Rice iGEM Meta-Analysis Questions

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1. What university is your team associated with, location of university, project name, and project track?

We are associated with the University of Colorado Boulder, which is located in Boulder, Colorado. Our project is called Antibody Switch, and we are on the therapeutics track.

2. How many PIs, advisors, and undergraduate team members does your team have?

   We have one PI (Brian DeDecker) and 6 undergraduate members.

3. What were the primary reasons why you chose your project?

   We chose this project because the last project our iGEM team did before Antibody Switch was another therapeutics project, more focused on targeted drug delivery, so we wanted to keep going with the therapeutics track. We just looked into different avenues where a project may be viable within therapeutics and landed on antibody switch design. Part of the reason for this project was that one faculty member at our university is currently being treated for his cancer using a monoclonal antibody therapy, so that gave us the idea to look into those treatments, and what can be improved.

4. What was the process you went through in choosing your project?

   Like stated above, we initially knew we wanted to go with the therapeutics track, but in order to narrow it down, it just came down to reading a lot of literature and finding a viable project that we could realistically engineer in the time frame we had.

5. Do you think your location or local environment influenced your project selection? If so, how might these influences be described? (For example, after flooding in the Houston area, teams in that region gravitated toward flood-related projects)

   For our team, the location didn't really influence the types of projects we were interested in, as much as our faculty member who was being treated.

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6. Were there any other projects you would have wanted to do, but were unable to do for any reason? Please explain.

Yes, there were certain projects we looked into preliminarily, but we had to eliminate because they were not realistic to be able to complete in the time frame, or they required working with a cell type that was not E.coli (like CHo cells), and that was not allowed/not financially feasible as an avenue for research in our lab.