

CSIRO-QUT Synthetic Biology Initiative

Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities

Tackling global challenges with collaborative synthetic biology research

QUT and the CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform have launched a world-class collaborative research capability in synthetic biology. The research program will be located at QUT's Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities.

Synthetic biology, or SynBio, is a rapidly emerging interdisciplinary science that enables researchers to adapt engineering principles to biology. It has the potential to deliver breakthroughs in biotechnology, health diagnostics and industrial biocatalysts.

Professor Kirill Alexandrov will lead the research program at QUT and abridge the two organisations to provide a collaborative and translational environment. Professor Alexandrov is one of Australia's leading synthetic biologists and a serial biotechnology entrepreneur.

The arrangement will provide access to the facilities and expertise within QUT's Institute for Future Environments and the Science and Engineering Faculty, including proteomics and mass spectrometry, fermentation and next-generation genome sequencing facilities.

The initiative aims to:

- Establish a world-class collaborative research capability in synthetic biology
- Train a new cohort of synthetic biologists with a focus on protein systems engineering
- Build an Australian facility for engineering of functional protein modules
- Drive the use of biotechnological applications and their uptake by Australian industries



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