

# Synthetic Biology Advances & Challenges

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Imperial College London

**Bio Vision**

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# Synthetic Biology: Motivation ?

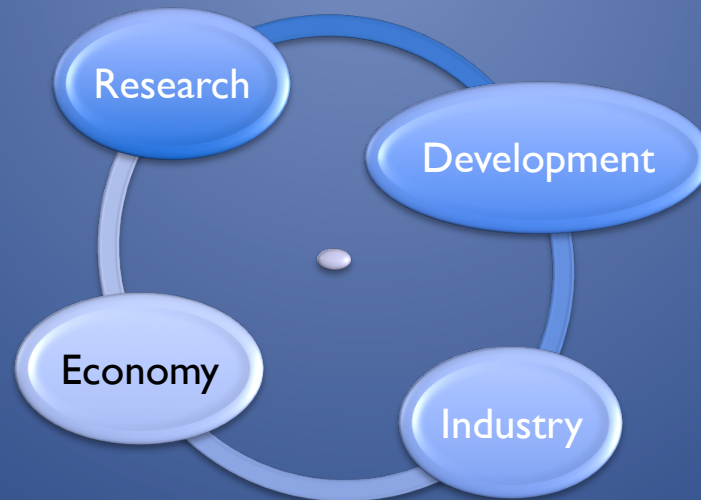
**The advanced form of Biotechnology**

**Reducing:  
Cost  
Impact  
Time to market**

# Synthetic Biology: Motivation ?

The end of the XIX<sup>th</sup> Century has witnessed the development of technologies that provided the basis for wealth creation by new industries, *eg* synthetic chemistry. One could also cite computer science / industry for the second half of the XX<sup>th</sup> Century, or nano-technoscience for the end of the XX<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Synthetic Biology constitutes a wide base of concepts and methods with the same overall potential.**



# Interface of Biology to other disciplines

**Systems Biology:** Science of the systemic analysis of the dynamic and spatial behavior of networks of interactions among bio-molecules.

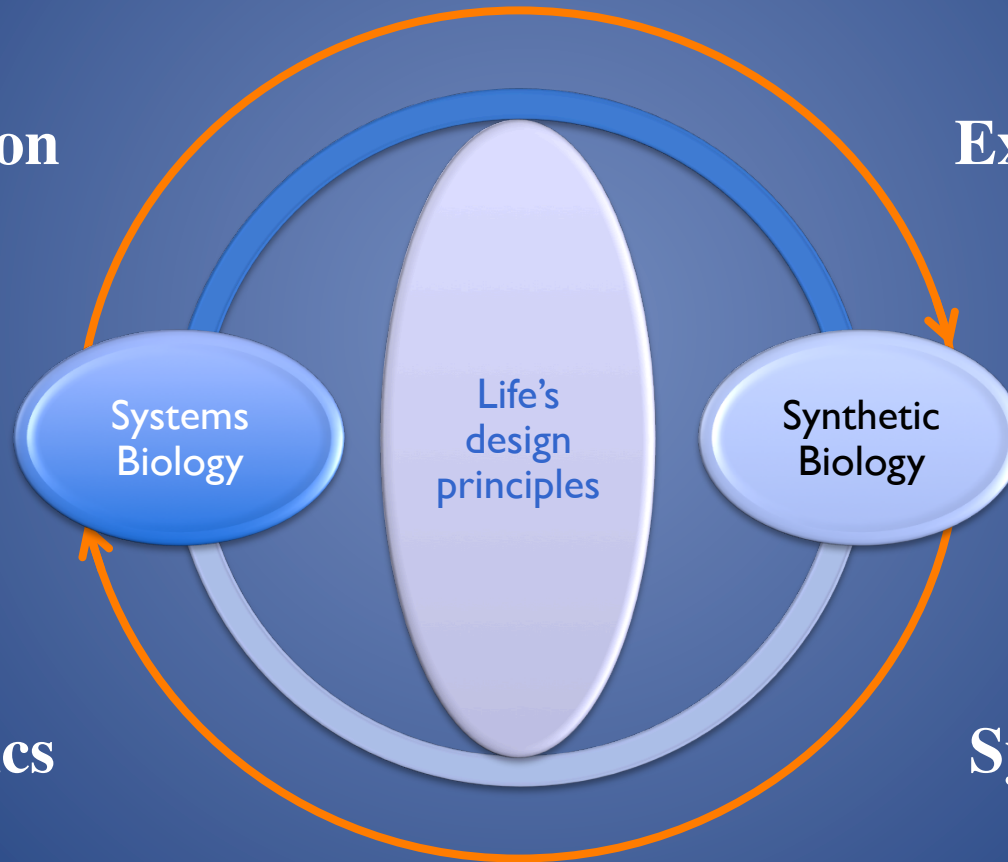
**Synthetic Biology:** the engineering of biology: the deliberate (re)design and construction of novel biological and biologically based systems to perform new functions for useful purposes, that draws on principles elucidated from biology and engineering (ERASynBio).



