The InnovATEBIO Big Ideas Hackathon

June 22-24, 2026

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DUE 2349809

Overview

1. What is a hackathon?
2. Hackathons we have known
    a. Antibody Engineering Hackathon, DUE 2055036
    b. Merck Automation Challenge
3. What will happen in the InnovATEBIO hackathon 2026?
4. Example topics
5. Table discussion - 20’
6. Each table shares an idea 10’

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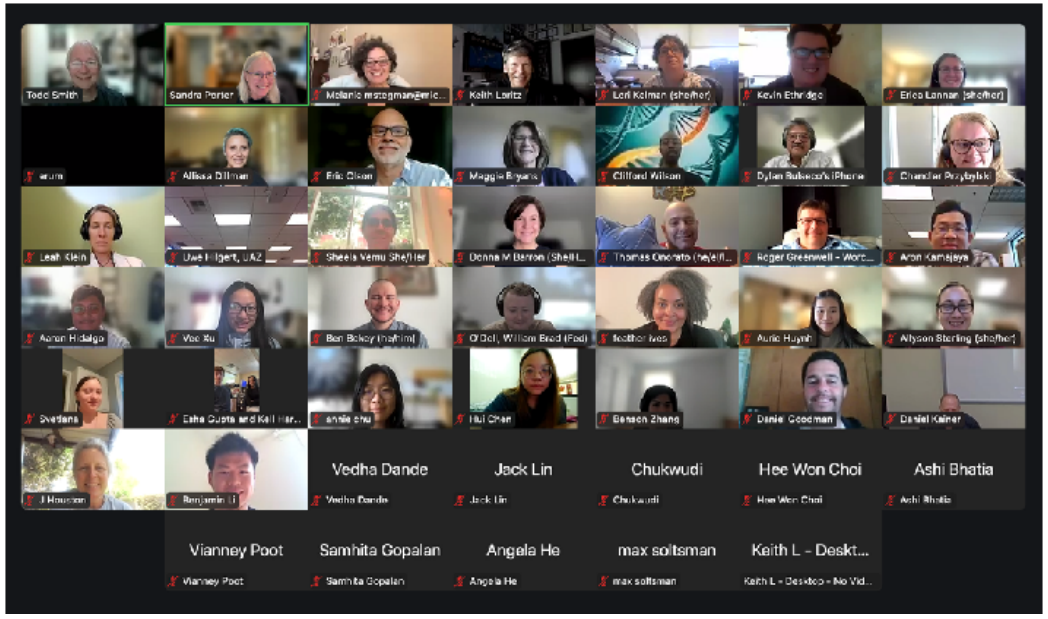
What is a hackathon?

An event where teams work together to create products in a short amount of time.



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Antibody Engineering Hackathons

