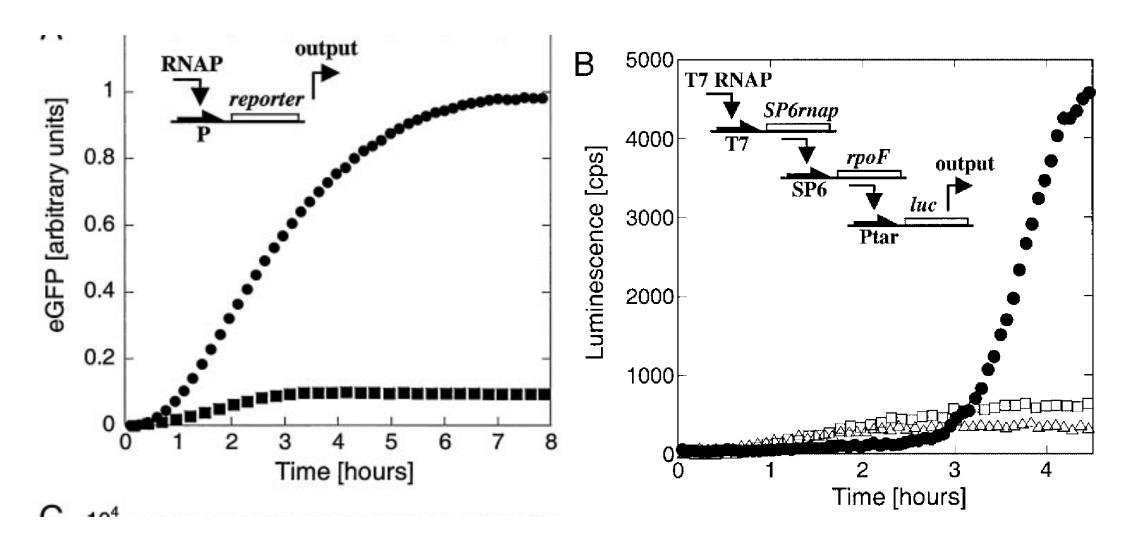
# An Introduction and Overview of Cell-Free Synthetic Biology

Prof. Sebastian Maerkl

### Cell-Free Synthetic Biology?



## Cell-free transcription – translation systems

Cell-based (lysate) system



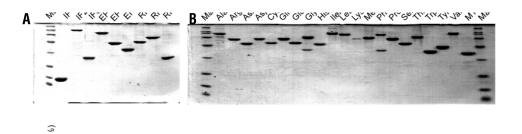
#### Pros:

- Highly active / high protein synthesis yields
- Cheap and easy to make
- Many different systems available

#### Cons:

Undefined / complex system

PURE (recombinant) system



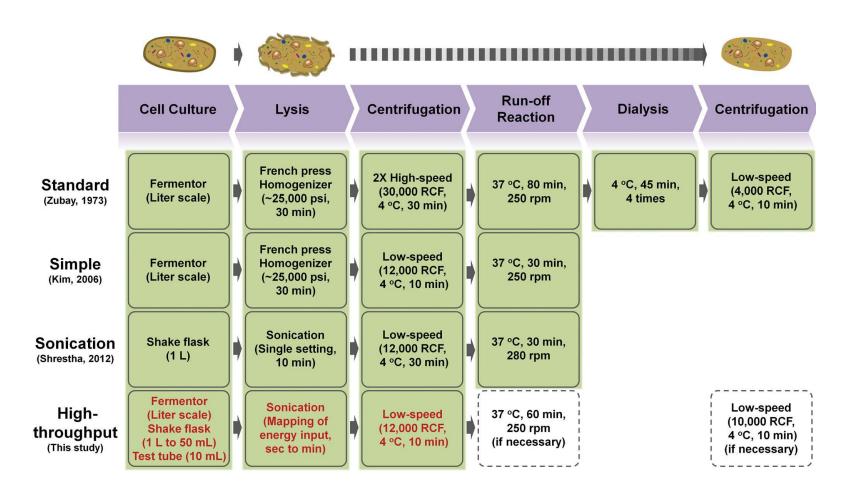
#### Pros:

