INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Project title: Development of a functional prion-based self-healing hydrogel

iGEM team name: reGELerate

We would like to invite you to participate in the interview as part of this research project. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important to understand why the research is being conducted and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

Outline of the research

We are a group of students from Imperial College London, conducting this interview as part of the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM), the largest synthetic biology competition. Our project aims to develop an ordered, self-healing hydrogel made from functional yeast prions, which could serve as a scaffold for immobilising proteins, such as antibodies or enzymes, with potential industrial biotechnology applications, ranging from biofuel production to bioremediation. This interview aims to better understand the ethical, social, and scientific aspects of using prions to develop novel biomaterials.

Voluntary participation and data protection

It is your choice whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you are still free not to answer certain questions and to withdraw from the interview at any time, without giving a reason and without any consequences.

After the interview, you have the right to request the deletion of any recordings or notes, without any explanation. Note that we will not be able to process this request after December 9th, 2026.

Recording and the use of data

The interview will be recorded (audio, video or written) for documentation purposes. All data collected will be stored securely on the team's OneDrive folder, accessible only to team members through authorised access. The collected data will be used solely for iGEM project purposes, such as presentations and publication in the team's wiki.

If you prefer not to have your name or affiliation published, you may opt out. You also have the right to review and approve any quotes/footage attributed to you before they are made public. We will contact you regarding this by 01/08/2026. If we do not receive any response from you by 15/08/2026, we will assume we have your consent to publish the material.

Risks and benefits to the participant

There are no risks in participating in this interview. By taking part, your insights will contribute to our project and to public engagement.

Responsible project members

Interviewers:

- Vasily Vanifatov (vasily.vanifatov25@imperial.ac.uk)
- Harrish Shivakumar (harrish.shivakumar24@imperial.ac.uk)

Human practices leaders:

- Vasily Vanifatov (vasily.vanifatov25@imperial.ac.uk)
- Daphne Armengol (daphne.armengol25@imperial.ac.uk)

Project supervisor:

- Szymon Manka (s.manka@imperial.ac.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this information