

Engaging with synthetic biology

Presentation and discussion of the findings from the UK's first public dialogue on synthetic biology.

Synthetic biology is an emerging multidisciplinary research area that is underpinned by both engineering and science. It aims to design and engineer biologically based parts, novel devices and systems as well as redesigning existing, natural biological systems.

As with any new technology, it brings both potential benefits and societal, ethical and regulatory implications. Furthermore, synthetic biology may also raise philosophical questions about the creation and ownership of 'new life'.

This event will present the findings of the UK's first exploration of public attitudes to synthetic biology and provide an opportunity for a wider debate on future engagement strategy and the issues that need to be considered.

This public attitudes research project was carried out to complement the recently published report on synthetic biology from The Royal Academy of Engineering (www.raeng.org.uk/synbio) which highlighted the need for early public dialogue to begin to understand the hopes, expectations and concerns of wider society.

Event agenda

- 9.45am Registration**
- 10.15am Welcome**
Philip Greenish CBE, The Royal Academy of Engineering
- 10.20am Introduction from the Chair**
Professor Robert Winston HonFREng, FMedSci, Imperial College London
- 10.30am Applications of synthetic biology – an engineer's perspective**
Professor Richard Kitney OBE FREng, Imperial College London
- 10.50am Implications of synthetic biology – a sociologist's perspective**
Dr Jane Calvert, University of Edinburgh
- 11.10am What the public think – presentation of the research findings**
Dr Suzanne King, People Science & Policy
- 11.40am Panel discussion**
Professor Robin Gill, University of Kent
Professor Paul Freemont, Imperial College London
Fiona Fox, Science Media Centre
- 12.15pm Lunch**

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

Registration Form

I wish to reserve place(s) for the event on Thursday 18 June 2009

Title _____ First name _____

Surname _____ Honours _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Dietary requirements _____

I would like to bring a guest

Title _____ First name _____

Surname _____ Honours _____

Position _____

Organisation _____ Email _____

Dietary requirements _____

Please detach and return booking form only

Please return to:

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