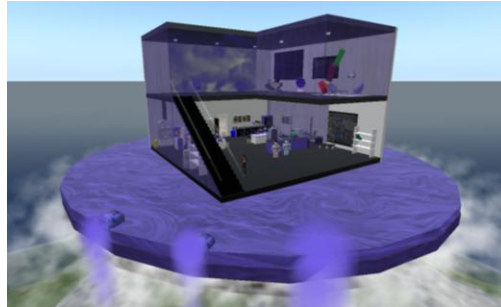


QUORUM SENSING WITH IGEM CALGARY JULY 2009 | ISSUE 2

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO

The synthetic domain of Second Life has improved greatly: a starting area for new users has been added, the domain is easier to navigate, a mascot bobtail squid guide for visitors, and the creation of even more microbes filling even more niches. Among the improvements and additions to the Biobrick simulator are working activator and repressor proteins, DNA Biobricks that can be put together in any order, and functional green and red fluorescent proteins. Our Virtual Lab is now equipped with interactive PCR machines and restriction digest reactions. The goal of the Second Life is to create an alternative virtual environment for synthetic biology education.



iGEM Calgary explores Lethbridge (and Vulcan)

On the weekend of July 12, 2009, the University of Calgary sent seven keen students to a Alberta iGEM workshop in Lethbridge focusing on presentation, fundraising and wiki. Our students impressed guest speakers and other teams with their impressive project presentations and marketing pitches. The students came home equipped with knowledge, skills and experience needed to take iGEM Calgary's project to another level.



Blogging up a storm

Now it is even easier than ever to find out what iGEM Calgary has been up to. Follow us on our blog at: igemcalgary.blogspot.com.



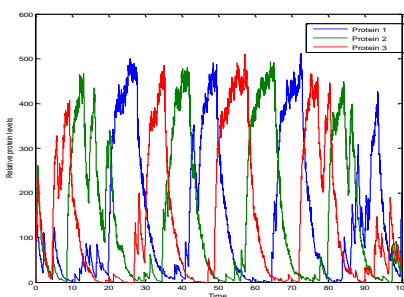
Sponsor of the Month

Cedarlane Labs is a leading Canadian supplier of research reagents. Their monetary support is crucial in funding continued lab work.

CEDARLANE 

Congratulations!

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH



The modelling team have decided on three different ways to characterize a synthetic repressilator using the SimBiology interface and MatLab computing software. This includes static performance (transfer function), dynamic response time and the effect of how different temperature and pH affect the efficiency of signalling.

Thank you to our supporters!

June 29th 2009 saw iGEM students making a net profit of \$370 from the sale of delicious homemade samosas, spring rolls, chocolate cupcakes, cinnamon buns, cheesecake, muffins and much more. If you missed the delicious goods this time, there is no need to fret; our 3rd bake sale will be held in mid-August.

On June 24th our Ethics team had the opportunity to listen in on an ethics webinar taking place at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre. The seminar featured Gregory Kaebnic and Erik Parrens and topics included the future plans of the Hastings Center with regards to ethics in synthetic biology. The webinar was useful as a starting point for our ethics report.

With our entire collection of quorum sensing circuits in Biobrick vectors ready to go, iGEM Calgary has finally decided on a response circuit to pursue: biofilm destruction! Biofilms consist of highly persistent bacteria which are problematic in surgical implants and pipelines. The lab team will be focussing on cloning in genes coding for dispersin B and an AHL-lactonase for the next month.

