INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Please read before giving permission for your child to take part

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

iGEM team name: reGELerate

We would like to invite your child to take part in an interview as part of this research project. Before you decide togive permission, it is important to understand why the research is being conducted and what their 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.

Your child will also receive their own version of this sheet. We will ask for your permission separately and for your child's agreement. We will not interview a child who does not want to take part, even if you have given your permission.

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 and your child's choice whether or not to take part. If they do take part, they 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 or your child will have the right to request the deletion of any recordings or notes without any explanation.

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Recording and the use of data

The interview will be recorded (audio 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, which is publicly accessible online.

Your child's name will not be published. You and your child also have the right to review and approve any quotes/footage attributed to them before they are made public.

Risks and benefits to the participant

There are no physical or emotional risks in participating in this interview, as the topics discussed are not sensitive or distressing. 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)

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