# Coupling analytics and synthetics

**Exploration**

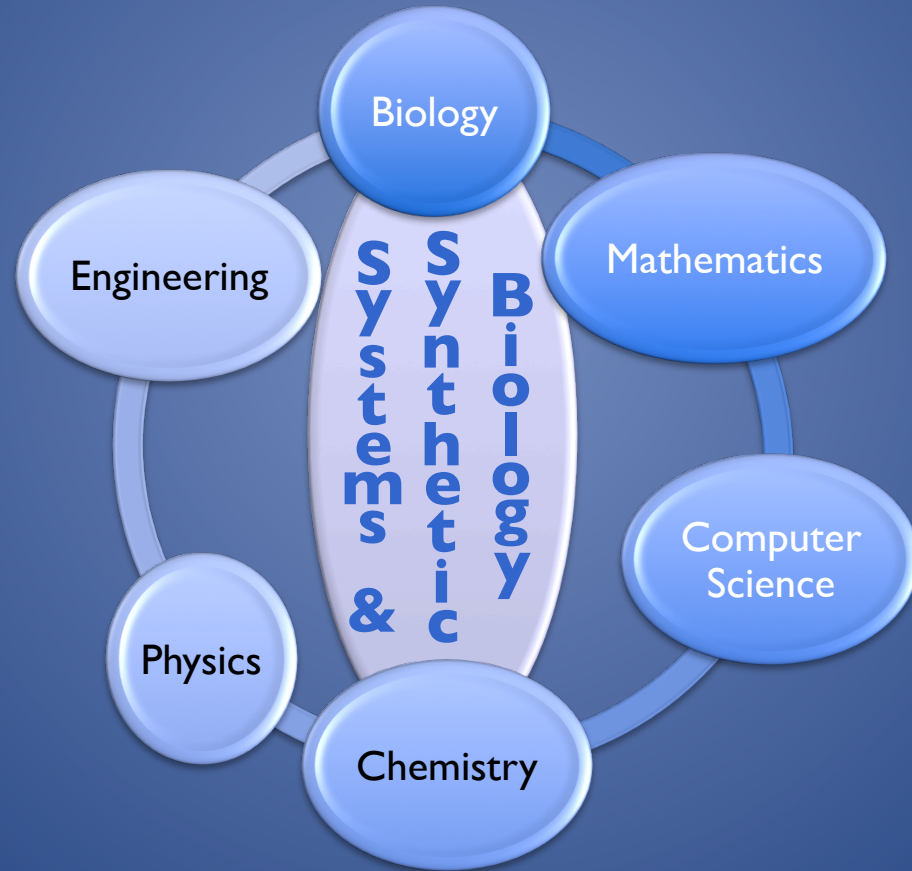
**Exploitation**



**Analytics**

**Synthetics**

# Coupling disciplines



# Emergence

## Mathématiques Informatique

- Calcul
- Stockage
- Modélisation
- Simulation
- Intelligence artificielle
- Algorithmes biomimétiques

