INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

For participants under the age of 18

Project title: Making a jelly-like material that can heal itself

iGEM team name: reGELerate

We would like to invite you to take part in an interview for our science project. Before you decide, please read this sheet so you know what we are doing and what taking part would involve. You can talk about it with your parent, carer, teacher or a friend. If anything does make sense, please ask us. There are no silly questions.

Who we are

We are a group of students from Imperial College London. We are taking part in the world's biggest synthetic biology competition, which is the science of designing and building new things using biology.

What we are making

We are trying to make a jelly-like substance called hydrogel. It is mostly made out of water and ours is built from prions, which are proteins that stick to each other in a repeating pattern. We are using harmless prions from yeast, the same kind of yeast used to make bread. Because of that repeating pattern, our gel should be able to heal itself after it is cut or damaged. We would like to use it to hold other useful proteins in place that are handy for jobs like clearing up plastic pollution.

What we would ask you to do

We would talk with you for a short while to ask what you think about our project. There are no right or wrong answers, and you will not be tested or marked on the questions. We are interested in your opinion, including anything that worries you or that you think we have no thoughts about.

You do not have to take part

Taking part is your choice and nobody will be upset or disappointed if you say no. Even if you say yes to start with, you can:

- Skip any question you do not want to answer
- Stop the interview at any time
- Change your mind afterwards and ask us to delete your recording, without giving a reason

Just ask us, your parent or carer to tell us.

Recording and what happens to what you say

We will record the interview so that we do not forget what you said. It might be sound or just written notes. We will tell you which one before we start. The recording is kept in a secure folder online that only our team can open. We will only use it for our iGEM project, such as our website and presentations.

We will keep your name anonymous. You can also see and approve anything we want to quote from you before anyone else sees it.

Who to contact

You or your parent or carer can email any of us:

Interviewers:

- Vasily Vanifatov (vasily.vanifatov25@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