

Synthetic Biology

Newsletter #5, July 2009

Dear Synthetic Biologist

Welcome to our fifth EMERGENCE newsletter on Synthetic Biology. This summer and 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

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

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

Kind regards, the EMERGENCE Team

Special issue on Synthetic Biology in *Interface* (March 2009):

The organizers of the special issue 'Synthetic biology: history, challenges and prospects', Jim Haseloff (University of Cambridge), Jim Ajioka (University of Cambridge) and Dick Kitney (Imperial College, London), have brought together a collection of twelve articles, plus an introduction, by a group of internationally renowned authors. These peer-reviewed research and review papers provide an excellent overview of the subject.

[More information](#)

New department for Systems Biology and Synthetic Biology at ETH Zurich:

[The Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering \(D-BSSE\)](#) is combining biological, engineering and computational approaches to analyze complex bio-molecular networks. It was officially inaugurated on June 6, 2009.

Beginning with the 2009 fall semester [BSc and MSc programs in Biotechnology](#) with specialization in synthetic biology will be offered.

A Website for Synthetic Biology Resources:

This site contains details of recent papers on Synthetic Biology, with particular emphasis on: (i) development of standards in biology and DNA biobricks, (ii) microbial and (iii) plant systems, (iv) hardware for scientific computing and instrumentation, (v) tools for scientific productivity and (vi) collected miscellany.

<http://www.synbio.org.uk/>

The Technical University of Delft/3TU – The Centre for Ethics and Technology has recently launched an EU-funded project on Ethical and Regulatory Issues Raised by Synthetic Biology. More information under: <http://www.ethicsandtechnology.eu/research/projects/1122>

OECD interested in Synthetic Biology:

The OECD, together with the National Academies of Sciences of the USA and the US National Science Foundation, has recently held a meeting on the science and potential implications of synthetic biology. Much of this meeting is either fully or partially online under http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/stl/PGA_051983

News on the ESF-Eurocores Call in Synthetic Biology, EuroSYNBIO

The ESF-Eurocores Call for project proposals was a success. The ESF received 24 project descriptions in the first round and invited 16 groups to submit a full proposal. These proposals are currently under revision. Decisions can be expected later this year.

<http://www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/programmes/eurosynbio/call-for-proposals.html>

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

- Müller, D., Stelling, J. (2009) Precise regulation of gene expression dynamics favors complex promoter architecture. PLoS Comput Biol. 5(1):e1000279.
- Tigges, M., Marquez-Lago, T., Stelling, J., Fussenegger, M. (2009) A tunable synthetic mammalian oscillator. Nature, 457(7227):309-12.
- De Lorenzo, V. (2009) Recombinant bacteria for environment release: what went wrong and what we have learnt from it. Clin Microbiol Infect. 15 Suppl 1:63-5.
- Walser, M., Pellaux, R., Meyer, A., Bechthold, M., Vanderschuren, H., Reinhardt, R., Magyar, J., Panke, S., Held, M. (2009) Novel method for high-throughput colony PCR screening in nanoliter-reactors. Nucleic Acids Res.;37(8):e57.

Upcoming Events in Synthetic Biology

- [Plant Bioinformatics, Systems and Synthetic Biology Summer School](#), July 27-31, 2009 at the University of Nottingham, UK.
- Meeting "Ethics in Synthetic Biology, October 1 & 2, University of Freiburg, Germany http://www.igm.uni-freiburg.de/medeth/akt_medeth/flyer-symposium-ethik-der-synthetischen-biologie
- [iGEM Competition Jamboree](#), October 30 - November 2, 2009, MIT, USA.
- DECHEMA Conference on "[Synthetic Bio\(tech\)nology](#)", November 9-10, 2009 Frankfurt, Germany.
- Synthetic Biology Workshop "Standardization in transcription and translation", October 21-22, 2009, Illetes, Mallorca.

Imprint

Sonja Billerbeck
Coordinator of EMERGENCE
Mattenstrasse 26,
CH-5048 Basel
Switzerland
Sonja.billerbeck@bsse.ethz.ch
www.emergence.ethz.ch