Completely defined system

#### Cons:

- Less active as lysate based systems
- Expensive and cumbersome to make
- "only" E. coli based system thus far

#### Lysate Based Systems



#### **Lysate Flavors**

#### Commercially available flavors:

- E. coli
- Wheat germ
- Rabbit reticulocyte
- Mammalian

#### Additional flavors:

- V. natriegens
- B. subtilis
- B. megaterium
- E. fergusonii
- S. enterica
- K. oxytoca
- P. agglomerans
- P. putida
- C. glutamicum
- L. lactis

### PURE System

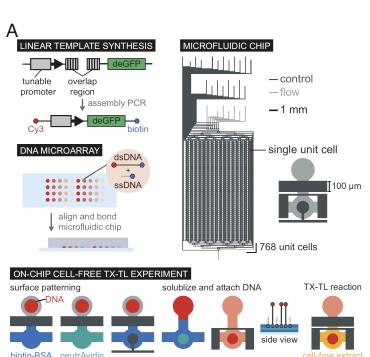
a **OnePot Protein Purification Characterization &** Ni-NTA **Optimization** Single Mixed-Culture Amicon filter **Proteins** 1x culture (EF-Tu) 0.65 µL 1.6 mg/ml ~2 mL of proteins (12.25mg/mL) 35x culture **Protein expression** ~ 15 mL of OnePot PURE  $0.9 \mu L$ Ribosomes Inoculation Cell growth & harvesting Purification & buffer exchange **Energy** Solution Day 2 Day 1 Day 3 & DNA

- New easy, cheap, and robust production method
- Individual protein components can be individually adjusted
- PURE system can be extended by addition of proteins / other components

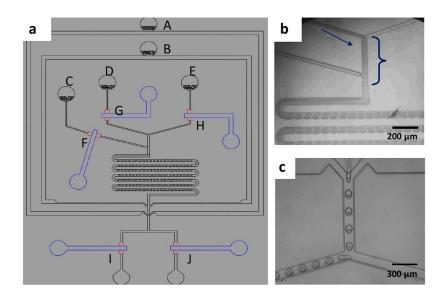
Lavickova and Maerkl ACS SynBio 2019.

### Cell-Free SynBio and Microfluidics

## Chemostats High-throughput



Droplets



Niederholtmeyer et al. PNAS 2013.

Functional unit of the chip

Protein

DNA brush

**GFP** gradient

Cell-free

2) Input pump3) Mixing pump

Karzbrun et al. Science 2014.