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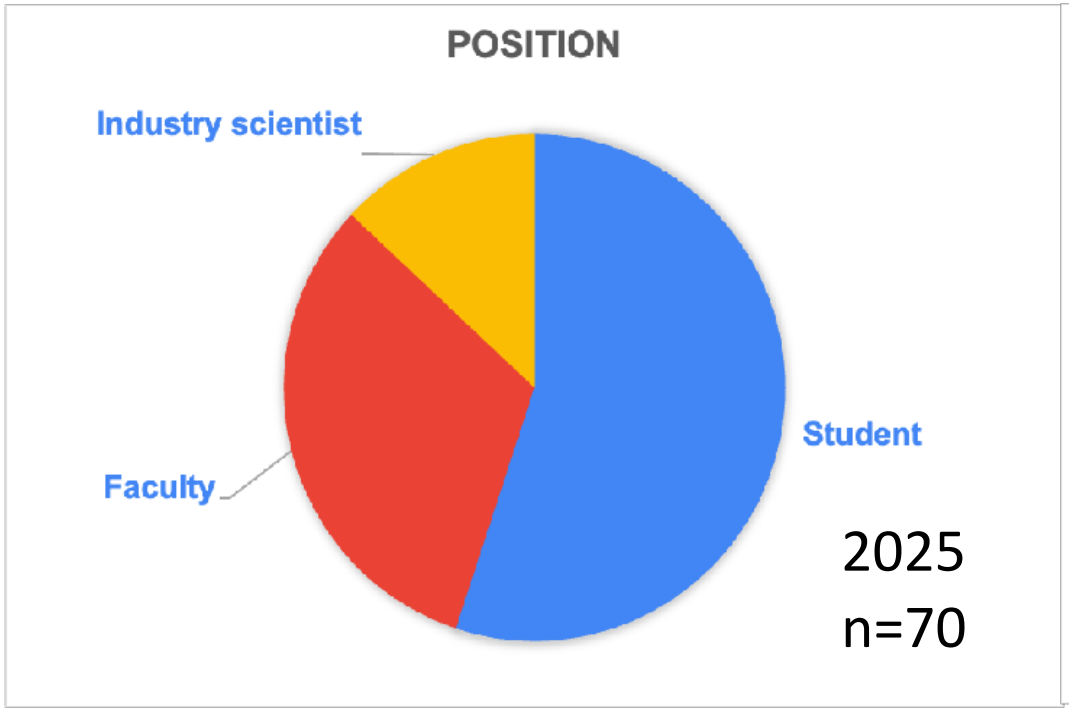
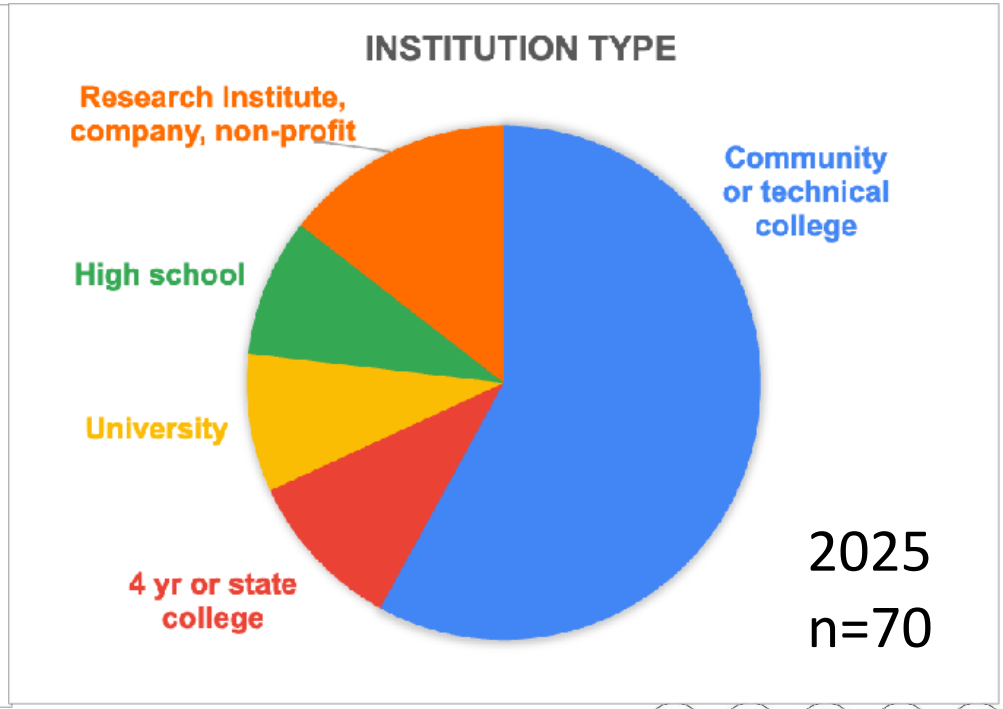
Antibody Engineering Hackathons

Who participates?



Where do they come from?



Publication list at Antibody-Engineers.org

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Antibody Engineering Hackathons

What products have we made?

- Research projects: NISTCHO cells, nanobodies, algae, epitopes, using AI in Ab design, immune escape, breaking Abs
- Games

Publication list at Antibody-Engineers.org

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Merck Automation Challenge

Students programmed robot to pipette 10 different volumes into 100 vials

- Used Staubli robotic arm
- Analytical balance
- Barcode scanner
- Mantis robotic liquid handling device

Montgomery County Community College
Designed by Scott Ziegler, Director of Automation at Merck

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InnovATEBIO Hackathon:

This is *your* opportunity to work with others in the InnovATEBIO community to tackle big ideas and propose solutions.

What products will you create?

- Ideas
- Plans
- Possible grant proposals

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Tentative Schedule

Before

Now: recruit team leaders & plan topics

April 2026 - Application period

May 2026 - Send acceptances, set up teams, Slack

June 22 Monday

Logistics

Teams work

- Assign roles
- Plan projects, workflow

Team leaders meet

June 23 Tuesday

Teams present plans

Teams work

June 24 Wednesday

Final presentations

Group Discussion - next steps

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Table discussions

- **Artificial intelligence** in teaching biotech & biomanufacturing
- **Automation**: best practices for teaching it
- **Advocacy** - communicating value of CC programs
- Student **recruiting**
- Partnering with **high schools**
- What comes **next**, after InnovATEBIO?
- Your ideas

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Tables report out

- Artificial intelligence in teaching biotech & biomanufacturing
- Automation: best practices for teaching it
- Advocacy - communicating value of CC programs
- Student recruiting
- Partnering with high schools
- What comes after InnovATEBIO?
- Your ideas

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Thanks for joining us today!

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Sign up to participate at InnovATEBIO.org