Public Perception Survey

Hello everyone! We are a group of undergraduate researchers at Cornell and Stony Brook working to compete in a competition called iGEM. This survey is being distributed to understand people’s views on synthetic biology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). All of your responses will be kept 100% anonymous.

* Required

1. 1A) How would you rate your understanding of the concept of synthetic biology or genetic engineering? *

   Mark only one oval.
   
   - I know what it is, and I can explain it thoroughly.
   - I know what it is, but couldn’t explain it well.
   - I’ve heard of it, but I don’t know what it is.
   - I’ve never heard of it before.

2. 1B) How do you feel about the impact of synthetic biology/genetic engineering on the world? *

   Mark only one oval.
   
   - Highly positive
   - Somewhat positive
   - Neutral
   - Somewhat negative
   - Highly negative
   - Not sure

3. 2A) What falls under the term “genetically modified organism”? (Check all that you think apply.) *

   Check all that apply.
   
   - An apple variety developed by cross breeding natural varieties
   - Corn with an extra gene added for insect resistance
   - E. coli bacteria used to produce insulin
   - Clones of animals (e.g. Dolly the Sheep)
   - Lab rats
   - Goats injected with spider genes to produce silk
   - All of the above
   - I’m not sure
4. 2B) How would you rate your understanding of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)? *
*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] I know what it is, and I can explain it thoroughly.
- [ ] I know what it is, but couldn’t explain it well.
- [ ] I’ve heard of it, but I don’t know what it is.
- [ ] I’ve never heard of it before.

5. 2C) How do you feel about the impact of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on the world? *
*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Highly positive
- [ ] Somewhat positive
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Somewhat negative
- [ ] Highly negative
- [ ] Not sure

6. 2D) How safe do you think GMO products on the market are to human health? *
*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Very safe
- [ ] Safe
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Unsafe
- [ ] Very Unsafe
- [ ] Not sure

7. 3A) Why do you think that GMOs are disadvantageous? (Answer "N/A" if you did not select "Neutral," "Somewhat negative," or "Highly negative" for question 2C.) *
*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] I don’t trust companies to handle GMOs.
- [ ] GMOS can have consequences on the environment.
- [ ] GMOs can have consequences on human health.
- [ ] GMOs can increase inequality.
- [ ] GMOs are not natural.
- [ ] Regulations are not strong enough.
- [ ] Other
- [ ] I don’t know enough about GMOs to say.
- [ ] N/A
8. 3B) Why would you not use GMO products? (Answer "N/A" if you did not select "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" for question 2D.) (Check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- Religious or belief reasons
- Health concerns
- Environmental concerns
- Ethical concerns
- Regulatory concerns
- Other
- N/A

9. 4A) How often do you use products that use synthetic biology or genetic engineering? *

Mark only one oval.

- I use them all the time.
- I use them sparingly.
- I tend not to use them, but I might unknowingly.
- I seldom use them where there are no substitutes.
- I would never use GMOs.
- Unsure

10. 4B) Do you believe companies should specially label products of synthetic biology? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- Only in Certain Cases
- No

11. 4C) Do you trust companies to use synthetic biology in an ethical and responsible way? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- Only in Certain Cases
- No
12. **4D) Of that following, would you: (Check all that apply.)**

*Check all that apply.*

- Eat genetically-engineered food (e.g. corn grown larger)
- Eat food produced by a GMO (e.g. vanilla extract produced by bacteria)
- Use genetically-engineered medicine (e.g. insulin produced by bacteria)
- Use a genetically-engineered product directly on the body (e.g. a patch to prevent infection)
- Use a genetically-engineered product if not in contact with your body (e.g. a machine that uses bacteria to remove metals from water)
- Use a product that does not use genetic engineering
- Support additional public government funding for genetic engineering
- None of the above

13. **5A) How do you feel about the use of synthetic biology/genetic engineering for future science?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- It should be used as much as possible.
- It should be used more in certain areas than others.
- It should be used only when needed.
- It is too dangerous to be used at all.

14. **5B) In what areas do you think synthetic biology would be most applicable? (Check all that you think apply.)**

*Check all that apply.*

- Diagnostics (Health & Medicine)
- Energy
- Environment
- Food and Nutrition
- Research Tools
- Information Processing
- Manufacturing
- Therapeutics (Health & Medicine)
- Art & Design
- Hardware
- Measurement
- Software
- None of the Above
15. **6A) Age Range** *

Mark only one oval.

- Under 13
- 13-17
- 18-24
- 25-40
- 40-65
- Above 65
- Prefer Not to Answer

16. **6B) Gender You Identify With** *

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer Not to Say

17. **6C) What's the highest level of education you received?** *

Mark only one oval.

- Below high school
- Some high school
- High school
- Some college
- College (BA/BS/BE)
- Some Master's Program
- Master's
- Some Graduate/Professional (PhD, MD, DO, JD)
- Graduate/Professional (PhD, MD, DO, JD)
- Prefer not to answer
- Other: ________________________________
18. 6D) What’s the highest level of education someone in your family has received, not including yourself? *
Mark only one oval.

☐ Below high school
☐ Some high school
☐ High school
☐ Some college
☐ College (BA/BS/BE)
☐ Some Master’s Program
☐ Master’s
☐ Some Graduate/Professional (PhD, MD, DO, JD)
☐ Graduate/Professional (PhD, MD, DO, JD)
☐ Prefer not to answer
☐ Other:

19. 6E) Do you have or will you have a degree in a STEM field? *
Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer Not to Answer

20. 6F) Would you describe yourself as politically liberal or conservative? *
Mark only one oval.

☐ Extremely Conservative
☐ Somewhat Conservative
☐ Slightly Conservative
☐ Neutral
☐ Slightly Liberal
☐ Somewhat Liberal
☐ Extremely Liberal
☐ Independent
☐ Prefer not to answer
☐ Other:

21. 6G) How would you describe where you currently live? *
Mark only one oval.

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22. **6H) Name 1-3 major cities/towns that are close to where you currently live?**

23. **7) Comments or additional input? (Optional)**