Hungarian students against oil pollution

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This is the first time for a Hungarian academy (Debrecen University's) to compete at MIT's international genetically engineered machine competition. One half of the team are molecular biology master students while the other half are medical student. The team stands at a chance at a world scientific award.

Synthetic biology is the issue at MIT's International Genetically Engineered Machine competition, and the Debrecen University student group [1] will present amongst world competitors and prove their worth. Hungarian university students in addition to Taiwanese and Israeli medical students are involved in this laboratory effort. The team is fortified by three high school students from Budapest's alternative school of economics.
The team is still looking for sponsors to bridge the 6.5 million HUF gap still missing in the budget.

The competition
To understand the competition till 2002, we should go back. Tom Knight [2] invented a way to simplify the biological design, since the real problem was always one of complexity not of the tools being used. He realized how modular system made of Lego chips works in the same way: almost anything can be produced from some standard basic elements.
This method was promoted the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (my word [3]).

Debrecen student team, want to expand the number of lipid sensors in the biological parts registry. This tool may be one of the core tools which are still missing from the synthetic biological world. These fat soluble molecular bio-sensors are investigated by the university's own Nagy laboratories.

Worm gene
"Our working hypothesis that the nuclear receptors can be used for pharmaceutical and other biotech food Industries"- written by L. Valentine Valentine's leader in the professional program. In addition, special importance may be that the soil-dwelling earth worms may harbor nuclear that operate in environmental materials, this could be impelemented for the detection and neutralization of oil spills.

The genome of the soil the worms has the most nuclear receptors known (range 300 as opposed to man's 50 types), probably because their lives will meet a wide range of toxins . The group would like to use these worms as a basis for discovering ways to detect oil pollution.

Tags: biology, competition, what
Links cited in this article:
[1] http://ung.igem.org/Team.cgi
[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Knight_ (scientist)
[3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IGEM