iGEM Tiger Squad
Agenda 12/23/11

I. Attendance
II. Reports
    A. Liasion – Thank you notes to donors; articles; contact Alyssa?
    B. Secretary – Minutes from last meeting; June 30th jamboree, January 15th deadline, parts delivered January 30th
    C. Lab Manager – Grant available (roller drum, thermal cycler, pipetmen, pipetmen tips – price out and start writing the grant)
    D. Media Specialist – Wiki site transfer to iGEM wiki
    E. Public Relations – Newspaper article; Outreach awards (blogging, commercials, videos, surveys, etc.)
    F. Treasurer – Fundraising for registration fee; t-shirts and design
III. Narrow the project
    A. Exploring the parts registry
        1. Are there parts available in the registry that might fit our idea?
IV. Other Business/Questions?

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It would be great if your students put their ideas in a
list and start
> thinking about what biological parts they might need to
make their systems
> work.
>
> That's a great way to see how easy or challenging it
might be to actually
> get a project done.  For example, if your students find
that they need 10
> parts to make something work and that the Registry only
has 2 of them, then
> it might be better to develop another idea.
>
>
> Another brainstorming method that might work:
> --Have your students look at the parts in the Registry
that have stars by
> them (i.e. they're proven to work)
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V. `> --Make something cool with these parts`

Hi Rebekah,
Nice to Skype with you and your team.

Here are some things to think about:
Streptococcus can be pathogenic, so most likely you can only work with live strains in BL2 lab. It might be challenging to work with live strains.
A more feasible approach is to find targets on the streptococcus that you can detect and focus on working with those.

We have a few questions as well:
What facilities/equipment do you have access to?
What organism are you going to use? E. Coli?

Hi Rebekah,

Adding to what Jenny said: it would be a good idea to perhaps have a small group of team members--maybe 3--think about the strep detection project in detail while the rest of the team keeps brainstorming about other possible ideas. That way, your team will have a few good ideas to ponder over the next few months.

Regarding brainstorming ideas, the big questions I always ask myself are:
--<u>What has been done in the past?</u> For example, what detection methods are out there right now for detecting strep?
--<u>Is my idea better than what's already out there?</u> For detection: is it cheaper, faster, and more portable than existing detectors, and is it easy for anyone to use?

(Cells can take a while to detect stuff because they have to make proteins, and cell signaling/ cellular processes might take awhile.)

A Google search can help a lot with the first two questions by giving your team a general idea of what's already out there. Then Web of Science/ Pubmed can be used to mine papers for details.

Hope this helps! Let us know the ideas your team comes up with and if you have more questions,
Alyssa, Jenny, and Brian