

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

University of Oxford iGEM Team 2014



Many thanks for your participation! Please return completed surveys to us at oxfordigem@bioch.ox.ac.uk or via facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordigem>.



1) How old are you?

- 10-25 26-40 41-55 56+

2) Which category best describes your general attitude to synthetic biology?

- Concerned** (*strong views on the limitations of science, sceptical of the economic benefits of investing in it, possible reservations about the intentions of scientists and whether science and technology is sufficiently under government control*)
- Indifferent** (*do not feel particularly well-informed about science, but not particularly negative/concerned about it*)
- Late adopter** (*did not enjoy biology at school but now have a strong interest in the topic, engage more strongly when the topic is not treated in isolation but is placed in a wider context, strong environmental and ethical concerns*)
- Confident engager** (*strongly positive attitude towards the topic, with relatively few concerns and high confidence that scientists are well regulated and conform to these regulations*)
- Mistrustful engager** (*interested in the topic, think of it as beneficial to society and feel relatively well informed, however distrusting to those working in science and less confident in the government's ability to regulate them.)*
- Disengaged Sceptic** (*find the topic overwhelming, and do not see it as useful to everyday life – may have concerns about developments and the ability of the government to control them*)

3) How much information about synthetic biology do you get from these sources?

Please rate the below sources from 1 (most informative) to 6 (least informative)

- Formal Education
- Independent Research
- Media
- Word of Mouth
- No Reliable Source
- Other (please detail)

4) How would you rate the quality of this information?

Independence

- 1 2 3 4 5

Accessibility (how easily you are able to understand the information)

- 1 2 3 4 5

Accuracy

- 1 2 3 4 5

Relevance

- 1 2 3 4 5

Availability

- 1 2 3 4 5

5) How well informed about developments in synthetic biology do you feel?

- Very well informed
- Sufficiently informed
- Would like to be more informed
- Very poorly informed
- Disinterested

6) How do you feel about the social/ethical implications of synthetic biology?

- Very Concerned Mildly Concerned No View Mildly Hopeful Very Hopeful

7) How does your level of understanding of synthetic biology affect your concerns about its implications?

- The more I understand, the greater my concerns
- The more I understand, the greater my hopes
- My concerns change with increased understanding, but are not greater or lesser
- My concerns are not affected by my understanding
- I have no concerns

8) Do you believe synthetic biology has the potential to improve our quality of life?

- Yes No Sometimes Unsure

9) Do synthetic biologists spend long enough thinking about the social and ethical implications of their work?

- Yes No Sometimes Unsure

10) Do synthetic biologists spend long enough discussing the social and ethical implications of their research with the public?

- Yes No Sometimes Unsure

11) How well do you think those making regulations for new technologies understand the science behind these?

- Thoroughly Sufficiently Insufficiently Not at all

12) How confident are you that the risks and benefits of new synthetic biology technologies have been thoroughly considered before they are used?

- Confident Uncertain Not at all confident

13) What do you think is the primary source of funding for synthetic biology research?

- Government
 - Charity
 - Private Sector
 - Other (please detail)
-

14) What do you think is the primary motivation for synthetic biology research?

- Desire to improve people's lives
 - Desire for profit
 - Intellectual curiosity
 - Desire for power
 - Other (please detail)
-

15) Who should have the right to benefit from discoveries and advances in synthetic biology?

- The scientists themselves
 - The public
 - Those funding research
 - The relevant institution
 - Other (please detail)
-

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions!

