

Synthetic Aesthetics Fellow

We are seeking a project leader at the postdoctoral or equivalent level who can help foment, guide, and consider constructive interactions between the biotechnology and creative design communities. This Synthetic Aesthetics Fellow will hold joint academic appointments at Edinburgh (UK) and Stanford (US). A salary, travel, and modest research budget will be provided. In addition to carrying out original research or creative work the fellowship requires serving as the lead contact for a research team comprised of three engineering and humanities faculty. Additional responsibilities include helping to lead workshops and other events at schools of engineering and design, and to engage with various publics more broadly. The Fellow will also contribute directly to the project's framing and evaluation, including an analysis of how access to biological technologies impacts creative design communities and vice versa.

The project is organized into three stages spanning ~18 months. Specific additional responsibilities of the position include:

Stage 1:

- Contribute to the process of identifying partner teams in the creative/design and synthetic biology communities;
- Lead the development of synthetic biology case studies;
- Assist in the organisation of advisory board and team meetings.

Stage 2:

- Enable two-week embedded residences where members of both communities spend time in each others' institutions or practices;
- Analyse the interactions that result;
- Help evaluate the progress of the project thus far.

Stage 3:

- Help organise a workshop at the Synthetic Biology #.0 conference;
- Help organise a workshop at a leading design conference;
- Assist in the development of web resources, communications, and outreach material for the project as a whole;
- Disseminate findings of any scholarly research, making use of the usual academic forums: journal papers, conference presentations, and so on.

To Apply

Send your CV and the full contact information for two professional references by email to any of the project leaders:

Jane Calvert, Edinburgh (jane.calvert@ed.ac.uk)
Alistair Elfick, Edinburgh (alistair.elfick@ed.ac.uk)
Drew Endy, Stanford (endy@stanford.edu)

Completed applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis starting 1 October 2009.