

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE

<b>Expedition/Project/ Conference Title:</b>	iGEM Giant Jamboree 2018
<b>Travel Dates:</b>	23 - 30 October, 2018
<b>Location:</b>	Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02115, USA
<b>Group member(s):</b>	Ben Astle, Eva Steele, Freddie Starkey, Inga Gražulytė, Ugnė Baronaitė, Ajay Joshi, Charlie Mathews
<b>Aims:</b>	To present synthetic biology project to iGEM foundation committee and other participating teams

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### OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

My team had been working on a synthetic biology project for iGEM competition the whole summer and through the autumn right until to the Giant Jamboree. Giant Jamboree is a Grand Finale of the iGEM competition where over 300 teams gather up to present their projects. Life science companies' CEOs and representatives come to see students made projects. Field leading scientists participate as judges.

The Giant Jamboree was happening for four days. Poster sessions and presentations take place during the first three days. During each presentation session, three teams get twenty minutes to present their projects and answer couple questions from judges, during posters session, judges from the session come to each poster and ask more questions as well as evaluate poster itself. There are two presentations sessions in the morning, then there is one poster session, then there are another two poster sessions in the afternoon and one more poster session in the evening. During time allocated for a presentation session, nine sessions take place in parallel in different rooms. Participant is welcome to attend any session they want and listen to the presentations of other teams. Also, participants are very welcome to find out about other teams' projects from their posters. In the evening of the first three days, there were workshops held by companies' representatives and iGEM foundation members.

My team presented our project on the second day's first-morning session. It is quite early to present at this time, nevertheless, a lot of people showed up to watch our presentation. The presentation was a success. Posters sessions went great as well. In the evening I have attended GenScript workshop on plasmid construction software.

On the last day of the Jamboree, there was the Award Ceremony. My team was awarded Gold Medal for the project, also we were nominated for the best projects in the track on Fundamental Advancement, which is said to be on of the hardest tracks.

During award ceremony Randy Rettberg (iGEM foundation president), Ingrid Swanson (Pultz CSO of PVP Biologics), Jason Kelly (CEO of Ginkgo Bioworks), George Church (Wyss Institute) gave a speech.

During the conference, we met a lot of students interested in synthetic biology, met potential employers. Also, we have represented our university.