iGEM Experiences in the GWN (Canada)

Andrew Hessel
Personal Experience

- GWN receptive to modular biology concepts
- Good interest from schools
- Challenges:
  - Resources
  - Geographical separation of teams
  - Canadian laissez faire attitudes
  - Snow, cabin fever, brain freeze
2007

• Continued participation from existing teams
• Provincial support in Alberta
  – Funding!
  – iGEM aligned with larger strategic initiatives
  – Communications support
• Major goal of increased awareness for iGEM and synbio across the country
Beyond 2007

- Moving towards national organization
- Courses are being created
- Alberta is actively moving towards an integrated engineered biology framework to support a bio-economy
  - Biofab?
  - Real world applications
  - Recruitment of synbio leaders
- More teams on deck for 2008
- Junior high team members