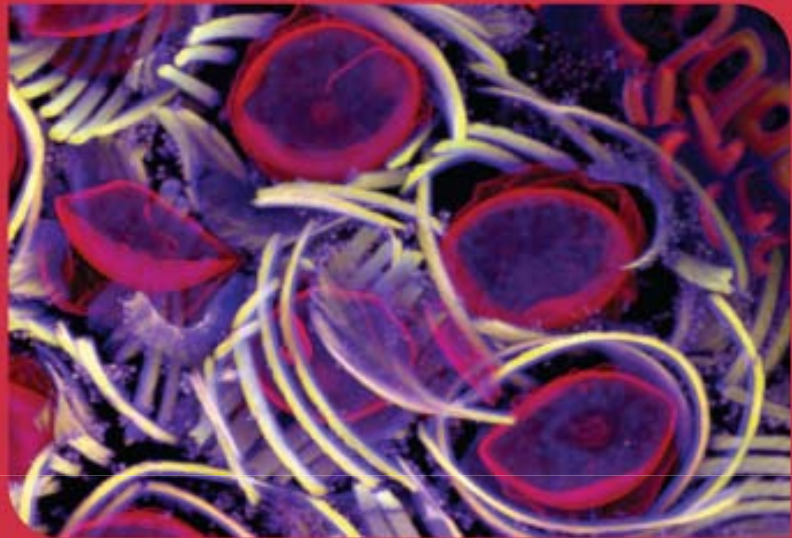




The Knowledge Network



SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

A new journal covering the application of engineering principles to biological systems
Specialised coverage of the field including reviews, technical reports and web resources

www.theiet.org/synbio

Publication of iGEM2006 team reports.

Dear iGEM2006 team members and advisors,

We'd like to invite you to submit a report of your team's work for iGEM2006 - for publication in a new Synthetic Biology journal published by the IET.

The IET

The Institution of Engineering and Technology was formed in 2006 after the merging of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and the Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE) and now has more than 150,000 members worldwide. It is the largest professional engineering society in Europe and the second largest of its type in the world. The IET is a non-profit organisation that provides a wide range of services and information for technical research and education, including publication of a number of research journals.

The IET will launch a new journal, IET Synthetic Biology, in March 2007. There will be 4 issues published in the first year. For the early stages of the journal's development, published content will be freely available online as PDFs.

The Editorial Board is currently being assembled and includes:

- Dr. Jim Ajioka, University of Cambridge
- Dr. Jason Chin, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
- Prof. Andy Ellington, University of Texas, Austin
- Dr. Jim Haseloff, University of Cambridge (editor-in-chief)
- Dr. Alfonso Jaramillo, Ecole Polytechnique, CNRS
- Dr. Sven Panke, ETH, Zurich
- Prof. Ron Weiss, Princeton University

Synthetic Biology is a new interdisciplinary endeavour. New students and workers are coming to the field from very diverse areas, and need to come to grips with the nitty-gritty of unfamiliar biological systems, engineering tools and computer sciences. There is a demand for specialised coverage of this new field, including educational and review materials. We hope that the new journal will help fill this niche. As well as publishing conventional research papers in Synthetic Biology, the journal will also provide a “nuts and bolts” view of this new field, and provide review and educational materials. In addition to the print journal, associated web resources will be provided. These will include a repository of online video resources hosted at <http://www.iet.tv>, specialised review material and research tools for Synthetic Biology. In particular, we wish to support the activities of young workers entering the Synthetic Biology field.

The first issue of the journal will provide coverage of the iGEM2006 competition. We would like this issue to contain articles which describe the background and history of the competition, and its impact on the emerging field. We are keen to invite all teams to submit a short report of their activities for publication in IET Synthetic Biology. Each report will take up a minimum of two facing pages. If a team thinks that they have a more substantial set of results, and wishes to produce an expanded report, we will be happy to consider this.

As a minimum, the reports should contain the following sections:

Project title and names of participants
Abstract
Aims of the project
Description of the work
Conclusions

a team photo, and logo if available.
a schematic diagram, describing the project goals.
one representative data figure.

The report should run to a total length of 2000 words. The length of the individual sections is up to the team, and you should feel free to include personal experiences, as well as scientific content.

The issue will be available free online, and we should be able to arrange some print copies for contributors.

In addition, we'd like to include more informal description of the summer's activities. If you have any photographs that show your team at work or play - and that you might want to preserve for posterity, show your grandchildren, etc. Forward them for possible inclusion in a published photo section. Be sure to include names of the people/team shown, and a caption.

The journal site is still in preparation at this date (early November 2006), and the IET Managing Editor, Tony Donegan (tdonegan@theiet.org), can be contacted for further information and for submission of manuscripts.

More information about the IET journals will be found at <http://www.theiet.org/publications/>, and the site for online submission of manuscripts will be located at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/iee/iet-stb>.

IET Synthetic Biology team, November 2006.