## Is Cell-Free Synthetic Biology good for anything?

Basic science

Rapid Prototyping

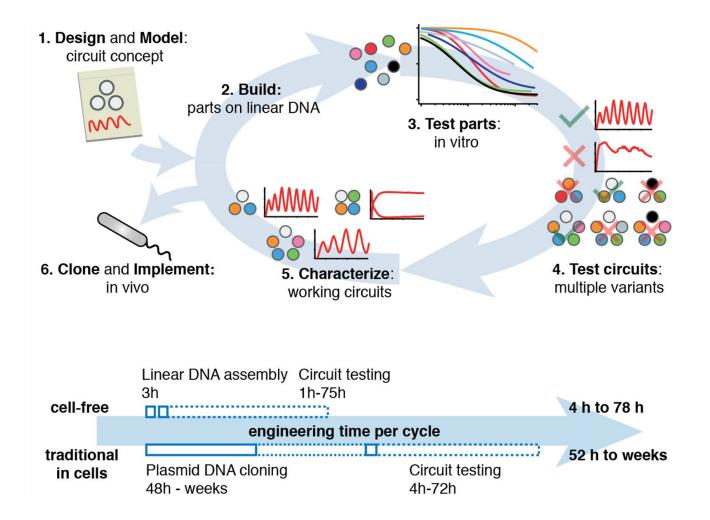
Metabolic Engineering

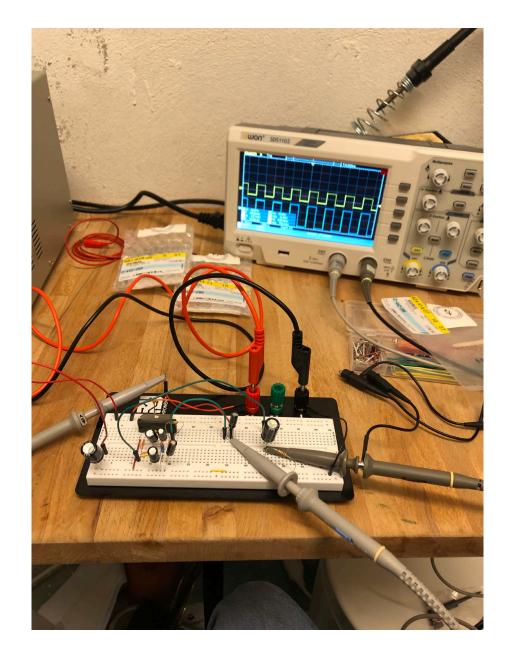
Sensing / Diagnostics / Therapeutics

Education

Foundation for the development of an artificial cell

