

## **Presentation about Bioenergy at the Rotary Club Beeston, Nottinghamshire**

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Each year, the University of Nottingham holds an event in which researchers showcase their research to the wider public. At the 2012 Research Showcase, I gave a presentation about my PhD work and explained why understanding how bacteria communicate with each other may help to improve biofuel production. Nick Doughty, former president of the Rotary Club Beeston, visited the event to learn about the research happening at the University. We had an extensive talk about the current energy situation to which we could both contribute insights from our different backgrounds. Nick invited me to visit his Rotary Club and present my work at one of their weekly meetings. Having been Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to Puerto Rico in 2008/2009 and deeply beholden to Rotary International, I gladly accepted the invitation and visited a dinner meet of the Rotary Club Beeston. It was a pleasure to introduce a highly educated and interested audience to the notion of bacterially generated biofuels. My presentation was followed by an enthusiastic discussion in which issues such as “food for fuels”, economic viability, technical feasibility and transportation infrastructures surfaced. I appreciated the evening as both insightful and pleasant for both sides and am looking forward to presenting at further Rotary meets.