

EPiC

DISCOVERY & INSIGHTS Q3&4 REPORT

Resume of 2021 from the iGEM Startup Ecosystem



FOREWORD

What a year it's been!

We had a great run of the EPIC program in 2021, with numerous startups forming over the course of the EPIC hackathon and the VCL.

For the second time, iGEM EPIC has brought Biofounders from all over the world together and enabled them to start working on their synbio startup ideas.

The timing to become a Biofounder within the iGEM cosmos has never been better. The EPIC program is an intensive experience for all our participants and - believe me - for us just as well. However, from an outside perspective it is easy to miss some of the great people, teams and ideas that have taken part. In this report, we want to take the time to tell you a little bit about all the startups and teams that have been part of EPIC this year.

So, whether you are a bio-interested someone wanting to get familiar with our new generation of biofounders or have touched base with EPIC at some point already and just want to revisit some of the great projects and familiar faces: We hope you enjoy our end-of-year update and to see you soon, for an even better 2022.

Stay tuned for updates from iGEM EPIC in Q1 of 2022! A happy new year and all the best, wherever you are.

— **Marcel from D&I**

The iGEM EPIC Q3&4 Report is here!

Here we present to you a resume of the startups from the 2021 installment of iGEM EPIC.

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**NUMBERS ON THE
EPIC 2021 ITERATION**

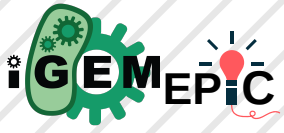
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2021

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TEAMS FROM
EMEA

This year, EPIC
was even bigger...

>150

VCL
APPLICANTS

... and in 2022 we will
continue our journey
towards 100 iGEM
startups per year!

28

TEAMS IN
THE VCL

THE APAC VCL TEAMS

FOODENERGY

from Taiwan

Food and Nutrition Working on plant-based meat production (Tempeh)

SYNBIOTE

from Australia

Working on bioprocessing units for space exploration **Bio-manufacturing**

BIO WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

from India

Education Working on accessible science education

SYNCORBIS

from South Korea

Working on affordable and efficient, multi-module lab automation devices **Lab Automation**

MINE-O-MANIA

from India

Bio-remediation Working on efficient bioleaching via engineered microbial strains

THE APAC VCL TEAMS

● TEAM VIT_BHOPAL

from India

● *Bio-remediation* ● Working on eco-friendly, safe and reusable microbial plastic degradation

CUREM BIOTECH ●

from India

Working on cost-efficient and accessible diagnostic methods for malaria ● ● *Health and Diagnostics* ●

THE AMERICAS VCL TEAMS

● **UNNATURALLY SELECTED**
from USA, Mexico, Canada

● **Food and Nutrition** ● **Working on** probiotic alternative to low-carb ketogenic diet

● **SYNBIO CREATIONS**
from Mexico

● **Working on** steviol glycoside production via engineered microbial strains ● **Bio-manufacturing**

● **SYNCAN**
from Mexico

● **Bio-manufacturing** ● **Working on** production of high quality cannabiods via engineered microbial strains

● **ALGAE APPETITE**
from Canada, Mexico

● **Working on** vitamin E and nutrient rich vegan "next-generation meat" alternative ● **Food and Nutrition**

● **BIOPLASTIC**
from USA

● **Bio-manufacturing** ● **Working on** production of novel, eco-friendly bioplastics

THE AMERICAS VCL TEAMS

● **CRIOPROT**
from Peru

● **Bio-manufacturing** ● Working on non-chemical, GMO-free and biodegradable antifreeze compounds

● **REHAB**
from USA

Working on aptamer-based detection and remediation system for microcystin-LR toxin ● **Environment** ●

● **CELL INC.**
from USA

● **Education** ● Working on cost-efficient instruments for cell lysis, centrifugation, and fluorimetry

● **UTEC**
from Peru

Working on novel food-preservation coatings ● **Food and Nutrition** ●

THE EMEA VCL TEAMS

VSYCLE

from Belgium

Bio-manufacturing

Working on biological, non-toxic and biodegradable cloud-seeding agents

ISRAEL TAU

from Taiwan

Working on genomic stability **Health**

UMKELE

from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi

Bio-manufacturing

Working on novel biodegradable plastics

SYNOLIN

from UK

Working on efficient and sustainable production of inulin **Food and Nutrition**

RAPIDEMIC

from Netherlands

Health and Diagnostics

Working on point-of-care diagnostic system e.g. for Covid-19

TEAM ST. ANDREWS

from UK

Working on development and production of sustainable sunscreen **Bio-manufacturing**