## Chimie

- Synthèse d'ADN
- Nucléotides exotiques

## Biologie

- -omiques
- Robotisation
- Fabrication
- Test
- Liposomes

## Micro-fluidique Automatique

- Évolution artificielle
- Origine de la Vie
- Cellule unique

Sciences de l'Ingénieur



# Perspective

Synthetic  
Chemistry

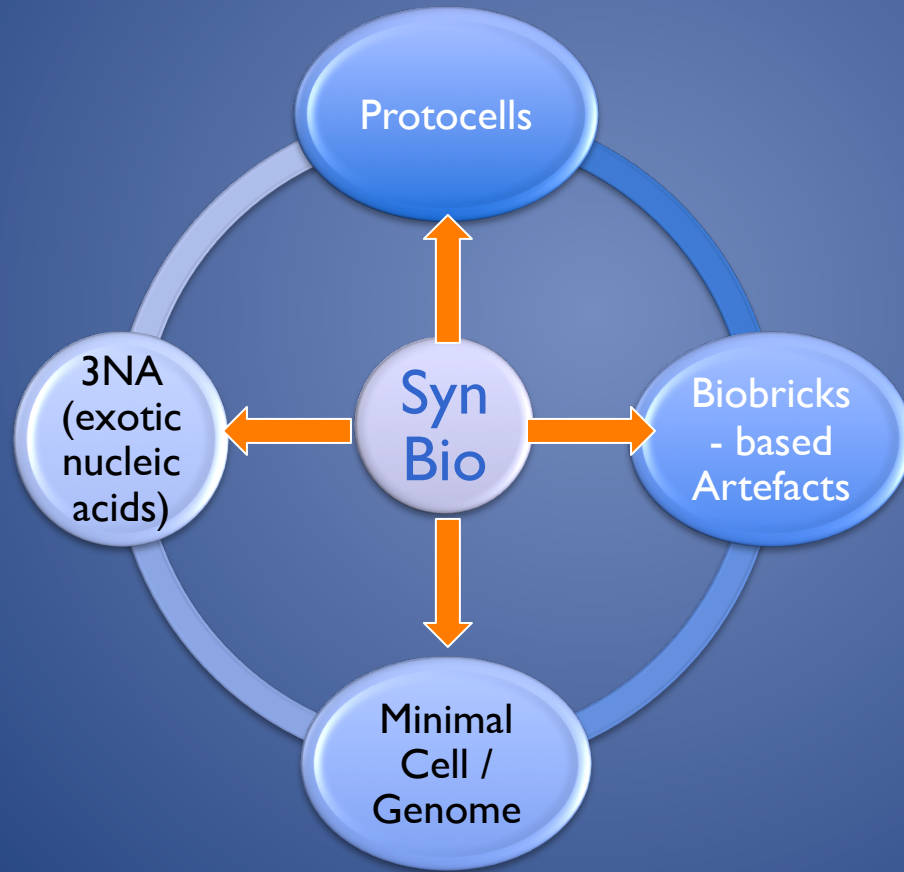
Synthetic  
Biology



XX<sup>th</sup>  
Century

XXI<sup>th</sup>  
Century

# Contents



Synthetic Chemistry

Genetic Engineering

# Design levels

## SYSTEMS

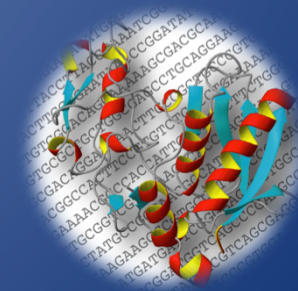
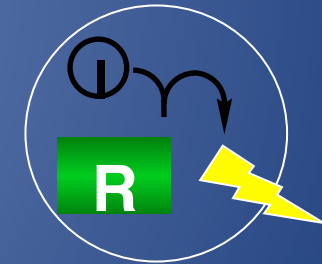
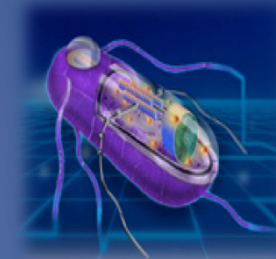
- Organism; Châssis; Nanomachine

## DEVICES

- Regulatory circuit; Metabolic pathway

## BIO-BRICKS

- Protein; RNA





# Minimal Cell / Genome: a deconstructivist scheme

## CHASSIS

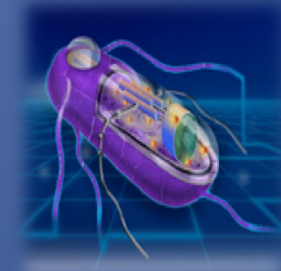
- A miniature factory or a live test tube

## EPIGENOME

- A rationale conception

## GENOME

- A full synthesis



# Artificial Life: a more fundamental slant

## PROTOCELLS

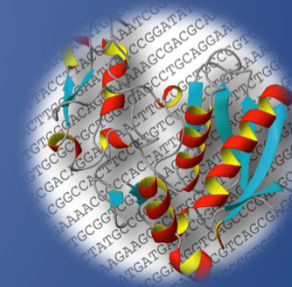
- Liposomes; Microfluidics; Artificial life

