

KU Leuven iGEM 2019 Report

KU Leuven iGEM 2019 was a big success! From October 29 to November 4, 2019, we competed with 350 university teams from all over the world at the iGEM Giant Jamboree in Boston. With pride, we presented and defended our project OCYANO. As we put our heart and soul in this project over summer 2019, we were delighted to receive great feedback from the international synthetic biology community. What an amazing journey it has been.

Key Achievements

Project

- o Contribution of biobricks for the international Registry of Standard Biological Parts
- o Successful genetic engineering of a marine bacteriophage
- o Complete in silico model of biomanufacturing yields
- o Ultra-fast growth of freshwater cyanobacterial strain

Outreach

- o Participated in various social and scientific events throughout 2019
- o Partnerships with over 20 industrial and academic stakeholders and experts
- o Successfully hosted an international iGEM conference in Leuven, teams from 8 different European countries participated
- o Development of an educational Virtual Reality experience to immerse the general public in the world of microbiology

Awards

- o The KU Leuven iGEM team is proud to have brought home a silver medal from Boston!
- o The team was able to secure a Promega sponsorship worth \$ 2000 for the next team!

Future perspectives

While the KU Leuven iGEM 2019 adventure is now over, the KU Leuven iGEM spirit is more alive than ever. For the first time in KU Leuven iGEM's history, we are participating in the competition for two consecutive years. Indeed, the recruitment of the 2020 team has successfully been kicked off, and it already looks like the amount of applications will be bigger than last year, possibly a result of the increasing awareness of the project around the campuses. And there is more: as this sequel allows for a significant handover of iGEM knowledge and tips and tricks, KU Leuven iGEM is ambitious to again earn the gold medal we so desire next edition. Stay tuned!

We express our profound gratitude for everybody who made this possible.
Especially our financial sponsors:

