

Witsies take on the world

A TEAM of four students from the University of Witwatersrand have advanced to the World Championship final of the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (IGEM).

The Wits team qualified for the final after raking third in the European regional in Amsterdam.

The team was also brought home two of the 10 special prizes awarded to top competitors. One award was for the quality of their device and its results and the other for the best presentations.

Wits students were supported by the synthetic biology research division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The award-winning concept is called Bio-Tweet, which uses social networking type instant messaging to create a bacterial communication system that swiftly exchanges information.

The competition final will be hosted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, US, early next month.

“We have faith in our ability to make South Africa proud,” said team member Gloria Hlongwane. “We will give it everything we have.”

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