## INNOVATIVE CHEMISTRIES

- Third-type nucleic acids; New aminoacids; New metabolisms

## INFORMATION RECODING

- Genetic code; Gene expression code



# Keywords

**Standardization**

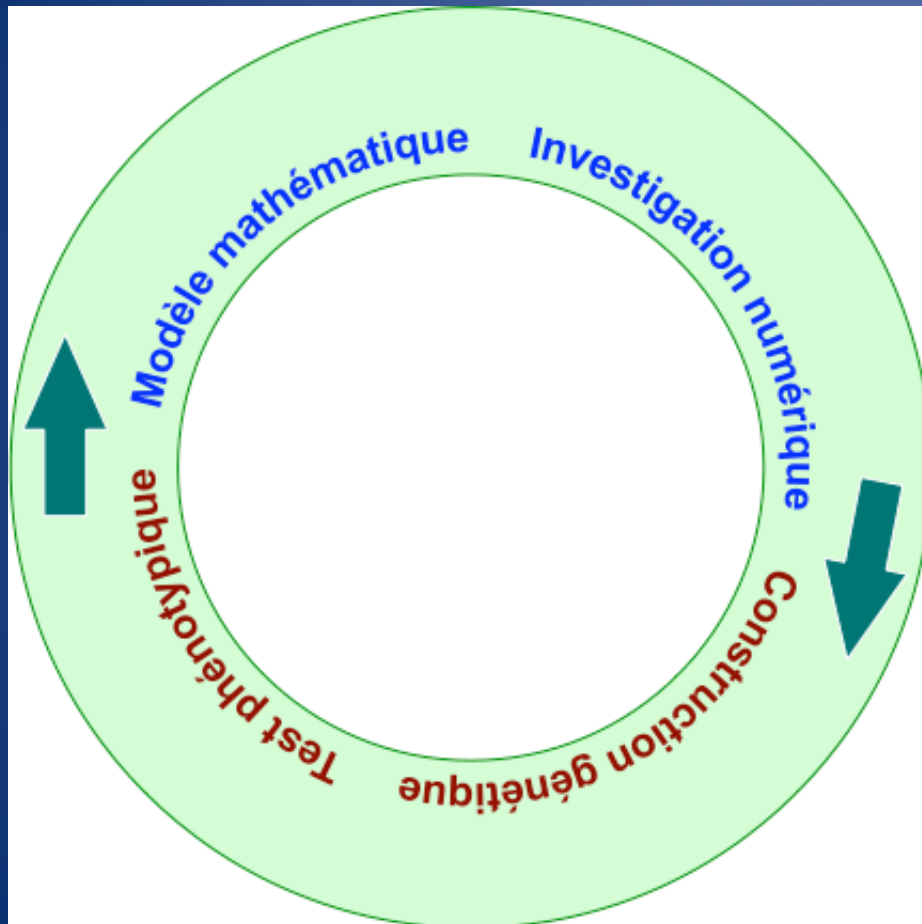
**Re-utilization**

**Decoupling conception and fabrication**

**Orthogonality and modularity**

**Hierarchy**

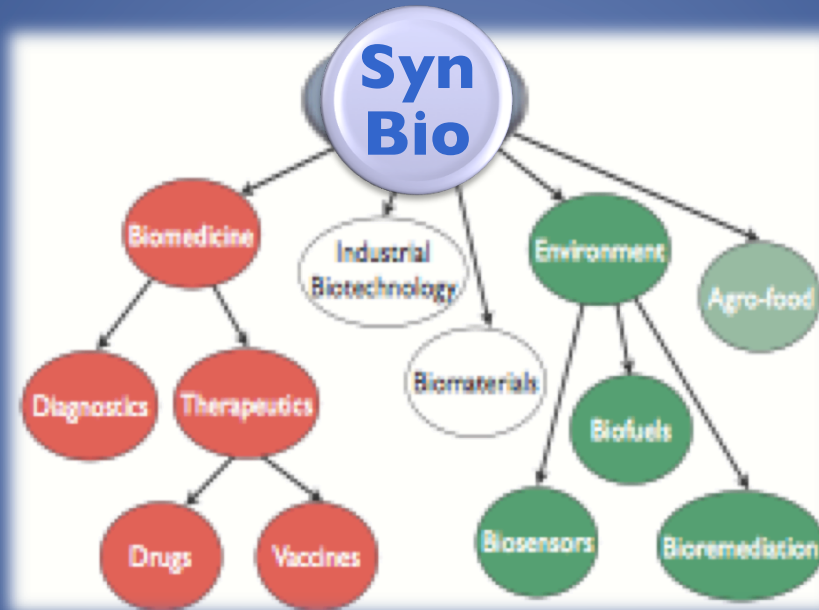
# Engineering Biology?



*The improvement spiral in synthetic biology repeats the cycle shown here, until satisfying the initial specifications.*

# Applications

in **red**, **green**, and **white** Biotechnologies



*"A bioeconomy is an economic system in which biological resources like forests, agricultural and aquatic ecosystems provide not just food, feed and fibre, but also chemicals, energy and materials as well as environmental benefits such as green gas emission reductions."*