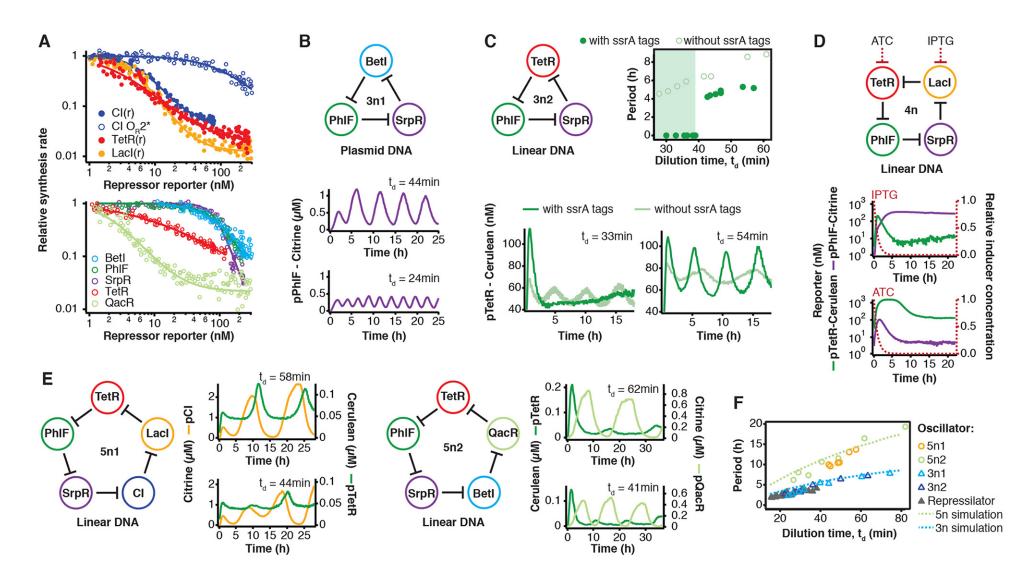
### Rapid prototyping





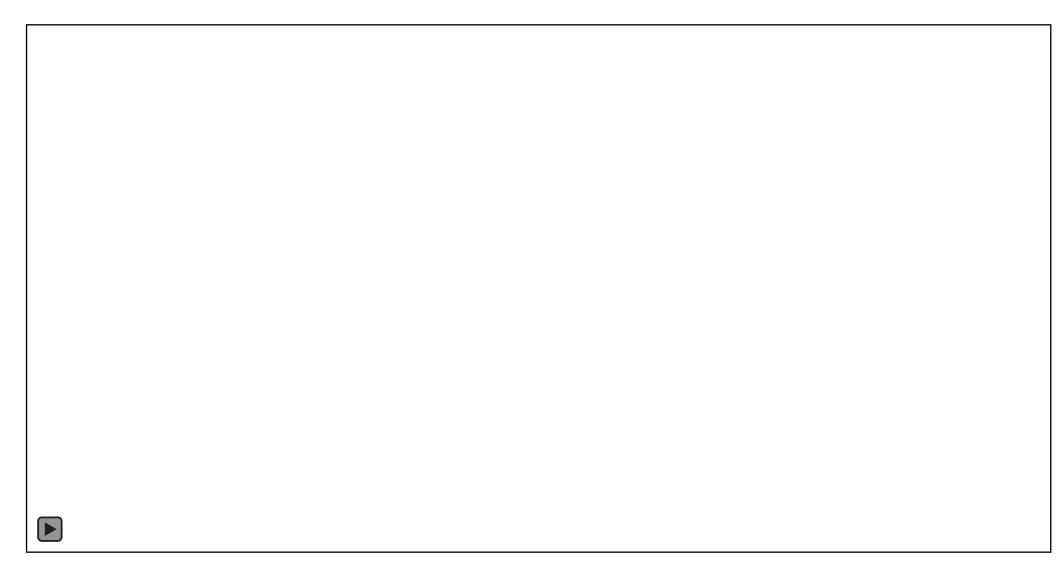
Niederholtmeyer et al. eLife 2015.

### Rapid prototyping

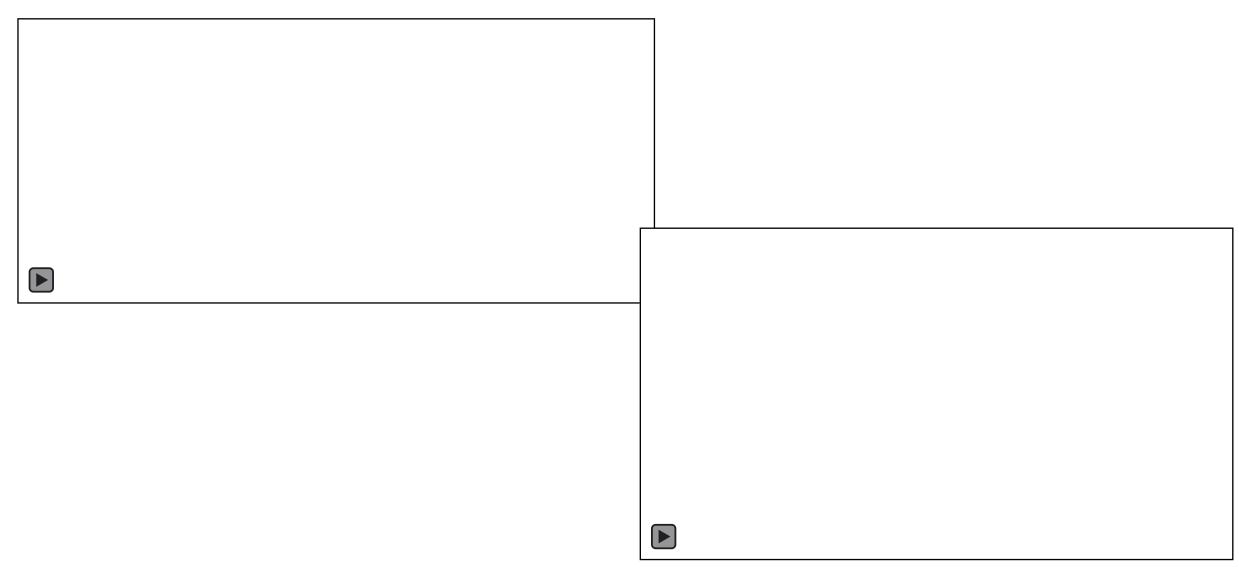


Niederholtmeyer et al. eLife 2015.

