

# Public Engagement and Participation

## Opportunities and Challenges in the Emerging Field of Synthetic Biology

U.S. National Academies  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
The Royal Society  
Washington, D.C.  
July 10, 2009

## Some questions about “public” engagement and participation

1. Why does the synthetic biology community want to engage the public and encourage public participation?
2. What do we mean by “public”?
3. How can you “engage” the public anyway?
4. What is the role of the media?
5. Do applications matter?