# The Versant™ diagnostics

**Monitors 400 000 patients per annum,  
afflicted with 1 or 2 viral infections (AIDS and hepatitis)**

Siemens®

**A good example of collaboration between  
synthetic chemistry and synthetic biology**





# The Hydrocortisone drug

**Anti-inflammatory drug.  
Several hormones.**

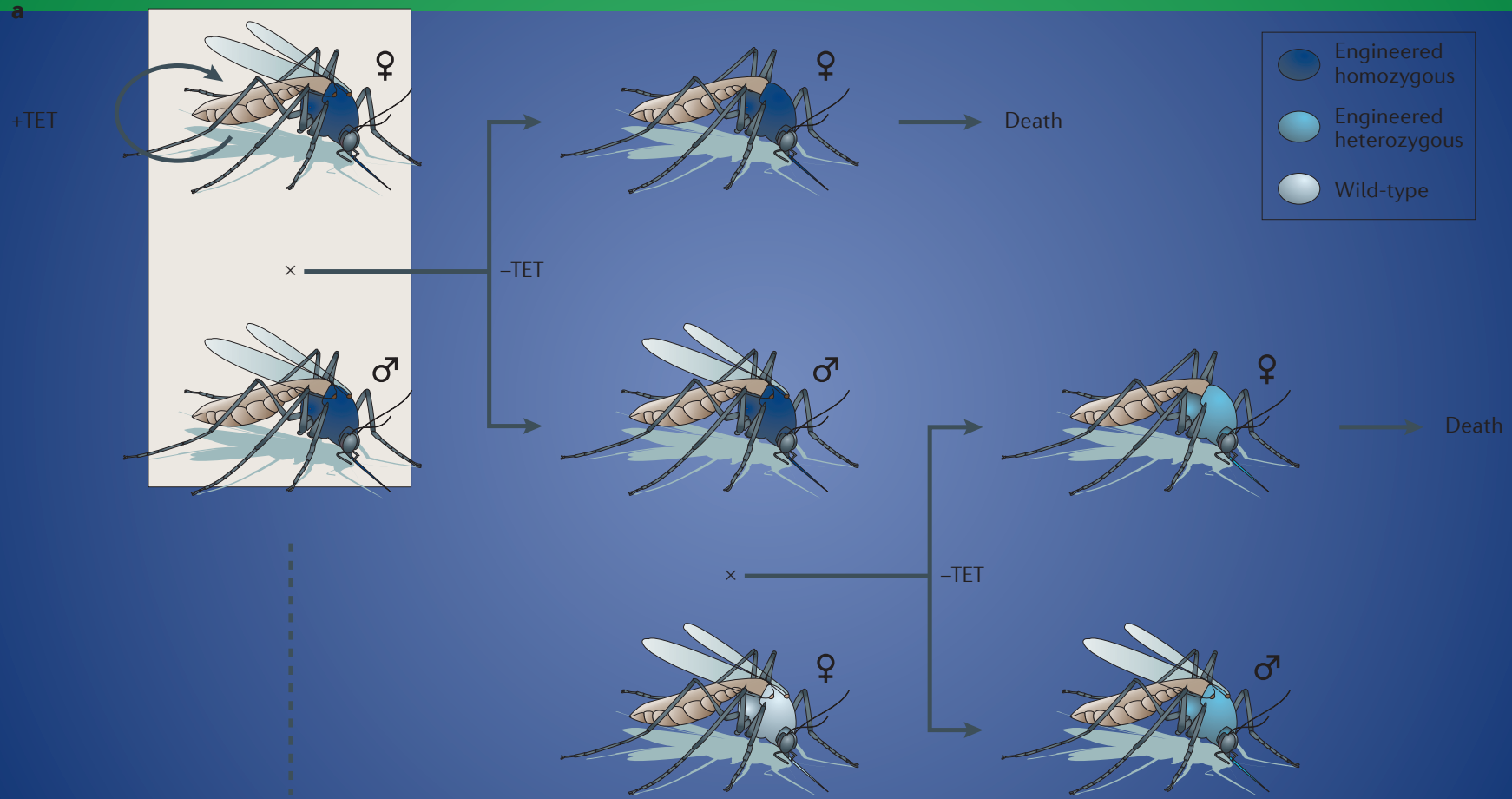
Sanofi – start production in 2015

# The Artemisinin drug

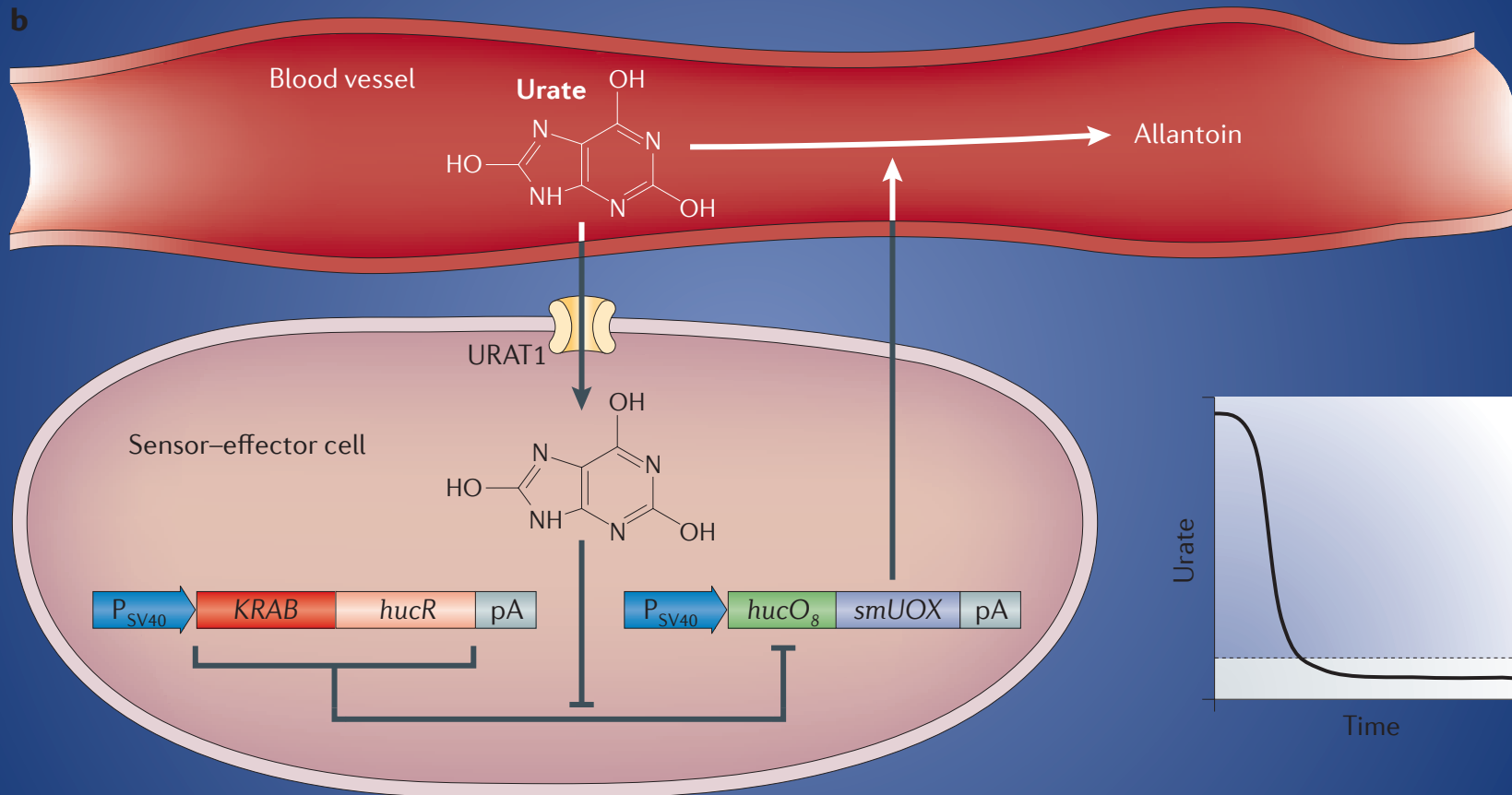
**Anti-malaria drug.**  
**Synthetic Biology allowed to decrease price and free**  
**from variability in quantity and quality.**  
**Synthetic chemistry was not an option.**

