

Welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our survey.

We are a group of students from Ben Gurion University participating in an international competition called iGEM for innovations in the field of synthetic biology.

As part of our project, we want to understand the opinions of the Israeli public about this field, and how much is known about it. Therefore, we created this questionnaire to learn more.

The questionnaire should take approximately five minutes to complete.

The questions are phrased in the masculine form but are directed towards men and women alike.

[Translator's note: Only relevant for the Hebrew version.]

Please answer all of the questions.

Statement of Consent

The answers will be used exclusively in order to survey public opinion about the fields of genetic engineering and synthetic biology, and will not be used for any other purpose.

1. Have you ever heard of synthetic biology?

- a. I've never heard of it.
- b. I've heard a little about it.
- c. I've heard some about it.
- d. I've heard a lot about it.

2. Have you ever heard of genetic engineering?

- a. I've never heard of it.
- b. I've heard a little about it.
- c. I've heard some about it.
- d. I've heard a lot about it.

3. What are the first things that come to mind when you hear "genetic engineering"?

(Write each word/ phrase in a separate box. There is no need to fill out all of the boxes.)

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

4. Assuming that you have heard of synthetic biology or genetic engineering, where did you hear about them? (You can mark more than one answer.)

- a. In school or university.
- b. Newspapers.
- c. Internet-other.
- d. Internet-social networks.
- e. Internet-news websites.
- f. Internet-blogs.
- g. Television.
- h. From family and friends.
- i. Other-please explain: _____

5. In the sources you were exposed to, do you feel that the subject was covered in a positive or negative manner?

- a. Positive.
- b. Negative.
- c. Neutral.
- d. Not sure.

6. In your opinion, do the benefits and usefulness of genetic engineering outweigh the risks?

- a. The benefits are greater than the risks.
- b. The benefits and risks are equal.
- c. The risks are greater than the benefits.
- d. Not sure.

7. How much do you identify with each of the following concerns? (Strongly identify, slightly identify, don't identify at all)

- a. It will be possible to use genetic engineering for harmful purposes such as biological warfare.

Strongly identify	Slightly identify	Don't identify at all
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- b. It is not ethical to create synthetic life.

Strongly identify	Slightly identify	Don't identify at all
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- c. I worry that things will become less natural and prefer not to mess with nature.

Strongly identify	Slightly identify	Don't identify at all
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- d. Genetically engineered products could damage the health of Israeli citizens, we still don't know enough to rule that possibility out completely.

Strongly identify	Slightly identify	Don't identify at all
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- e. Genetically engineered products could damage the environment and ecology, we still don't know enough to rule that possibility out completely.

Strongly identify	Slightly identify	Don't identify at all
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- f. Other concerns that don't appear here: _____

8. Which of the following sentences best describes your attitude towards research of genetic engineering?
- Research needs to progress and develop, but efforts should be invested in understanding the effects of genetic engineering on the environment and humans.
 - Research should be prohibited until we better understand the effects and dangers involved in releasing synthetic biology products to the environment or market.
 - Not sure.
9. How important is the use of genetic engineering for the future of Israel ?
- Very important.
 - Important.
 - Not very important.
 - Not important at all.
 - Not sure.
10. One of the uses of genetic engineering is engineering new types of insects, such as mosquitos, in order to help prevent outbreaks of disease like the West Nile Virus. The mosquitos are engineered so that the males of the new kind will be sterile, and thus the general number of mosquitos in the area falls. Since the disease is transmitted to humans via mosquito bites, the fewer mosquitos, the lower the chance of infection. This new type of mosquito has already been released in Brazil and the Caiman Islands. Assuming that a disease like the West Nile Virus became a problem in your neighborhood... (Complete the sentence that best describes your feelings)
- I would be against the release of genetically engineered mosquitos in my neighborhood.
 - I would support the release of genetically engineered mosquitos in my neighborhood.
 - Not sure.
11. For each of the following uses of genetic engineering: in your opinion, is it a positive development that makes you optimistic, or a negative development that makes you concerned?
- Genetically engineered fertilizer that increases the growth rate of crops.

Positive development	Negative development	Not sure
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 - An engineered food additive, like an artificial sweetener, that reduces the use of natural resources.

Positive development	Negative development	Not sure
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 - Bacteria that clean oil spills in water sources.

Positive development	Negative development	Not sure
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 - A meat substitute.

Positive development	Negative development	Not sure
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 - Bacteria that identify diseases in humans, in the digestive system for example.

Positive development	Negative development	Not sure
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- f. Bacteria that are engineered to create natural biological fuel, that will make it possible to reduce the use of oil.

Positive development	Negative development	Not sure
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12. If it were possible to create a control mechanism for engineered bacteria, which would make sure that the bacteria destroyed themselves immediately after the completion of their intended purpose in nature, would the use of bacteria with this mechanism reduce your concerns?

- a. The mechanism would significantly reduce my concerns.
- b. The mechanism would slightly reduce my concerns.
- c. The mechanism would not affect my concerns.
- d. The mechanism would increase my concerns.
- e. Not sure.

13. Optional: Please explain your above answer.

Personal Information

14. Sex:

- a. Male
- b. Female

15. Age: _____

16. Education:

- a. Less than 12 years of schooling
- b. 12 years of schooling
- c. Bachelor's degree
- d. Master's degree
- e. Ph.D.

17. Religion:

- a. Secular
- b. Jewish- Traditional
- c. Jewish- Religious
- d. Jewish- Modern Orthodox
- e. Jewish- Ultra-Orthodox
- f. Christian
- g. Muslim



h. Other: _____

The results of the survey will be published soon on the website of our project. Reminder: we are a group of 13 students from Ben Gurion University participating in an international competition called iGEM. In this competition, groups from universities all over the world present an innovative synthetic biology product that can have an impact on humanity or the environment.

In addition to working on the science, we also wanted to better understand the opinions of the Israeli public about these fields, and what are the main concerns. We hope that this survey will shed some light on the topic.

If you would like to receive the results of the survey when they are ready, please fill out your email below and we will be in touch soon. Also, you can visit our Facebook page and get updates there about our team and project: <https://www.facebook.com/iGEMBGU>

Email: _____