

IGEM AMSTERDAM

First newsletter

Welcome to the first iGEM Amsterdam newsletter! Your bimonthly update on how we are doing inside and outside of the lab. We proudly present to you our new partners, without whom this project could never have happened.

While being very busy with outreach, building the website and finding new partners, the research is on full throttle. Some experiments succeed and others fail; welcome to the life of synthetic biology.

RIVM

IS IT SAFE TO SAVE THE WORLD?

This month we talked with the RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) about biosafety in the theme 'Think before doing'. Progress in the field of synthetic biology promises not only to revolutionise the way we manufacture materials, treat diseases and generate energy, but it also raises questions about biosafety and sparks ethical debates about the naturalness of synthetically engineered organisms. That is why we will make a podcast with experts to gain insight into the view of a broad range of people.



New Sponsors

UnitedConsumers is an initiative that brings individuals together in order to collectively benefit from discounts for insurances, energy and cell phone costs. This collective is excited to support innovation and sustainability.



DSM is a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials. They use technology and products to provide solutions to brighten the lives of people today and the generations to come.



The Matrix Innovation Centre is a housing and serving (start-up) ICT, new media and Life Sciences company. They offer maximum flexibility in terms of physical space and also in rental contracts.



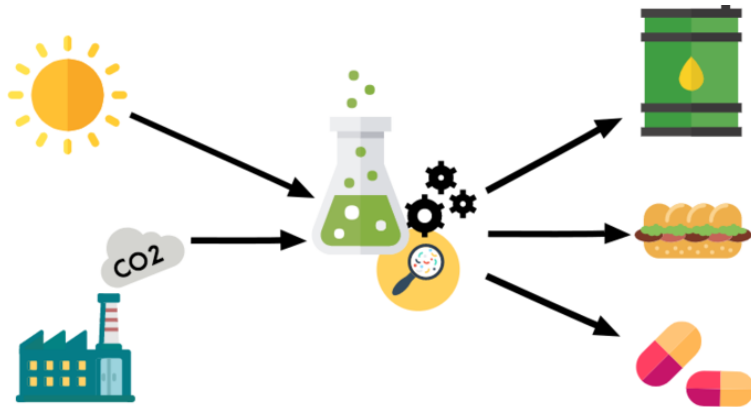
Faculteit der Exacte Wetenschappen VU (FEW) offers high standing research in its specialised laboratories and its unique computer facilities. The FEW represents excellent research, high quality education and socially involved science.



Smart City

CO₂ IN THE CITY: YOUR POLLUTANT IS OUR RESOURCE

We joined Amsterdam Smart City and proposed our bacteria as one of the methods that could help with creating a circular city. The idea of a circular city and thereby a circular economy is that the waste and pollution is minimised by reducing, recycling and reusing. Read more about it [here!](#)



Radio Swammerdam

HOW SCIENCE IS GOING TO SAVE THE CLIMATE

This month, we were invited to Radio Swammerdam. In this weekly program about science on the AmsterdamFM radio station, Bram van de Putte talked about our experience in iGEM so far: the competition, our team, and the complications that accompany synthetic biology. You can listen to the program [here](#).

Online

WISDOM WEDNESDAY - AD VALVAS - NBV

The [NBV](#) and the [Ad Valvas](#) both posted an articles about our project! Also, we kicked off a new concept on our Facebook: Wisdom Wednesday! A series of posts will inform the layman about the essentials of our project. In this way, we get our friends, fans and the rest of the public involved. The aim is to be understandable for everyone, even if you don't know anything about biology!

[Like](#) us to stay updated!

SnapGene is a molecular biology software program, that affordable and easy to use. It is used to document and share every DNA construct made in the lab in a rich electronic format.



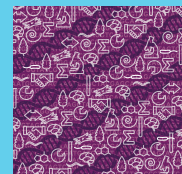
The Amsterdam Institute for Molecules, Medicine and Systems (AIMMS)

is a collaboration of 17 research groups in pharmaceutical sciences, life sciences, computational life sciences and molecular sciences at VU Amsterdam.



The Swammerdam Institute of Life Sciences (SILS)

comprises biological disciplines including molecular and cell biology, microbiology, plant science, physiology and neurobiology, supported by modern enabling technologies for the life sciences, in order to understand the functioning of living organisms.



Amsterdam Science Park is home to one of the largest concentrations of beta sciences in Europe. It is a unique juncture of prestigious education, high-quality research and knowledge-intensive business that has been carefully cultivated to stimulate innovation and collaboration.



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