

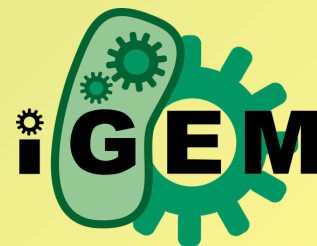
ROCHESTER iGEM 2026

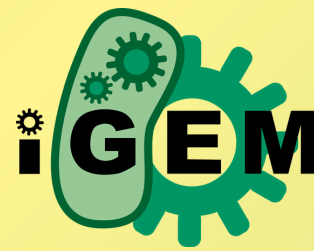


TEAM VERDANT



**University
of Rochester**





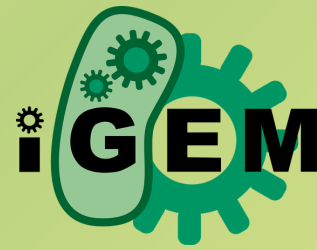
WHAT IS iGEM?

The International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) Competition is an annual competition in which student-led teams are invited to tackle a real-world problem using novel synthetic biological ideas. It provides students with the opportunity to collaborate on an independent project while growing as researchers.



Teams gather at the Giant Jamboree to present the project they developed over the past year, where expert judges select teams for various medals and awards. This year, the competition will be in Paris, France from November 13 - 16, 2026

<https://igem.org>



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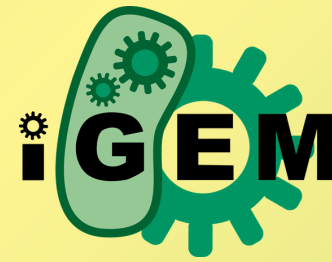


Greetings from the University of Rochester 2026 iGEM team!

We are a group of 14 undergraduate students passionate about STEM. Our team consists of members from freshmen to seniors with a variety of majors.

We are guided by a group of advisors, including head advisor Dr. Meyer, who has led many previous iGEM teams to grand prizes and notable awards.

Everybody on this team embodies the spirit and ideals of iGEM, and we are so excited to see how we can utilize science to bring about positive change in our community and beyond!

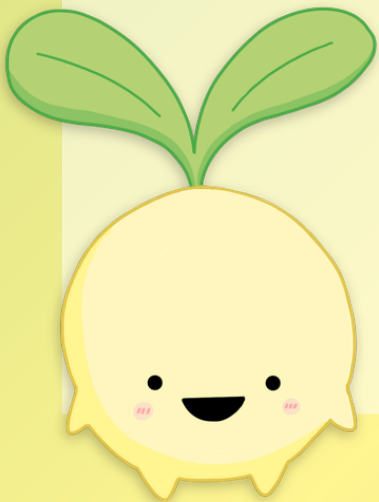


OUR PROJECT

We are engineering *E. coli* to respond to methyl salicylate (MeSA) by producing a natural insecticide.

MeSA is a volatile organic compound that plants release to enhance its defenses against pests.

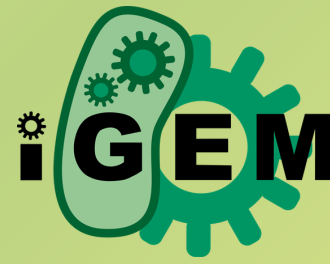
We will engineer the bacteria to convert MeSA to salicylic acid (SA), which will then induce production of the pesticide.



Our project is extremely important in mitigating the effects of pesticide use in agriculture.

Pests rapidly develop resistance to pesticides due to their frequent application on the plants themselves. In addition, the exposure of these pesticides can cause environmental harm.

Project Verdant reduces these impacts by having the bacteria release pesticides only when necessary, allowing for a more efficient and environmentally friendly alternative!



SPONSORSHIPS

You can support the UR iGEM 2026 team by becoming a sponsor! Your support is vital to our research and our presentation at the competition.

Sponsorships can come in the form of financial support or in-kind gifts, including laboratory equipment, reagents, and other products that can aid in the development of our project.

CONTACT US!



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University of Rochester iGEM
2026



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Benefits of sponsoring us can include, but are not limited to:

- Your logo on our website, social platforms, and iGEM presentation
- Your logo on our team merchandise and other promotional materials
- Featured posts on our social platforms
- Being our promotional partner across the University of Rochester campus