



## Outreach

At the beginning of this month our lecture series "Synthetic Biology - between cell factory and artificial life" ended on 03.07. Dr. Ilka Axmann from the [Institute of Synthetic Microbiology](#) explained the everyday use of Synthetic Biology in the production of well-known food and household products. At the end of the evening some questions were resolved and all participants could go home satisfied.

For us this lecture series was a complete success, since it was very close to our heart to clear up the deep-seated rumours about Synthetic Biology and genetic engineering. We have received consistently positive feedback and are very pleased that we were able to inspire some of our listeners for Synthetic Biology.

At the same time as Dr. Ilka Axmann's lecture a further discussion with some interested professors took place in order to receive new criticism and suggestions. During the discussion it was repeatedly pointed out that we need to find a good application for our project. Due to this we have now contacted several companies and institutions and will concentrate on giving our project a meaningful background in the near future.

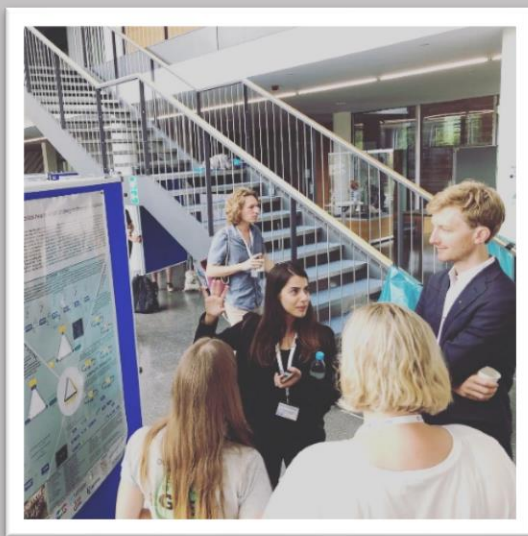
On 16.07 a joyful event was imminent for our team. A team from Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf is organising the campaign "One University - One Book" with the special theme "[Heine meets Huxley](#)" at the HHU Düsseldorf for several months. This event series deals with the dystopian novel "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley (1932), which also addresses the topic of synthetic life sciences. We were part of the kick-off event and were allowed to educate in the context of some lectures and discussion rounds. We designed four theme tables, which presented the current use of the Synthetic Life Sciences and approached the interested audience with some questions and facts. It was a very successful evening for us, because we encountered a lot of interest and thirst for knowledge and it always fulfills us to pass on a part of our knowledge.

In order to gain new knowledge, some of our members went to Bielefeld on July 11 to listen to a panel discussion on the topic "dual use" organized by the [iGEM Team Bielefeld](#). Dual use refers to research and technologies that are done for the benefit of the society but can cause a great catastrophe if falling into wrong hands.



Several experts attended the event who deal with biosecurity and ethic on a daily basis and were able to inform us about regulations and committees. Afterwards a Germany-wide survey conducted by the iGEM Team Bielefeld was presented that showed that a lot of students and workers in research didn't know about dual use and contact points for information. In the end we discussed the results, our current status and problems with not only the Bielefeld team but also the team of Hamm-Lippe during the soccer game Germany against Croatia.

In order to establish new contacts with other teams and to exchange ideas, four of our members set off for [Munich](#). There the European iGEM Meetup took place from 20.07 to 22.07, where we had the opportunity to present our project to a larger audience during a poster session and to get an impression how the projects of the other teams are structured.



There were also members of the iGEM Foundation on site who were able to give us very good and detailed feedback on our project. This weekend was very successful for us because we were able to make new contacts with the iGEM teams Bordeaux and Eindhoven and are now working on collaboration opportunities with them.

Since we are currently working with the E. coli Cloning Toolbox CIDAR, we have decided to contact a co-developer of this toolbox, Spencer R. Scott. We organized a Skype meeting with him next Thursday and are very excited.

## Team building

To strengthen our team spirit and to thank some of our supporting professors we organized a barbecue on 27.07. During nice conversations and delicious food it was possible to exchange ideas and get to know each other better.

Some of our members also wanted to get to know each other better during a sporting activity and decided to play laser tag together. It was a fun day and everyone had the chance to get to know each other a little bit better.

## Scientific progress

Last month we finally received our [Opentrons](#) pipetting robot, which we won through a competition of the company Opentrons. Since then, two of our members dealt with the robot and have already dared to use self-programmed programs. So far it is only enough to pipette colourful logos but we are confident that our skills will improve and we can program a good application for the robot in our project.

Since we have recently received many requests for our cloning of *Synechococcus elongatus*, we have now appointed 3 members to implement this plan and are working hard to finish the cloning.

As always, we are very pleased about your interest in our project and are very grateful for your great support.  
Thank you very much!

The iGEM Team Düsseldorf 2018