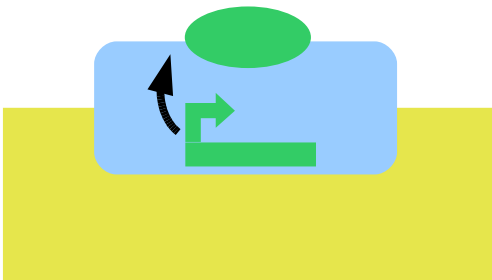
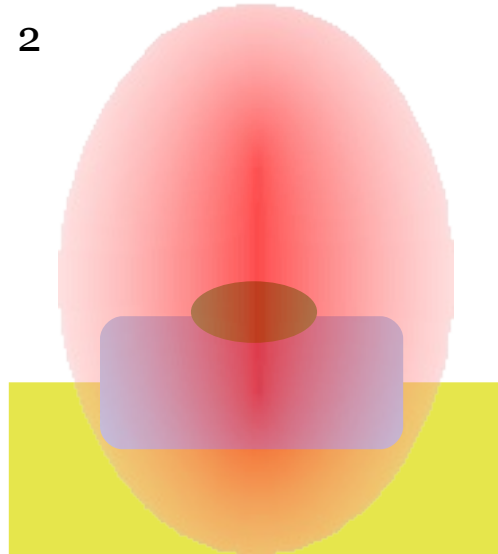


1



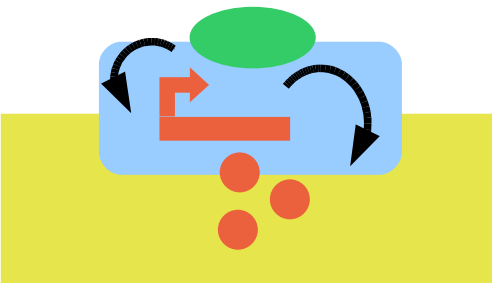
Each engineered cell (blue capsule) has genes (green box with arrow) for a light sensing protein (green oval).

2



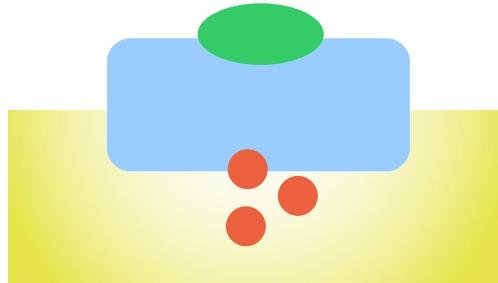
The light sensor is activated by passing the beam from a laser pointer over the petri plate.

3



The light sensor controls another gene (red box with arrow), for the protein agarase (red circles). Once activated by the laser pointer, the light sensor activates the agarase gene.

4



Agarase breaks down the jello-like matrix of that the cells rest on. When many cells produce agarase, a depression becomes visible on the petri plate.