

## 3<sup>rd</sup> CeBiTec Students Academy Synthetic Biology/Biotechnology

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CeBiTec Students Academy Synthetic Biology/Biotechnology was held at the CeBiTec from July 7 to 11, 2014 and was organized by Honorary Prof. Dr. Walter Arnold, Prof. Dr. Alfred Pühler, and Dr. Werner Selbitschka. The Students Academy is a joint project of the CeBiTec, the District Council Detmold as well as the Familie-Osthushenrich-Stiftung (Gütersloh) which provides the essential financial support. The one-week course was directed towards gifted and talented students originating from Ostwestfalen-Lippe of Northrhine-Westfalia who will finish their Abitur in one-years time, the general qualification for university entrance. From a total of 37 applicants, 20 participants were accepted to the academy. All of the attendees had excellent grades in natural sciences, some of them an average grade of A+. Notably, more than half of the attendees were female. Lectures which were held by members of the Faculty of Biology and the Technical Faculty addressed various aspects of modern biotechnology. Relevant subjects were (i) industrial biotechnology, (ii) modern plant breeding, (iii) industrial production of pharmaceuticals, as well as (iv) synthetic biology. The experimental part was organized by members of the CeBiTec and dealt with the isolation, amplification as well as the sequencing of DNA. The knowledge acquired by the students was used for the (i) taxonomic identification of bacterial communities employing bioinformatics tools, (ii) sex determination of birds, and finally (iii) for the analysis of regulatory networks constructed by synthetic biology approaches. As part of the Students Academy, the Heart and Diabetes Center NRW, Bad Oeynhausen was visited. Since the eligibility period expired in 2014, a follow-up proposal has been submitted to Familie-Osthushenrich-Stiftung. All partners involved have expressed their interest in continuing the Students Academy.



## Upcoming Events

- March 23–25, 2015 | Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld University
- 10<sup>th</sup> CeBiTec Symposium – Bioinformatics for Biotechnology and Biomedicine