

iGEM Weekly meeting
4/1/12

***Important! Please **be punctual!** With so few weeks left, every minute counts! ***

Announcements:

Adi, Corporate:

- Contacting academic departments of bioengineering and ag&bio engineering to see if we can obtain funding. Dr. Amos (undergrad BioE head) has been contacted. She said that she might not be able to write us a check, but the BioE facilities might be opened to iGEM. A meeting is scheduled for this/next week for Angela, Adi, and Dr. Amos to meet.

- by the end of summer, companies will be contacted as well. (Fischer Scientific)
- Website: Alex will have a template created by the end of April. Adi has sent him Harvard, Calgary, MIT, and Imperial College London as examples. (Calgary and Imperial are both best wiki winners). Adi is putting in a request so that this will be done in PHP, that way our wiki can be dynamic.

- Only 5 other teams have signed up for the America division of the Entrepreneurship competition. This is very promising for us!

Bob, Web master:

- Has met with David, the web master from last year. Bob's going to get to experiment with the template from last year on another server. The link to this has been put on the iGEM facebook page.

Divya, Publicity:

- Undergraduate Research Symposium is on April 11th! Volunteers are much needed, so email Divya if you can make it for just a few hours.

- A workshops on how to effectively present posters are also going on this Wednesday and Thursday at the UGL. Come when you can and let Divya know about it! (This event has been added to the iGEM google calendar.)

- iGEM is going to get registered for Quad day next fall.

Isiah, Lab manager:

- Need to start deposing old materials in lab and cleaning the bench. That will happen this week. In the following weeks we will streak stuff out to see what is functional. The 4th week, everyone will send their results to Isiah who will compile the data into 2 different books that will allow us to be effective during summer.

- Times for this week: Monday 11 AM – 5 PM, Wednesday 11 AM – 4 PM if necessary, Friday after 11 AM. We are NOT allowed to be in the IGB after 5 pm. Watch for Isiah's email that will follow up to this.

Cara, Social:

- No news back from WashU, and there is currently no IGB money to travel to any other colleges at all.

- Cara and Asha will look into traveling funds from Engineering Council.

Anthony, Treasurer:

- If we get SORF funds we will get reimbursed for all of our travel expenses. So we will have to pay for everything upfront, but once we present a receipt we will be endorsed. This will not cut into our IGB funding.
- This will be discussed with Courtney in the next advisor's meeting.

Uros, Vice president:

- Uros had the same idea as Adi. Dr. Jin suggested creating magnetic organisms – yeast that are magnetic. However there are not many applications. Uros will be further communicating with Dr. Jin about this and brainstorming ideas to come up with a proposal. In the meantime, Uros and Adi will be collaborating on the project proposal.
- Since degrading plastic is a popular idea, we will investigate to see if any other teams are going to be pursuing it. If so, then we will try to collaborate with that university's team.

Asha, Secretary:

- Please email me your powerpoint presentations for your proposals! Also, post them to poptab.
- Cara and Asha will be attending another Engineering Council meeting this week. We will be voting for Engineering Council positions. You have all received an email with information on the candidates, so please send your opinions and feedback to both Cara and Asha

Angela, President:

- Everyone needs to go officially sign up for the UIUC-Illinois iGEM team. Courtney has sent everyone an email with directions on how to do this.
- In April, we will be working on finalizing our idea. So work on your proposal further! Review more literature and refine the proposal in order to make it even better.
- If you have yet to present, send Angela a title and a summary of your proposal.
- Overview of the Parts Registry:
 - o Where all the biobricks are
 - o At the beginning of the summer we will get a kit with about 500 biobricks that we can use in our parts.
 - o The parts registry shows the parts by type with information about each type of part. Green W's means the part works!
 - o Upper right hand "get this part" is where you can order the part. Be sure to note the part name, the plasmid backbone, and what kind of antibiotic resistance it has. Ordering any part is free!
 - o Computer modeling: perform a scratch where we put the sequences together to check them before we got to the lab
 - o Before summer, spend some quality time learning what all the different types of parts are and how to put them together. But don't memorize everything – it's just not possible! Also review iGEM standard cloning

protocol. Angela will take an hour next meeting to give an introduction to cloning and standard protocol.

- Next week's meeting: Will be sometime Sunday NIGHT due to Easter. Check the facebook group for more details. There will be no journal club. Still bring ideas and develop our existing ones! Develop further proposals.

Proposal presentations:

- Divya – Transplastomic antibacterials
 - Plant derived antimicrobials: traditional antibiotics, MDR inhibitors, Compounds that target bacterial virulence
 - Genetically modified plants have new genes inserted into the chloroplast DNA.
 - We create transgenic plants that make drugs.
 - We need to find someone on campus with a gene gun.
- Cara – A Privy Understanding of E. Coli
 - After natural disasters or in underdeveloped areas sanitation and uncontained sewage is often an issue. We need a quick, inexpensive, simple solution.
 - Create packages of freeze dried bacteria that will be able to handle high volumes of human sewage. But the bac in a bucket with water or direct sewage, and a color indicator shows when the sewage had been purified and it is safe to dispose of the remainder of the waste. Color goes from blue -> colorless.
 - The kill mechanism is sunlight. When you throw the newly processed waste water out, the bacteria die in the sun.
 - Good project for human practices and for entrepreneurship; need to target/focus the pathway more.