Welcome

Welcome back to campus, and to the January issue of NCRC momentUM. This month we are happy to report the continuing growth of the Biointerfaces program at NCRC. It is exciting to see the creation of a new collaborative space by MSIS, applying Agile and Lean principles. NCRC has been successful in providing a home to several new faculty member recruits. The number of events and attendees has grown substantially in the last year, speaking to the vibrancy of this campus. New bus services benefit all those who need to connect with NCRC for their work.

David Canter, Executive Director, NCRC

Biointerfaces Institute at NCRC Continues to Grow

An update on an important NCRC program

In early December, the NCRC welcomed two more College of Engineering research groups affiliated with the Biointerfaces Institute – the Lahann Lab and the Mechanosynthesis Group. Prof. Joerg Lahann, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering and Institute Director Designate, describes the Biointerfaces Institute as, “a collaboration to redefine the frontiers of health sciences by fostering cross-disciplinary technological breakthroughs of nanotechnology, advanced materials, cell engineering, and microfluidics.” Biointerfaces brings together researchers from Engineering, Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy to rapidly translate basic research into societal benefit.

The Lahann Lab develops innovative materials for medical and biotechnological applications, such as stem cell therapies or novel delivery routes for cancer medicine. The Mechanosynthesis Group, led by Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor John Hart, designs and fabricates dynamic surfaces.

New Faculty Members

NCRC has enabled recruitment of several new faculty members

New faculty members are an important part of the research enterprise at U-M. NCRC, one of the most exciting locations for research at U-M, has been able to provide the right environment - collaboration opportunities, infrastructure (expansive space, state-of-the-art labs) and scientific core services to successfully recruit several new faculty members.

Among those who have joined NCRC in the last several months are Drs. David Tulsky in PM&R, Hector Valdivia and Brian Byrd in Cardiovascular research, and Yuan Fang Guan in Computational Medicine & Bioinformatics.

Dr. Hector Valdivia who joined U-M in December recently said, “I am thrilled to be at NCRC. The laboratory facilities are world-class: generously spaced, creatively planned, and well maintained. The clustering of investigators of specific disciplines or with common research interests opens ample opportunities for collaborations. It is immediately obvious that...”
Hart, designs and fabricates dynamic surfaces, biosensors, and neural interface materials.

These two research groups join the Biointerfaces labs already at NCRC: Medical School Prof. David Burke's lab and Materials Science and Engineering Prof. Jinsang Kim's Smart Functional Polymer Lab. Four of the Biointerfaces Institute research groups are now located at NCRC with the remaining labs moving in throughout 2012.

"We are thrilled about being part of NCRC because we believe that it is the ideal environment for interdisciplinary and translational research at the University of Michigan," said Prof. Lahann.

The MSIS Collaborative Space

New processes to facilitate collaboration

The creation of a new collaborative work space at NCRC is at the heart of changing work structures at the Medical School Information Services (MSIS), which provides IT expertise and support across the Medical School, including NCRC. This change is being driven by a substantial increase in demand for services, the increasing complexity and breadth of projects, shifts in technology, the increasing need for cross-unit teams, and the desire to be more responsive, transparent and innovative. Agile processes will help MSIS to meet these challenges.

In order to put Agile processes into practice, MSIS has opened a new Test Collaboration Space in building 200 at NCRC. To implement this flexible and easily configurable environment, twelve cubicles have been removed and a shared workspace environment specifically designed and equipped for collaboration has been created. In addition, there will be access to enclaves for individual work, attend a conference call, or have a private discussion.

NCRC is not a "surplus space" to satiate unplanned growth, but a thoughtfully designed research complex appealing to new and established investigators where top research can thrive."

Indicators of growth at NCRC

As NCRC becomes more active, we have seen a surge in the number of events on this site. In 2010 there were 60 events on site, and in 2011 that number grew to 109. There are already 36 events booked so far for 2012. In total, approximately 11,900 guests have attended the various events this year.

New bus services at NCRC cater to the growing needs of this campus. The UMHS Intercampus bus route was modified to begin service within the NCRC campus in October 2011. The new Research Link route was launched in May 2011 and began service to the NCRC campus in November 2011.

Total bus ridership numbers compared to a year ago, and after the new NCRC routes were added:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Nov 2010</th>
<th>Nov 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UMHS Intercampus</td>
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<td>11,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Link</td>
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<td>1,608</td>
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Congratulations!

We are happy to note that Peter B. Kaufman, Ara Kirakosyan, and Margaret V. Westfall at NCRC, have just published the third edition of Handbook of Molecular and Cellular Methods in Biology and Medicine with CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group).
The first teams that will use the space include the web modernization project, the Research Manage Device project, and Agile half-day sprints for select cross-group projects.

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