

SynBioStandards Network

** FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSFLASH **



February already?? Hope the year has started off well. Herewith a few news items and upcoming events that may be of interest to Network members:

NETWORK NEWS

Joyce Tait is chairing the Nuffield Council working party on 'New approaches to biofuels.' They have recently launched a consultation, with responses due on 15 March 2010. Synthetic biology features as a topic for comment, and it would be great to see some responses from Network members! (<https://consultation.nuffieldbioethics.org/go/>)

January's Network jet-setters include Jane Calvert and Jim Haseloff, who travelled to Tokyo as part of the UK delegation to a joint UK–Japan workshop on synthetic biology.

Designers Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg and James King, who worked with the 2009 Cambridge iGEM team, visited Edinburgh in the first week of February, where they gave seminars about their recent projects at the School of Engineering and the Genomics Forum.

Synthetic biology is currently visible on the streets of London, with *E.chromi* and the iGEM BioBrick trophy featured in the Wellcome Trust windows (Euston Rd) for the next 3 months!

IN OTHER NEWS...

The 21 January 2010 issue of *Nature* contains a News Feature entitled 'Five hard truths for synthetic biology', as well as a research article by Jeff Hasty and colleagues on 'A synchronized quorum of genetic clocks' (with accompanying News & Views) — worth a read!

A US synthetic biology parts BIOFAB has just opened with 2 years' of funding from the NSF. Plenty of employment opportunities are on offer, and anyone interested in becoming a BIOFAB member can sign up via their website (<http://www.biofab.org/>).

COMING UP...

4–5 March 2010: Advances in Synthetic Biology Conference, London. This year's conference features presentations by SynBioStandards Network members James Brown, Alistair Elfick and Richard Kitney.

4–6 March 2010 : Annual Meeting of the Institute of Biological Engineering, Boston

15 March 2010 : Deadline for responses to the Nuffield Council consultation on 'New approaches to biofuels.'

18-22 March 2010 : SynBioNT network symposium, Nottingham (open to all)

If you would like to publicise an event, article, funding opportunity, etc. in the next Network newsletter, just email details to emma.frow@ed.ac.uk.