



"Those who fear the gun powder most are those who have not invented it."
Heinrich Heine (1797 - 1856)

This quotation reflects the general image of science in the population. That is precisely why it is our task as scientists to share our knowledge with all people and to explain our work in order to take away the fear of ignorance from the general public. Only in this way can science be put back in a better light and our research will experience less resistance.

Outreach

This month our lecture series "Synthetic Biology - between Cell Factory and Artificial Life" started. On four days we will shed light on the topic of genetic engineering from different perspectives. The first lecture was held on 22.05 by our advisor [Tim Blomeier](#). He gave an introduction to Synthetic Biology and a short excursion into neurobiological analysis. The next lecture will take place on 05.06.

Furthermore a visit of the [iGEM Team Bielefeld](#) was planned. Five team members made their way to us and spent a whole weekend with us. There was a lot of laughter and serious discussion about our topics. An exchange took place in a nice atmosphere and both teams were able to learn useful tips and implement them at home.

The meeting with iGEM Bielefeld was a great experience for us, but we also want to connect internationally with other teams. For this purpose we have created a postcard action where all teams create postcards with funny designs and then send them to all other teams. This way each team can get to know the others and the first contact is made so that further contact is easier.



We had an international visit on 22.05 from the cyanobacteria scientist [Daniel Ducat](#). We presented our project to him and he gave us useful advice and tips that could improve our project. We are currently trying to implement his ideas for our project by looking at a cloned cyano strain and investigating its growth characteristics. This new strain may give us more freedom in the selection of our culture medium, as it is better able to deal with salt stress and thus produce glucose and fructose more easily and efficiently for the other organisms. We are very curious about our first results!

Outlook for next month

Every day we work diligently on our project and we are proud of every result we have achieved so far. To give you a better and more detailed overview of our current scientific progress, we are organizing a small discussion round on 11.06.18 at 5 p.m. where we are happy about any feedback and are open to criticism and suggestions. If you have not yet confirmed your participation and are interested, please contact igem@hhu.de. We would be very pleased to welcome you!



At the end of next month all iGEM teams are due for the Germany-Meetup in [Marburg](#). On this occasion, the teams may present their projects in poster chairs and seek help for their work in interesting lectures.

We also take part in it and are looking forward to make many new contacts and discuss our project with other teams. We hope for a lot of good advice and would also like to support other teams in their projects.

As always, we are pleased about your interest in our project and are very grateful for your great support. We never tire of working on our ideas and improving them with your feedback!

Thank you very much!

The iGEM Team Düsseldorf 2018