

# University of Illinois iGEM 2010 Newsletter

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## iGEM At The Engineering Open House

iGEM participated in the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) exhibit of the Engineering Open House this year, displaying posters from previous years and showing videos related to synthetic biology. The team also used biobricks to engineer *E. coli* exhibiting colors within the visible spectrum as well as *E. coli* that smelled like



Colored *E. coli* at the Engineering Open House 2010

Banana! As a result of the efforts of all the BMES contributors, the BMES exhibit was awarded Best Societal Presentation! We had a great time talking to prospective students and members of the community about synthetic biology.

## Illinois iGEM

### What's New

The 2010 iGEM Wetlab and Software teams have been finalized, consisting of undergraduate students in the Molecular and Cellular Biology, Bioengineering, and Integrative Biology departments. We have been conducting weekly meetings for introductions and planning for this year's project. Each team plans on

having a project chosen by Mid-April so we can begin preparations for the summer.

The Wetlab team has also been lucky enough to add two faculty advisors to our team this year, Joanne Manaster and Dr. Yong-Su Jin. We are excited to work with them as well as our returning faculty advisor Dr. Christopher Rao and

lab supervisor Courtney Evans.

This year's Software team will be advised by Dr. Nathan Price and Dr. Kaustubh Bhalerao.

## Conference Updates

### IBE Conference:

Returning members from the 2009 iGEM team Donny Amfah, Palak Doshi, Francis Lee, and Meagan Musselman attended the IBE conference March 4th-6th in Cambridge, Massachusetts to present the 2009 iGEM projects. Throughout the

conference, the iGEM attendees enjoyed talks covering the development of micro-



Francis, Donny, Palak, and Meagan at the IBE conference

bial fuel cells, bio-ethics, tissue and cellular engineering, biomolecular computing as well as presenting their own talks "Manipulation and Characterization of RNA regulators in E. coli for the construction of a Bacterial Decoder" and "Interactive Metabolic Pathway Tools".

## Upcoming Events:

**Project Proposals:** This April each Wetlab team member will give a project proposal as a possible direction for the team this year. By the next newsletter we should have a project chosen!

**Biology Open House:** Each year the IB and MCB clubs on campus put together an open house for the members of the community to come and explore University of Illinois's extensive biology program. iGEM is planning to have a poster

of our past project, the Bacterial Decoder, so be sure to stop by the 4th floor of NHB April 10th!

**Undergraduate Research Symposium:** iGEM is looking into presenting a poster at the 2010 undergraduate research symposium. The symposium will take place on April 15th. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.provost.illinois.edu/ugresearch/>

**Regional Workshop** We are currently interested into hosting this years Regional Workshop. The workshop serves as a meeting to introduce and orient this years iGEM teams. We have submitted our intent to host and have been working on our proposal. This includes finding potential venues and funding sources. We look forward submitting the proposal and to hearing back from the iGEM Workshop coordinators.



## We Need Your Support!

Financial support and supply donation is vital to completion of iGEM projects and the team's success. If you are interested in making a donation to the team please contact Co-Director Meagan Musselman at [musselm1@illinois.edu](mailto:musselm1@illinois.edu) or Melissa McKillip at [mmckilli@igb.uiuc.edu](mailto:mmckilli@igb.uiuc.edu). We appreciate any donation.

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