### In vitro repressilator on a chemostat

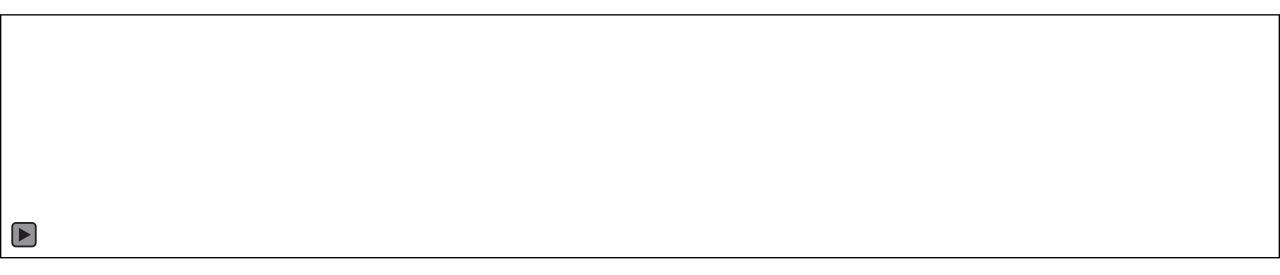


#### In vivo 3n and 5n oscillators on a mothermachine



Niederholtmeyer et al. eLife 2015.

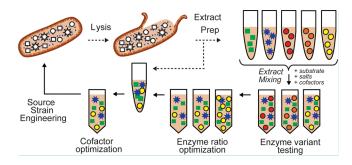




#### Metabolic Engineering

Non-ribosomal peptide synthesis

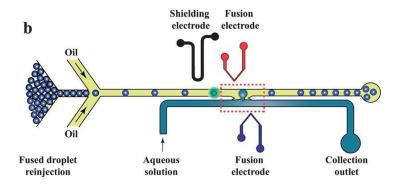
Pathway optimization



Goering et al. ACS SynBio 2017.

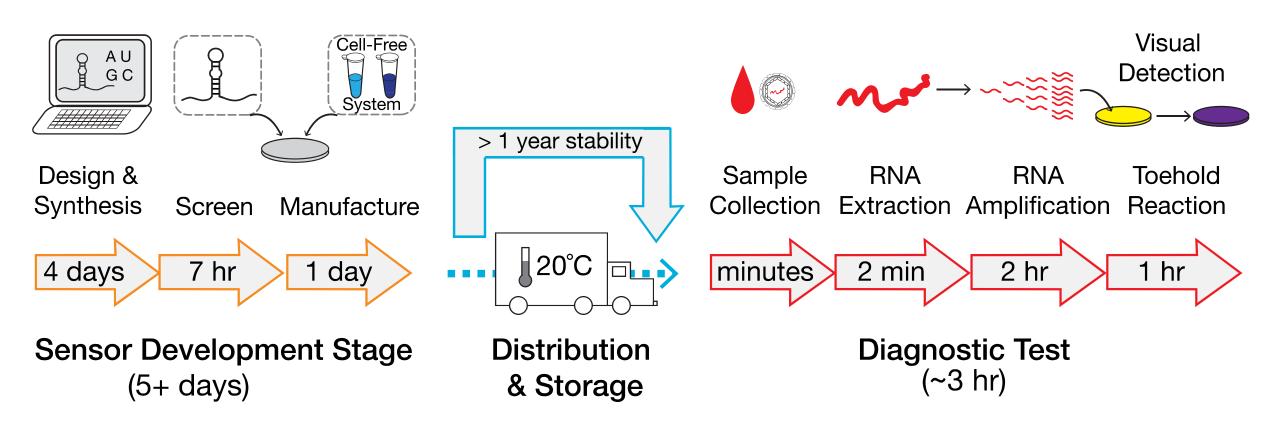
Dudley et al. ACS SynBio 2016.

