

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY SEMINAR AT COVAB, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

DATE (DAY)	TOPIC	SPEAKER	TIME (PM)	VENUE
WEDNESDAY 3 rd April 2024 Target Audience are Graduate students (MMB, MLS among others)	Introduction of Guest Speaker	Prof. Samuel Majalija	2:00 - 2:05	MEDIA HALL
	<i>Guest lecture:</i> General concept, real-world applications, and prospects of Synthetic Biology	Dr. Deepak Balaji Thimiri Govindaraj	2:05 - 3:05	
	Q & A SESSION, AND CLOSURE		3:05-4:00	
THURSDAY 4 th April 2024 Target Audience are Makerere University staff, undergraduate students, and Synthetic Biology community in Uganda	Introduction of Guest Speaker	Prof. Samuel Majalija	2:00 - 2:05	MEDIA HALL
	<i>Synthetic Biology:</i> Concept, applications, and feasibility in low-income countries - <i>sharing experience on challenges and opportunities</i>	Dr. Deepak Balaji Thimiri Govindaraj	2:05 - 2:45	
	Q & A SESSION		2:45-3:30	
	BREAK			
	Network, collaboration, and funding opportunities for harnessing the potential of Synthetic Biology	Dr. Deepak Balaji Thimiri Govindaraj	3:40-4:00	
	ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE INTEREST GROUP AND CLOSURE		4:00 – 4:30	

BRIEF PROFILE OF THE GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Deepak Balaji Thimiri Govindaraj is a Centre Manager of CSIR Synthetic Biology and Precision Medicine Centre at CSIR, Pretoria, South Africa. Deepak Balaji is a Bioengineer by training with experience in nanobiotechnology, synthetic biology and drug sensitivity screening for cancer precision medicine. During his PhD in KU Leuven Belgium, Deepak established Nanobiotechnology methods for cell surface proteomics. Deepak then went to EMBL for a Marie Curie Fellow where he designed synthetic baculovirus genome for versatile applications. The work is patent and sold in the market as a product by Geneva Biotech, Switzerland. As a Senior Scientist at Oslo University hospital and NCMM-EMBL, Oslo Norway, Deepak established the drug sensitivity screening platform for blood cancer precision medicine. As a Centre Manager at CSIR Pretoria, ICGEB Early Career Grant, NRF Competitive Grant and SAMRC Self-initiated Grant (SIR) funded Deepak to establish Synthetic Biology and Precision Medicine programs. Deepak has published several research papers (including publications in high Impact Journals like Leukaemia (IF: 11.5), Blood (IF: 25.5), Molecular Systems Biology (12.7), Cancer Research (IF: 11.2), Molecular Oncology (IF: 6.6) and Nanoconvergence (IF:11.7).