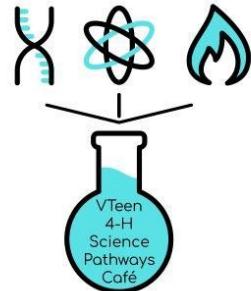




# VTeen Science Explorations



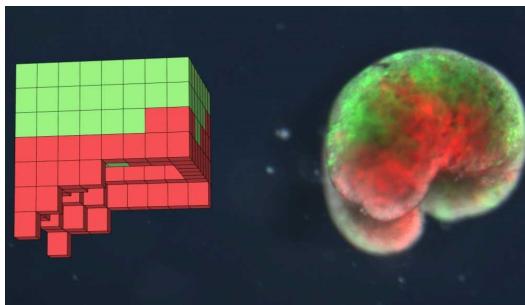
## Living Robots

Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 3:30-4:45 pm

Open to all youth entering grades 7-12 in VT and across the country!

Register@ [www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements)

"Like" us @[www.facebook.com/VTeen4HScienceCafe](https://www.facebook.com/VTeen4HScienceCafe)



The first living robots, dubbed Xenobots, were developed earlier this year by researchers from the University of Vermont and Tufts University. In stark contrast to traditional robots which are made of rigid materials like metals and plastics and typically designed by humans, Xenobots are constructed entirely out of biological material – frog stem cells – and designed by artificial intelligence algorithms using supercomputers. Although this research is in early stages, these novel biobots could have immense medical and environmental applications such as targeting and removing harmful substances in the human body or cleaning microplastics from the oceans. In this café, Caitlin Grasso will discuss her lab's research on Xenobots and the potential benefits that bio-inspired artificial intelligence offers.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Caitlin Grasso is a graduate student working towards her PhD in computer science at the University of Vermont. Caitlin works in the Morphology, Evolution, and Cognition Laboratory at UVM where she studies artificial life and bio-inspired artificial intelligence. Her current research focuses on using computational tools and models to investigate underlying mechanisms of biological phenomena such as development, regeneration, and remodeling of an organism's body. Caitlin received a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Delaware in May of 2019.

**What is a Virtual Teen Science Café?** It is a free, fun way for teens to explore science, engineering and technology with local scientists, engineers and technology experts. Teens will "meet a scientist", learn about their work, and be able to participate in informal discussions.

**Questions?** Contact [lauren.traister@uvm.edu](mailto:lauren.traister@uvm.edu)

*To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the 4-H Office at 802-888-4972 or [lauren.traister@uvm.edu](mailto:lauren.traister@uvm.edu) by September 9, 2020 so we may assist you.*