Enzyme engineering / directed evolution

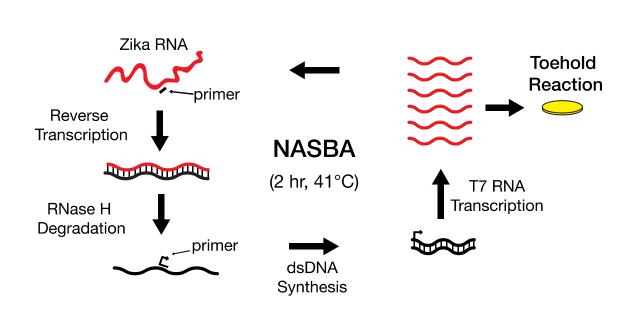


Fallah-Araghi et al. LOC 2012.

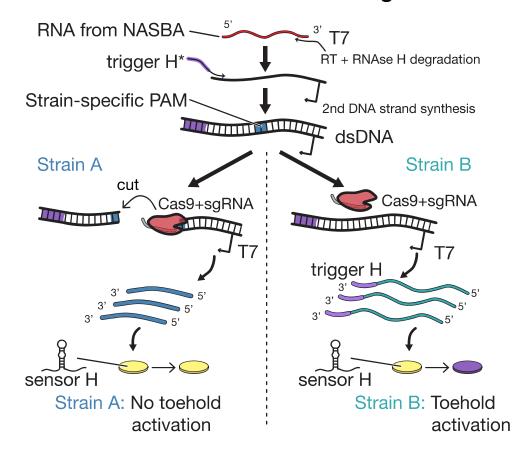
#### Diagnostics



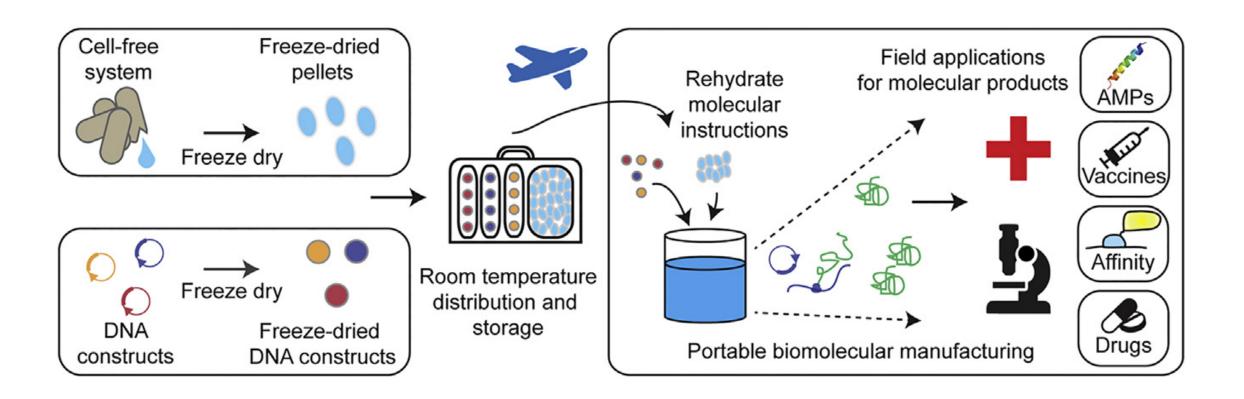
#### Diagnostics



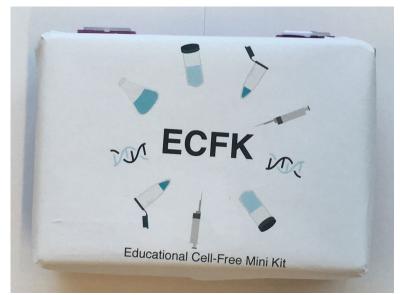
