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Bacteria constructed from toy building bricks represent the potential of synthetic biology to design and construct genetic modules that can be used to introduce new functions into existing organisms or even to engineer new biological systems. A special section highlights how this field is contributing to our understanding of biology and harnessing this understanding to benefit humanity. See page 1235 and www.sciencemag.org/special/syntheticbio.

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A Father-and-Son Journey Into Synthetic Biology
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SCIENCEPODCAST
www.sciencemag.org/multimedia/podcast
Free Weekly Show
On the 2 September Science Podcast: a special show all about synthetic biology, from clinical applications and regulatory issues to the do-it-yourself biology movement.
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