**Week 2: Find Sequence of Interest**

Learning Objectives for DNA Control Element Discovery

*Skills*

* Sign up for your user account (DNA Parts Registry for M Campbell Lab Page)
* Search published papers to find genetic regulatory element of interest

*Cognitive*

* Employ a scientific approach to answering biological questions and test hypotheses.
* Evaluate publications to find a suitable DNA sequence.
* Explain how DNA fragments are cloned.
* Review the information contained within promoters and RBSs.

**Pre-Lab**

Before you come to lab:

1) Create an account on the [Campbell lab wiki page (http://igem.org/Lab.cgi?id=66)](http://igem.org/Lab.cgi?id=66) (top right "login", apply for new account)

2) Listen to this 6 minute information story about synthetic biology: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90014997>

3) Answer each of these four questions in two sentences or less.

A) What are the -10 and -35 regions of a promoter?

B) What is a plasmid? What parts are essential to its function?

C) What are oligonucleotides (often referred to as oligos)?

D) What is a transcriptional repressor? What is a transcriptional activator?

**Information: DNA Control Elements**

In Lab:

1) Watch [movie of restriction enzyme](http://www.dnalc.org/view/15476-Genetic-engineering-inserting-new-DNA-into-a-plasmid-vector-3D-animation-with-with-basic-narration.html) cutting DNA (<http://www.dnalc.org/view/15476-Genetic-engineering-inserting-new-DNA-into-a-plasmid-vector-3D-animation-with-with-basic-narration.html>)

See the [structure of a restriction enzyme bound to DNA](http://bioinformatics.org/firstglance/fgij/fg.htm?mol=1RVC). (<http://bioinformatics.org/firstglance/fgij/fg.htm?mol=1RVC>)

Discuss sticky ends. How do we connect two segments of DNA with compatible sticky ends?

2) Each group will get a different part to work with:

* pClone Red – read pClone paper; find promoter with sequence (view [http://parts.igem.org/Part:BBa\_J119137](http://parts.igem.org/Part%3ABBa_J119137))
* rClone Red – read Eckdahl *et al.*, 2017 (view [http://parts.igem.org/Part:BBa\_J119384](http://parts.igem.org/Part%3ABBa_J119384))
* actClone Red – read 2 *ompC* papers (view [http://parts.igem.org/Part:BBa\_J100204](http://parts.igem.org/Part%3ABBa_J100204))
* repClone Red – read 2 *tetR* papers (view [http://parts.igem.org/Part:BBa\_J100205](http://parts.igem.org/Part%3ABBa_J100205))

Look at the maps that illustrate how your part was built. You will need to read the assigned papers to understand how you will modify the existing part to produce a predictable behavior.

3) Identify how a promoter or RBS could be designed and tested so that you can compare its actual function with your predicted function. For pragmatic reasons, avoid regulatory mechanisms such as “expose cells to X-rays” or “put cells in space were there is no gravity”, *etc*.

4) Working in your lab group, home in on a DNA sequence of interest. The pClone Red group will want to find a promoter described in a published paper that can be located via PubMed. All that each group needs to do today is identify a sequence and make a prediction for its function. You will have more time to work on this next week when you specify the exact DNA sequence you want to test.

**Reference**

<http://www.oxfordgenetics.com/SiteContent/Store/bacterial-promoter-information>