

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	viii
 PART I THE NEW WORLD OF SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY: POSSIBILITIES, CHALLENGES AND DEBATES	
1 Introduction	3
2 Making biology easy to engineer: the science of synthetic biology, the emergence of the field and its major applications	25
3 Science meets politics, activists and governance: evaluating key positions in synthetic biology debates	71
4 New directions? The United States Presidential Commission's investigation of synthetic biology's risks, benefits and oversight	105
 PART II REGULATING FOR THE RISKS	
5 Environmental risk: uncertainty, precaution, prudent vigilance and adaptation	129
6 Synthetic biology, biosafety and 'biopunks'	172
7 Biosecurity: potential for deliberate misuse of synthetic biology	207
 PART III REGULATING FOR THE BENEFITS	
8 How will patents affect synthetic biology?	251
9 Building with BioBricks: a commons for sharing synthetic biology research	300
10 Conclusion and future directions	341
 <i>Bibliography and sources</i>	 364
<i>Index</i>	393