

Dear M. Strickland *et al*,

We are a young, dynamic and highly motivated team of undergraduates in the fields of life sciences, mechanical engineering, micro engineering and chemistry from the Swiss Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL). This year our school is participating in the international contest of bioengineering set up a couple of years ago by Drew Andy at the MIT. This competition, called *international genetically engineered machine* or iGEM, aims to develop and promote the emerging field of synthetic biology to undergraduates. Our team decided to look further into the area of « light-switches » in bacteria and therefore we read your article, entitled: “Light-activated DNA binding in a designed allosteric protein”, which retained all our attention.

What you and your team achieved strongly suggested that our initial wish was conceivable. As a start for our project, we would first like to reproduce *in vivo* what you did *in vitro*. Therefore, we are asking for your generosity to provide us with the plasmids of the twelve mutants you engineered for your experiments. It would mean a lot to us if you would accept.

We thank you in advance for the attention you will give to our request.

Yours sincerely

The iGEM team EPFL