Imprint

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