

O'REILLY TO PUBLISH BIOBUILDER TEXTBOOK THAT BRINGS CURRENT SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY RESEARCH TO CLASSROOMS AND LABORATORIES

All over the world, engineers and biologists are collaborating in new ways through the emerging field of synthetic biology. Just as computer scientists and electrical engineers collaborated in the 1980s to usher in the age of information technologies, synthetic biologists are developing the genetic code as a language for reliably programming cells. Biology is poised to “grow” into the transformative technology of the 21st century.

To disseminate this cutting-edge content, O'Reilly Media has partnered with the BioBuilder Educational Foundation to publish a textbook for non-scientist, non-engineer readers. With expected publication in June of 2015, the BioBuilder textbook is co-authored by Drs. Natalie Kuldell, Katie Hart, and Rachel Bernstein, and illustrated by Karen Ingram, a designer, artist and creative director who uses her skill set to promote scientific awareness. The book will include foundational chapters that range in topic from bioethics to DNA engineering. It will also include five chapters for laboratory activities with explanations of the underlying engineering ideas and detailed BioBuilder protocols.

“We hope there is something in this book for everyone who wants to know more about the theoretical and practical aspects of synthetic biology,” said Dr. Natalie Kuldell, who teaches in MIT’s department of Biological Engineering and is president and founder of the BioBuilder Educational Foundation.

The BioBuilder textbook contains color-illustrations, posters and laboratory quickguides. The text should be a valuable resource for the 2015-2016 season of BioBuilder’s Biodesign Clubs (a high school, iGEM-like afterschool program) and for summer teacher professional development workshops around the US. The book’s illustrator, Karen Ingram, notes, “Sometimes curiosity can lead one to interesting places. I’m honored to be part of (the BioBuilder textbook) team.”

A copy of the BioBuilder textbook can be pre-ordered from Amazon:
www.amazon.com/BioBuilder-Natalie-PhD-Kuldell/dp/1491904291

More information about the BioBuilder program, including summer workshop opportunities and lab reagents, can be found at www.biobuilder.org