#### **NASBA-CRISPR** Cleavage

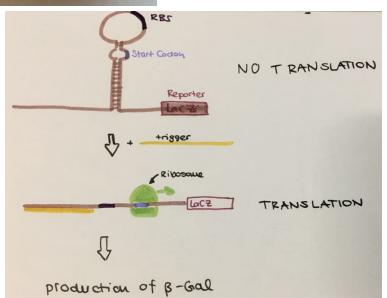


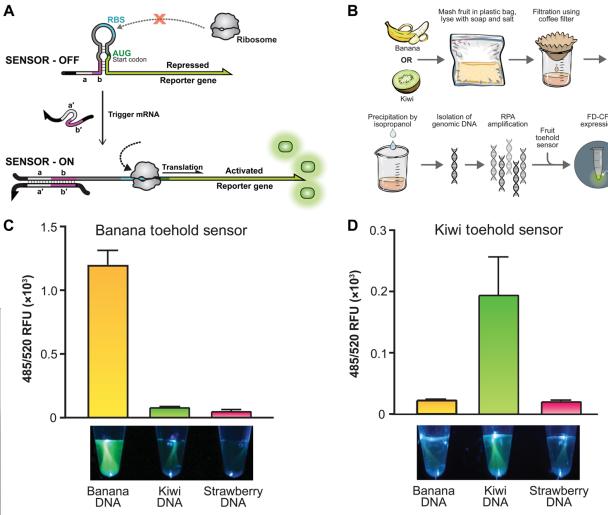
## Therapeutics / Biomolecular Manufacturing



#### Education



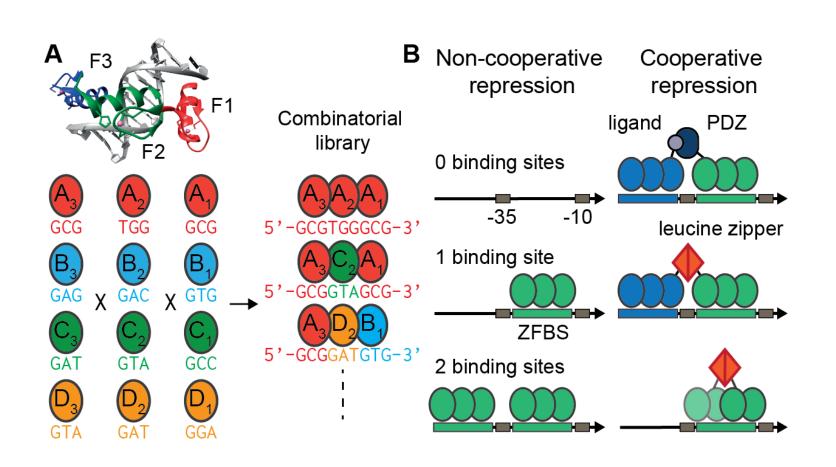


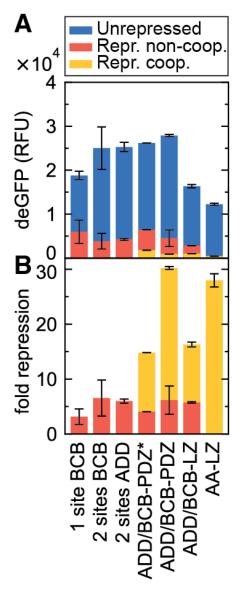


Stark et al. Science Advances 2018. Huang et al Science Advances 2018.

