The 2015 iGEM Giant Jamboree was an inspiring and enjoyable experience for members of Utah State’s iGEM team. Sara Gertsch, Chad Nielsen, Alex Torgesen, and Tom Overbeck traveled to Boston with Dr. Charles Miller for the 11th annual Jamboree from September 24th to September 28th and presented on this year’s team project, “LactoWare: Reprogramming Lactic Acid Bacteria to Fight Malicious Viruses.” The project was well received, and the judges awarded the team a silver medal.

When not involved in the oral presentation and two poster sessions, team members were able to attend presentations by other teams and workshops that provided information on emerging technologies and programs for synthetic biology.

Overall, the event was a tremendous opportunity for team members to network, to meet peers from all over the world with similar interests, to learn about what developments are going on in their chosen field, and to leave inspired by the possibilities of synthetic biology.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors that made this project possible: MonSanto, IM Flash, Schreiber Foods, ConAgra Foods, IDT, Micron, Utah State University’s College of Engineering and Department of Biological Engineering, Utah State University’s Student Association, and Utah State’s Honors Department.