THE EMEA VCL TEAMS

TEAM WESTMINSTER

from UK

Bio-manufacturing Working on biotechnological hydrogen gas production

TEAM GEORGE & OLATUNBOSUN

from Nigeria

Working on circular, urban wastewater management systems **Environment**

AFRISOL

from Kenya, Uganda

Health Working on development of point-of-care diagnostic systems for malaria

GENHUB

from Serbia

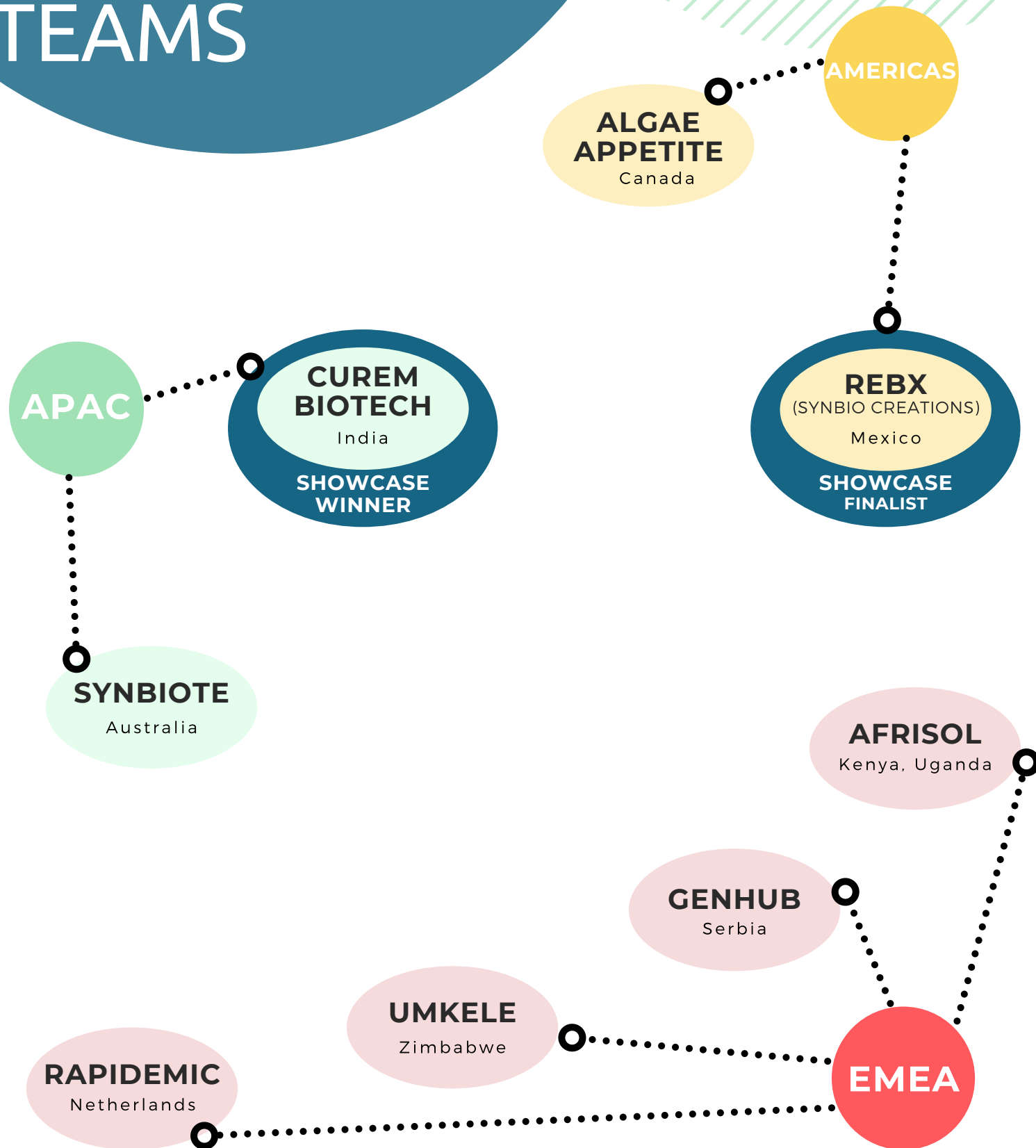
Working on AI-based whole-cell modelling platform **Bioinformatics**

TEAM ALISSA & NIL

from UK

Bioinformatics Working on novel in-silico methods for therapeutic peptide and drug discovery

FASTTRACK AND SHOWCASE TEAMS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The EMEAs



Nerea Capon
Head of EMEA



Vasiliki Kavvatha
VCL Lead



Marcel Wittmund
Insights



Claudia Lassen
Marketing

The APACs



Onkar Date
Head of APAC



Sivasubramanian Murugappan
VCL Lead



Forum Shah
Partnerships



Tony Yeoh Chuin Shung
Insights



Meghiya Michelle
Marketing

The Americas'



Achala Rao
Head of Americas



Ali Faraj
VCL Lead



Daniel Dominguez Gomez
Partnerships



Jhanvi Chandra Prasad
Insights



Sara Far
Marketing

The Wildtypes



James Bayne
United Kingdom



Hana Abdelzaher
Egypt



Nicolas Keller
Germany



Vanessa Lee
Asia Pacific



Ivan Jaubert
Americas

The Chairs



Cheng Kai Lim
Chair



Marjolein Crooijmans
Co-Chair

Last year was a blast! We hope to see you soon,
in the next round of EPIC ♥

We wish you a happy and healthy 2022!

– Your EPIC committee of 21