**Amyris Technology (US), license to Sanofi – started production of 60 tons per year in 2013**

# Mosquito Control

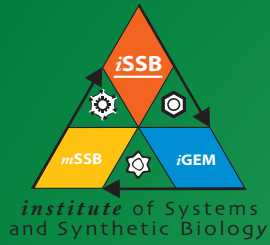


# Urate Homeostasis (gout)



# Other types of interventions in the biomedical domain

- Drug Discovery
- Cancer type classifiers
- Strategies for the control of the expression of mammalian genes (in gene therapy)



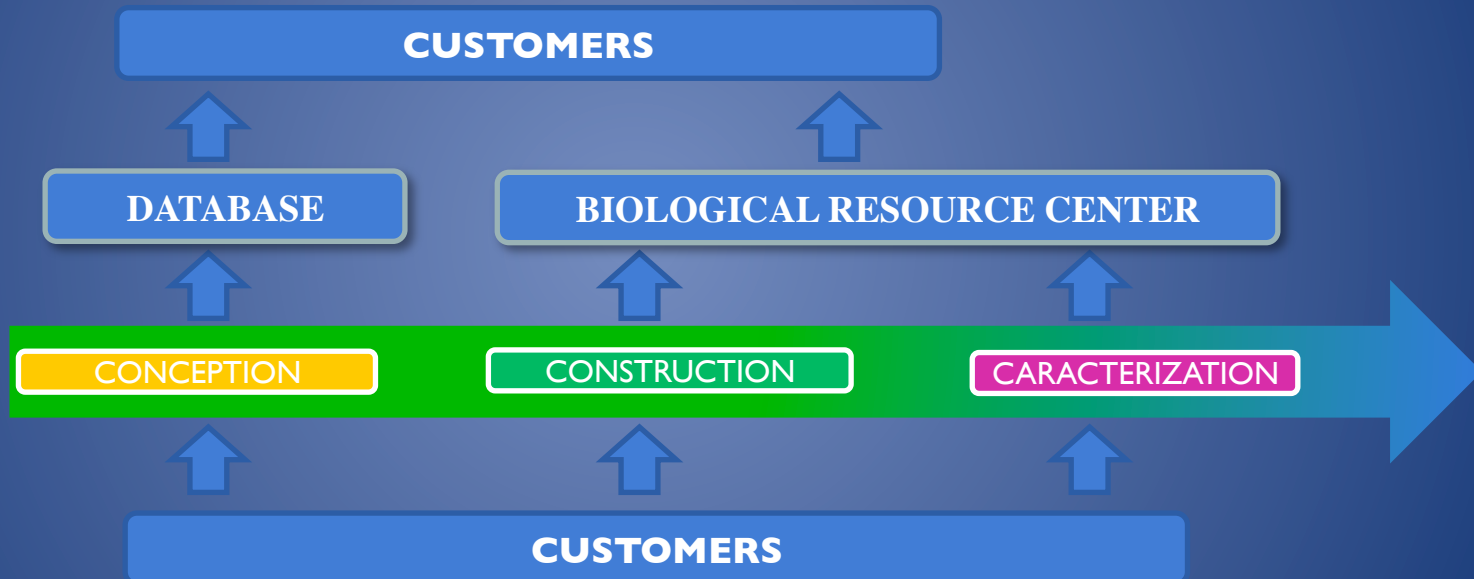
# iSSB Genopole®, CNRS, U. Evry





# Platform

2009: Design  
2010: Opening with regional funding  
2011: Enlargement

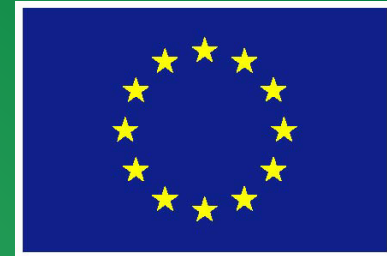
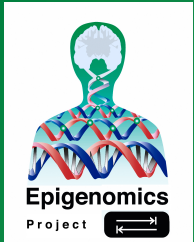


