Synthetic biology aims to develop a basis for the design and engineering of new biological or biologically inspired molecules and systems, and to put these to useful purposes. Despite much hype in the scientific and popular press, major obstacles towards these goals remain. The 70th Harden Conference will illustrate the potential of this emerging area, showcase current successes, and present the underpinning biology engineering and systems understanding necessary to design synthetic biological systems reliably and predictably.

Topics:
- Setting the scene – synthetic biology by example
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- Biomolecular design and self-assembly
- Enabling technologies for synthetic biology
- PE, ELSI and alternative perspectives
- SciFoo – young investigators and hot topics
- Compartmentalization and synthetic organelles
- Towards applications

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