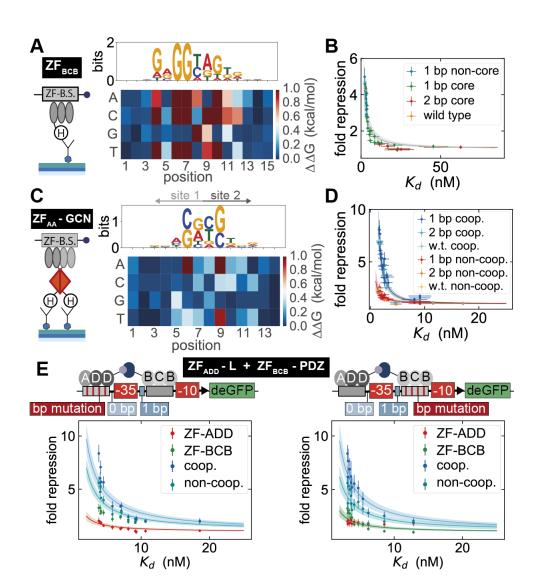
2017 EPFL iGEM team

## Bottom-up design, characterization, and implementation of gene regulatory networks.

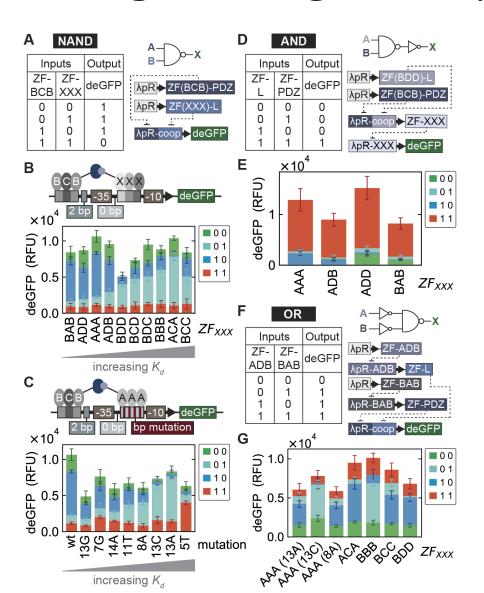




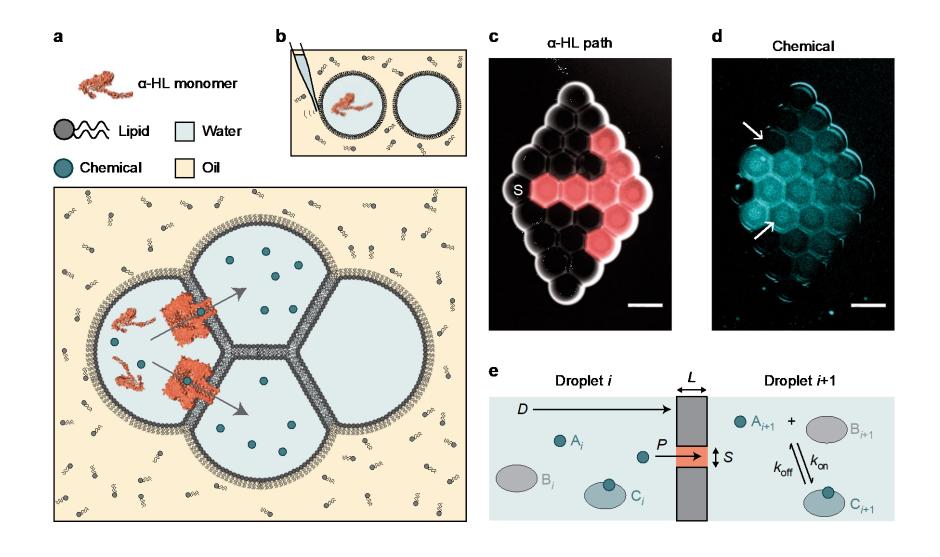
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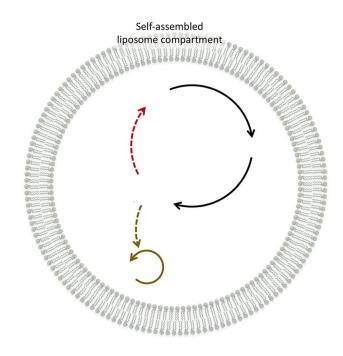
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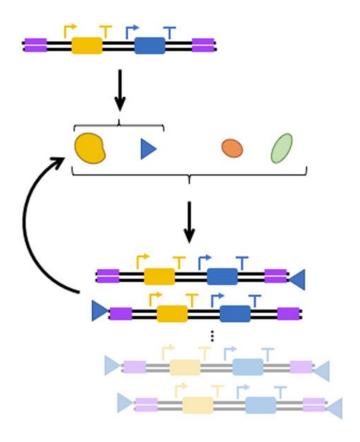


#### Vesicles and communication



## DNA replication





#### Towards an artificial cell