## *Partners:*

**Academic:** Genoscope, URGV, ...

**Industrial:** Imagene, Isthmus, Biométhodes, ...

**Technological:** Genethon BRC, Genopole® Bioproduction Center, ...



*institute of Systems and Synthetic Biology*



Laurent Jannière  
 Mohamed Elati  
 Laura Adam (co-VirginiaTech)  
 Thibaut Lepage  
 Brian Jester  
 Costas Bouyioukos  
 Romain Bodinier  
 Charles Winterhalter  
 Jacopo Bertolini  
 Noémie Brisemeur  
 Rémy El Halaby  
 Jorgelindo Da Veiga Moreira  
 Konstantinos Koutroumpas  
 François Képès

NIDDK / NIH

Ann Dean  
Ryan Dale

*the MEGAlomaniacs*

*Collaborations*

*the MEGAlomaniacs*

*Collaborations*

# The problem at hand

## **Bioproduction of non-proteic molecules**

- State of the art: 10-14 enzymes in production pathway (100 person-year, 10 years, 30 M\$)
- Long trial-and-error process – not rationalized
- Production triggered by several stimuli
- Production strains not robust for scale-up

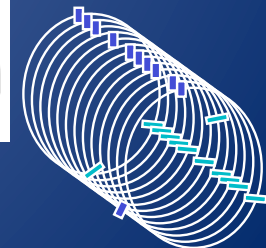
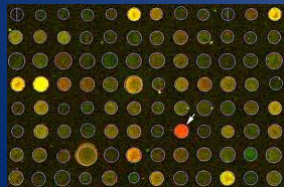
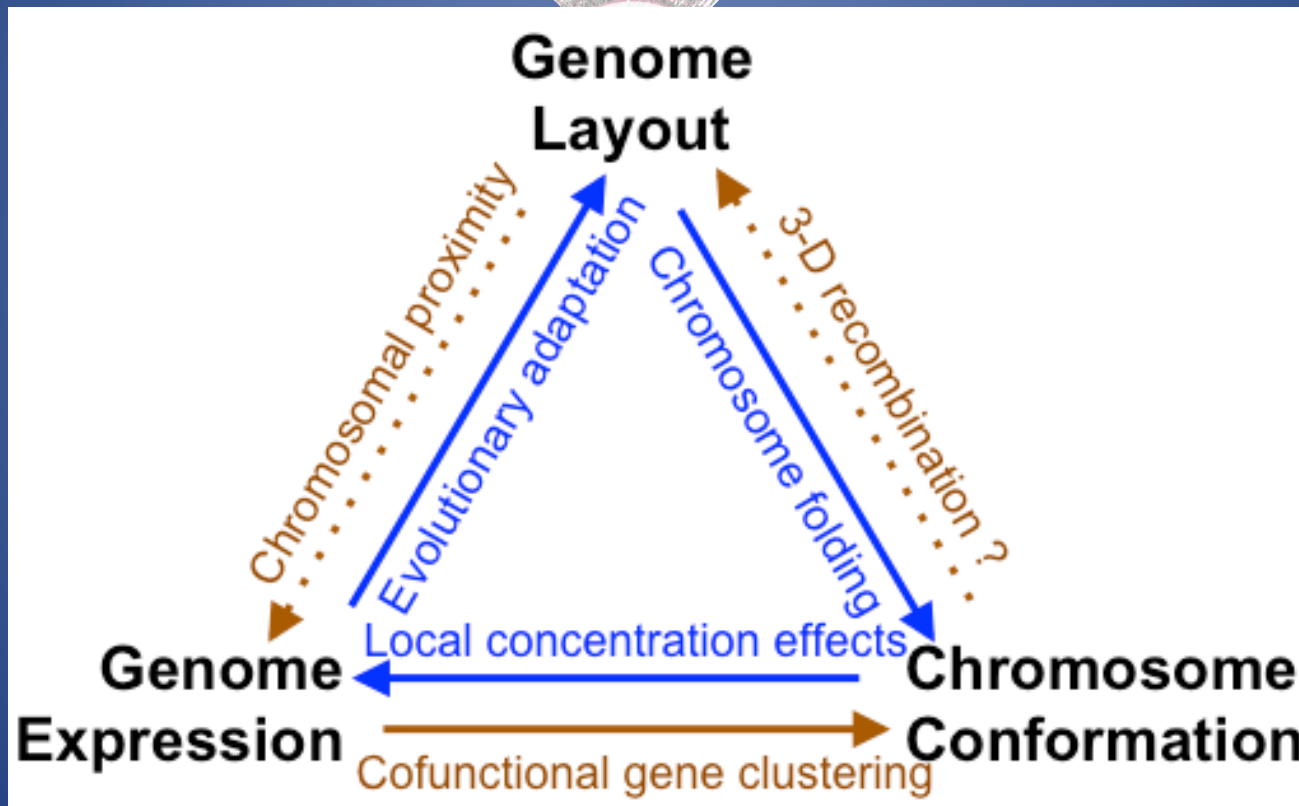
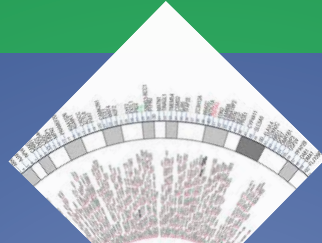
# The (potential) solution at hand

