

SynBioStandards Network

**** DECEMBER '09 NEWSFLASH ****



The end of 2009 fast approaches...herewith an end-of-year newsletter to catch up on recent news, flag up a few items for next year, and bid you all good tidings over the holidays!

NETWORK NEWS

Congratulations! The UK iGEM teams put on a stellar performance at the Jamboree last month, walking away with medals and prizes galore — including the Grand Prize BioBrick Trophy, well-deserved by the Cambridge team. For details see the [network website](#).

Warm thanks are due to Goksel, Neil and Jen at Newcastle, who have kindly taken the lead in preparing a plate of *Bacillus* parts on behalf of the Network. Anyone interested in contributing to this effort should contact Neil in the first instance.

The Imperial Institute for Systems and Synthetic biology hosted a lively Autumn Symposium on 11–12 November 2009, with international guests including Drew Endy, John Glass, Christina Smolke, Paul Rabinow and Chris Voigt.

The network website will be undergoing some minor restructuring early in the new year. If you'd like to update the content of your member page at the same time, just send details to Alistair or Emma.

New members

Sparked in part through the EPSRC Flashlight funding initiative and the Connections in Synthetic Biology sandpit activities, the Network is pleased to welcome a host of new members to its ranks, including:

Edinburgh: Rosalind Allen (physics), Perdita Barran (biophysical chemistry), Dominic Campopiano (organic chemistry), Scott Cockroft (organic chemistry), Cristina Flors (chemistry), Hongwu Ma (informatics), Cait MacPhee (physics), Stewart Smith (microelectronics), Peter Swain (systems biology)

Exeter: Orkun Soyer (systems biology)

Glasgow: David Houston (synthetic biology), Huabing Yin (bioelectronics)

Imperial: Cleo Kontoravdi (biopharmaceuticals processing)

LSE: Claire Marris (BIOS)

Manchester: Aline Miller (biomolecular engineering)

Sheffield: Wei Huang (microbiology)

Southampton: Ali Tavassoli (chemical biology)

We look forward to working with you in 2010!

(Apologies to anyone inadvertently left off this list — just contact Emma and we'll make sure you're in the next newsletter.)

SEE OVER...

FOR YOUR HOLIDAY READING PLEASURE...

- The BioBricks Foundation has recently published a draft version of the [BioBrick Public Agreement](#) for circulation and comment.

And a few articles that may be of interest...

- Ginsberg, A.D. [Building new life forms at the iGEM jamboree](#). *Wired*, 9 November 2009.
- The [December 2009 issue of Nature Biotechnology](#) has a special focus on synthetic biology, with 10+ commentaries & articles covering several aspects of the field.
- The [September 2009 issue of BioSocieties](#) has a number of articles related to synthetic biology, including transcripts of the lectures given by Pam Silver and Jay Keasling at the CSynBI launch meeting in May.

COMING UP in 2010...

10 January 2010: Deadline for submitting applications to the [Wellcome Trust iGEM Competition Student Stipends competition](#).

4–5 March 2010: Advances in Synthetic Biology conference in London, featuring presentations by Network members James Brown, Alistair Elfick and Richard Kitney

Spring 2010 (date tbc): The SynBioStandards Network is planning to host a joint meeting with the RoSBNet Network, on the topic of modularity.

DON'T FORGET...

Network Seminar and Travel Bursaries

These two schemes are intended to encourage more regular Network exchange and collaboration. Please make use of them! The short application forms are available to download from the wiki (contact Emma if any problems accessing).

If you have ideas for other ways of fostering exchange within the Network, please contact Alistair, Emma or Jim H.

If you are running an event, have published an article, are speaking at a conference, have been awarded a grant, want to publicize upcoming activities, etc., just send details to emma.frow@ed.ac.uk by the last day of the month.

