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# IISER Pune team win gold medal at iGEM Synthetic Biology competition

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PUNE: A team of 12 students from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, (IISER) Pune has won a gold medal at the 2021 iGEM synthetic biology competition the results of which were announced during November 4-14. The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization working towards the advancement of synthetic biology, education, and competition.

'As part of their participation in this competition, the team worked over the last few months on a research project. The aim of the project was to develop a sustainable model for synthesising chemical compounds using

a co-culture of two bacterial strains, thereby avoiding methods that involve carbon-emitting petrochemicals or resource-intensive plant biomass. The team titled this approach "Synbactory". As a proof of concept, the team designed the bacterial co-culture to produce butanol, a chemical with applications as a fuel, said the official release from IISER Pune.

The team of students from IISER Pune included Ashwin Uday, Misaal Bedi, Sanjana Vasanth, Ashli Jain, Namasivayam Gomathi Sankar, Likhith Chandragiri, Vidisha Hate, Arsh Shaikh, Soorya Narayan, Akash Dutta, Arya Narnapatti and Jason Joby.

**Congratulations!**

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iGEM Competition, an annual, worldwide synthetic biology event aimed at undergraduate university students, as well as high school and graduate students gives them the opportunity to push the boundaries of synthetic biology by tackling everyday issues facing the world. Multidisciplinary teams work together to design, build, test, and measure a system of their own design using interchangeable biological parts and standard molecular biology techniques. iGEM teams work inside and outside the lab, creating sophisticated projects that strive to create a positive contribution to their communities and the world. Every year nearly 6,000 people dedicate their summer to iGEM and then come together in the fall to present their work and compete at the annual event, explained the official iGEM website.