

Research. Collaboration. Entrepreneurship.

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
NORTH CAMPUS RESEARCH COMPLEX



February 2012

Welcome



Welcome to the February issue of NCRC momentUM. We are pleased to welcome Colin Duckett to NCRC as the Director of Program Development. NCRC is not only about basic science research - learn about an ongoing social science project at NCRC. To enable interactions between faculty members now based at NCRC, a Faculty Group has been formed. As always, I welcome your feedback.

[David Canter](#), Executive Director, NCRC

Colin Duckett, Ph.D. Joins the NCRC

Director of Program Development is hired

The NCRC welcomed Colin Duckett, Ph.D. to his new role as the Director of Program Development on February 1, 2012. Duckett is a professor in the Department of Pathology and Internal Medicine

and holds several additional leadership positions within the University. He will be responsible for the establishment of research teams and support infrastructure at the NCRC that will expand the scope of the NCRC as a vibrant home for academic and private-sector research partnerships.



Duckett will coordinate with Deans, Department Chairs, and Principal Investigators to build teams of researchers spanning multiple scientific disciplines within the University with the goal of establishing a unique environment for groundbreaking basic and translational research.

Duckett says his most important goal will be to help foster ambitious collaborations and to promote the culture of integration between different schools at U-M.

Faculty Group at NCRC

Regular meetings to facilitate collaboration and exchange of ideas

The number of lab-based faculty members at NCRC is increasing month-by-month. It has reached a point when NCRC sees the benefit of setting up regular meetings with the entire faculty based at NCRC to seek feedback. It is a good moment to begin to ensure that the faculty members know each other and learn what each one is doing or planning.

One of the guiding principles at NCRC is to actively enhance collaboration. We have encouraged the concept of *Collaborate!@NCRC*. Promoting research collaboration with scientists based at NCRC is an excellent step in this direction.

- Regular lunch meetings have been planned starting in December 2011.
- The meetings include faculty members, directors of cores and some of the NCRC and U-M Research leaders.
- The meetings feature a science based discussion each time. Faculty members are invited to talk about their group and their work, in addition to discussions, conversations and exchange of ideas.

There have been two previous meetings. David Burke, Ph.D. Professor of Human Genetics feels that they are off to a great start. Burke is confident about the

"Our hope is that I'll be able to reach out to my colleagues to help create exciting initiatives with compatible research programs," Duckett says.

Among his immediate projects, Duckett aims to support the existing plans for the creation of new programs, such as those that include bioengineering, cardiovascular medicine, and cancer research, and make the NCRC their home.

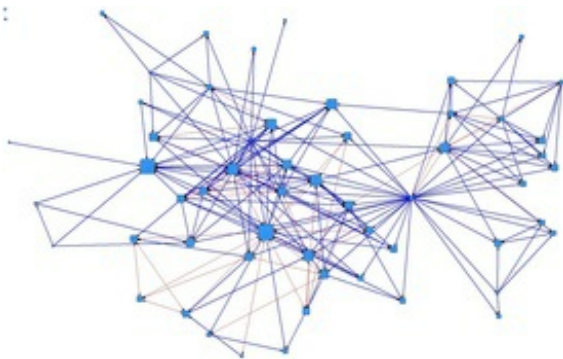
"We want to establish the NCRC as an interdisciplinary campus, something that doesn't exist anywhere in the University. In the long run, the NCRC needs to be a place where basic research, translational research, and biotechnology companies can interact, which will greatly contribute to research at the University," Duckett says.

Social Science Research at NCRC

Ongoing project on spatial networks

NCRC is not just a crucible for basic science research. In parallel, social scientists based at NCRC are involved in exploring exciting new ideas from different perspectives. Felix Kabo is a research faculty member from the Institute for Social Research at U-M, currently working at NCRC, along with his team members located across U-M.

Using NCRC as a "lab space" to examine spatial networks, Kabo and his colleagues work on two primary ideas. The first is that "who you know matters": relationships with others dramatically shape individual attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes. Social connections aggregate to create networks that offer people different possibilities and constraints. But neither relationships nor structures are static, stable features of social organization. Instead, networks are dynamic, variable contexts for action. They propose to



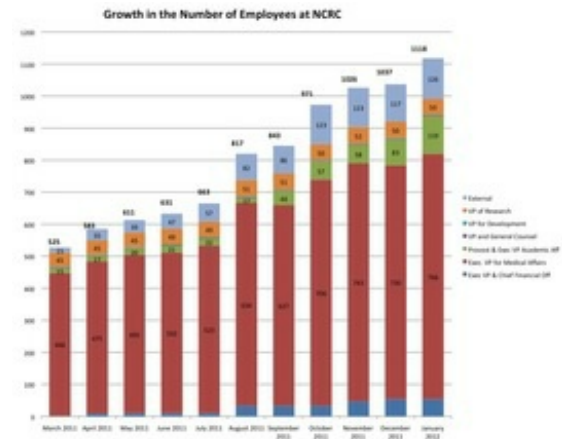
build on recent methodological innovations to examine how relationships form, break, and are used to greater or lesser effect in particular locations such as the NCRC as it gets populated over time.

on to a great start. Burke is confident about the potential of the meetings to bring together individual research which will eventually coalesce into combined projects.

"It is better to bounce knowledge among people than to remain independent in your own work. The Faculty Group will put more people together to talk about the challenges and solutions of their research, and to learn about the range of activities going on at NCRC," said Burke.



Growth in Employees at NCRC Continues



The NCRC reached the 1,000 employee mark in December 2011 as predicted, and at the end of January 2012, that number has grown to 1,118. There has been steady growth within all the departments.

Executive VP for Medical Affairs

The department has experienced consistent growth since the NCRC opened, and as of January, 2012 the number of employees has reached 766.

External Staff

In just six months staff from external groups has more than doubled in numbers, and now has 126 employees.

Provost and Executive VP of Academic Affairs

As of January, 2012 the department employs 119 people, compared to 22 employees six months ago.

VP of Research

VP of research has had a stable and consistent presence at the NCRC since the beginning.

The second idea is that "where you are located" is important: people do not live and work in the abstract space of social structures. Instead interactions take place in physical or geographic spaces - in buildings, complexes, campuses, and cities and other communities. This group of researchers is working to develop the conceptual, technical, and methodological infrastructure necessary to support a vibrant socio-spatial science at the University of Michigan, again using NCRC as a testing ground for ideas and exploration.



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