## **Bioproduction of non-proteic molecules**

- Rational conception of microbial genomes
- Break ceiling of maximal number of co-regulated genes
- Intense, single-stimulus triggering of gene co-regulation
- Work directly on main chromosome, not episomes

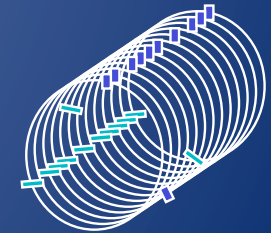
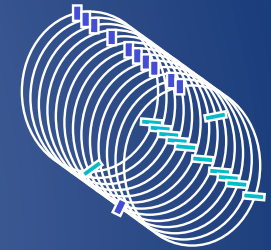
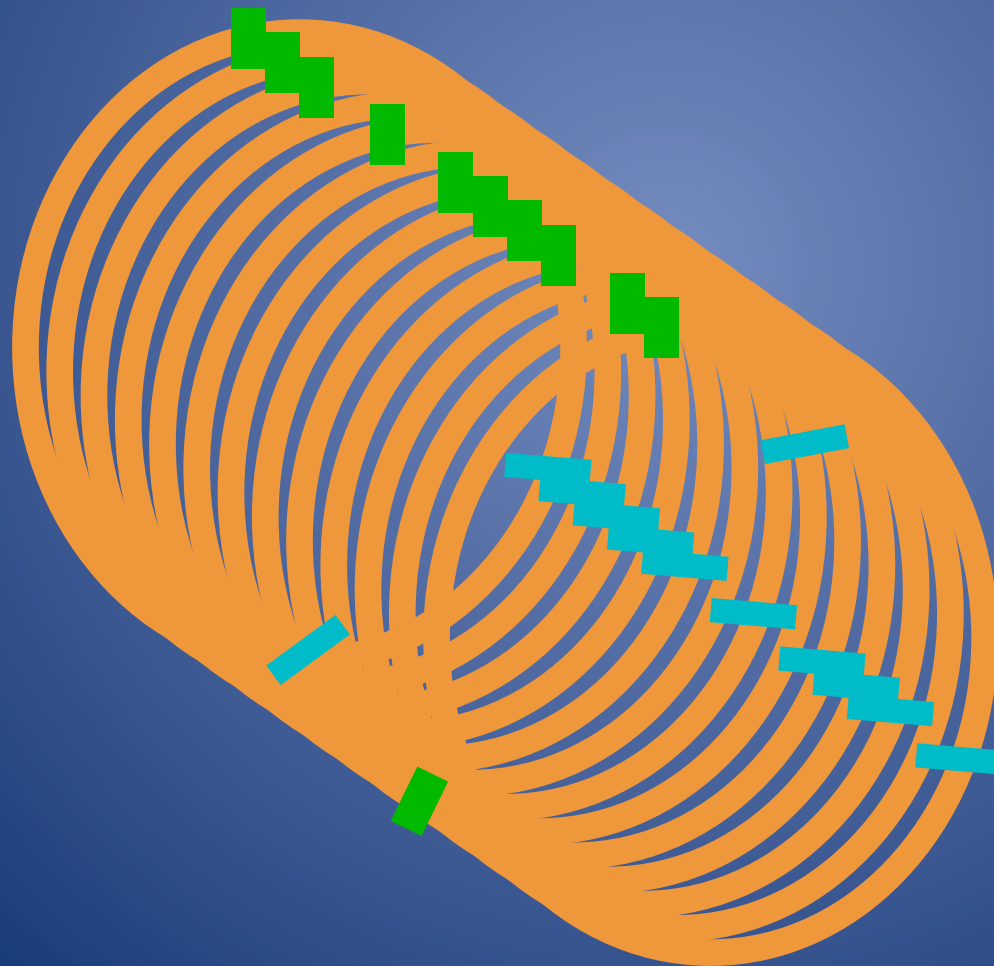


# Layout, Conformation and Expression



# The cofunction-based solenoidal model of chromosomes

Is there a collective transcriptional scheme in cells?





# Thank you !

