IGEM AMSTERDAM
NEWSLETTER

Outreach

EXPERIENCING THE 'DOMINO EFFECT' OF MEDIA

Widely known science platform **Scientias** wrote an article about us and our research project. Critical readers ended up hotly debating about possible future disasters and ethical questions: *"What would happen if the world ran out of CO_2 and what would happen if our bacteria escaped?"* We will take the comment section into consideration for our outreach and our safety regulations.

This article drew the attention of more online platforms as well as radio and newspaper. Yuki was interviewed by **BNR Nieuwsradio** and on that same day, she talked to the **Nederlands Dagblad** which published a short interview with Yuki. Platforms with over a million listeners/readers a week; now that's impact!

Just when we thought the storm was over, we saw our story, with a new look, on **Bedrock** and **Thebluedeal**! It is amazing to see that so many people are interested and want to get involved with our project!

Sophie Koster made a *video* about our team and project which we will share soon on our **Facebook** page.

Yuki booked an impressive result! She worked on her 'library' for months. It is a collection of 50.000 different pieces of DNA. Our bacteria can use this DNA to receive new properties.

It can't be seen with the naked eye but it does fit in this little tube!

New Sponsors

Merck is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. They develop technologies that improve and enhance life.

The Vrije Univerisiteit (VU) is an open organization, strongly linked to people and society. What matters is not just the acquisition of a greater depth of knowledge, but also a wider one.

The graduate school of life science of the University of Amsterdam looks after the educational and career needs of Master's students and PhD candidates.

*If you would like to become our **sponsor** or if you are interested in a **collaboration**, do not hesitate to contact us!*

Science

FROM THEORY TO RESULTS

Now that we are making progress in the lab, we would like to keep you updated on the science as well. *We are trying to make the chemical building block fumarate from sunlight and CO_2 with genetically engineered cyanobacteria.* We extensively modelled our project and found out that in theory it should be possible to *increase the fumarate production* of existing mutants by introducing genes from other bacteria. On top of that we are working on the possibility for the cell to *export and detect fumarate*. We are finishing up the genetic engineering and the molecular cloning. In the coming months we will be able to test if the cells and the tools we developed are actually behaving like we modelled. Exciting times are ahead of us!

INTERLAB

On top of pursuing our personal scientific goals, we are also contributing to the scientific community by taking part in the InterLab study. This is a study in which the same experiment is executed in different labs around the world. Comparing all the results will provide interesting and vital information about the reliability and repeatability of experiments.

The next two months

THE FINAL SPRINT BEFORE THE GRAND FINALE

In the beginning of November, we will travel to Boston to present our results at the Giant Jamboree, until then we will be busy with:

- The 15th of September, we'll be at the **Klimaatmarathon** in De Balie. This is a 6-hour conference with a lot of experts, talking about all different aspects of climate change. We are there to demonstrate our project and ask for the opinion of the guests.
- At the start of October, we will record a **podcast**. We have invited some very interesting guests, who are going to talk about the risks and advantages of genetically modifying organisms.
- We are making progress with our website: the **Wiki**! New content in a new lay-out will be online soon. Here you will find everything about our project, outreach, the team and our sponsors! We will keep you updated on the launch of the wiki!

New Sponsors

Phenomenex technologies are industry experts in surface chemistry, polymer and silica particle technology, process chemistry and equipment, column hardware and novel packing methods.

The UvA travel fund is an independent foundation with the mission to help students with special facilities for science practice. They do this with their alumni and the friends of the UvA.

The VU community building fund helps the students, researchers, PhD candidates and employees to look further than their own interests and their own field, and further than what

To keep up with the progress, of our Wiki, scientific work, our outreach, or new sponsors, you can visit our Facebook!

Science Park 904 - 1098 XH Amsterdam
www.facebook.com/igem2017amsterdam
igem17.ams@gmail.com

Bram van de Putte: +31 639269736
Josine oude Lohuis: +31 627175660
Yuki Esser: +31 623871221