

SynCTI Research Meeting



Henrik Hagemann

CEO and Co-Founder

DATE : Tuesday, 30 August 2016
TIME : 4 pm
LOCATION : CeLS Auditorium

The story of an Imperial College London iGEM startup: control of production of nanocellulose composites using a genetic toolkit

In 2014, 10 undergraduate students came together to represent Imperial College London at the 10th international Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition at MIT, competing with 245 other teams. After winning 5 awards including best manufacturing track and 2nd overall, they were encouraged to develop their technology further and commercialise it as a science based startup. How does that transition take place and what are do you need to look out for to do so?

CEO and cofounder Henrik Hagemann will talk about how they turned their iGEM project into a PNAS publication, a startup called CustoMem and raised \$250'000 SGD in grant funding to make the leap to full time entrepreneur. CustoMem engineer biology to develop & manufacture products that enable companies to treat the environment responsibly. Their first product is a selective water treatment membrane that can capture micropollutants in wastewater that existing treatment doesn't tackle. It's focused on industrial wastewater, since the purification does not increase costs or chemistry usage.

The talk will tell the ups and downs of Henrik's biobusiness entrepreneurship journey, how to keep the iGEM spirit of responsible innovation in a startup and what considerations to make when transitioning from science to entrepreneurship. It will also provide a friendly Q&A forum to fire any questions about synthetic biology, entrepreneurship and IP.

Links:

News article: <https://www.pddnet.com/article/2016/08/engineering-tea-bacteria-could-lead-advanced-materials>

PNAS 2016 publication: <http://www.pnas.org/content/113/24/E3431.abstract>