

Meet the Team

The Virginia iGEM team consists of a group of multidisciplinary undergraduate students at the University of Virginia who compete against 245 other schools in an annual international synthetic biology competition: iGEM.



Our Project

To degrade nylon microplastics, we are placing a gene found in the fungus *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* into bacteria. This gene is responsible for the production of a molecule that can break down nylon. When placed in the bacteria, the bacteria will be able to break down nylon. These bacteria will be further modified to produce a bacterial film, which will allow the bacteria to be incorporated into a filter that can be used by wastewater treatment plants. From there, the bacteria can start degrading microplastics!

Want to Learn More?

For more information about synthetic biology, iGEM, or on how to get involved at your high school or college, please visit: www.igem.org

If you have any comments or concerns regarding our project in particular, please let us know at: <http://goo.gl/pKEdbB>

If you'd like to donate, any amount helps! Please do so at: <http://tinyurl.com/UVAiGEM2014>



Synthetic Biology Night

Panel and Poster Exhibition

September 24th - 5:00 to 8:00 PM

Located at OpenGrounds

Panelists

Keith Kozminski, Ph.D.

A molecular cell biologist with 25 years of experience, Dr. Kozminski received a Ph.D. from Yale University and completed post-doctoral training at the University of California at Berkeley. He joined the Department of Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Cell Biology in the School of Medicine at the University of Virginia in 2002, where he studies the molecular basis of cell shape and division and teaches courses in cell biology and synthetic biology. Beyond the university he serves as an editor of *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, the journal of the American Society for Cell Biology and as a scientific review panelist for the National Science Foundation. Dr. Kozminski has served as an advisor to the University of Virginia iGEM team since 2008.

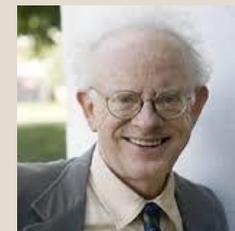
Margo Bagley, J.D.

A professor of law at the University of Virginia, Margo A. Bagley received her B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Through products research and development with the Procter & Gamble Company and as a senior research analyst for the Coca-Cola Company, Ms. Bagley developed an interest in the law of intellectual property. She followed her corporate experience with a J.D. at Emory University School of Law, and her current teaching and writing focus on U.S. international and comparative patent law issues, particularly relating to biotechnology and pharmaceutical protection. In 2013, Ms. Bagley co-authored a Report on the Nagoya Protocol and Synthetic Biology: a Look at the Potential Impacts, commissioned by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She continues to write and travel, speaking about this report and about international and comparative patent law and policy.

Panelists Continued

John Arras, Ph.D.

Porterfield Professor of Biomedical Ethics, Dr. John Arras received his Ph.D. at Northwestern University and directs the Undergraduate Program in Bioethics at the University of Virginia. He also teaches graduate seminars in ethics, political philosophy, and bioethics; and is a core member of the Center for Biomedical Ethics in the UVA Medical School. Arras is a fellow at the Hastings Center, the nation's preeminent research institute in bioethics, consults regularly at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and provides ethical advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Since 2010, Arras has served on the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, whose first report reviewed the emerging ethical issues of synthetic biology with the aim of maximizing public benefits while minimizing risks.



What Can SynBio Do For You?

After the panel, poster submissions from local high school students will be displayed. These are part of a competition that asked students what synthetic biology could do for their world. Prizes will be awarded to the best poster and runner up.

