

Institute for Biomedical Science and Biotechnology Becomes BIO5

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The University of Arizona's three-year-old collaborative bioresearch institute, previously called the Institute for Biomedical

Science and Biotechnology (IBSB), changed its name to the BIO5 Institute in September, 2004.

"BIO5 is a great name that encompasses the energy, vision and the collaborative nature of the Institute," said Director Vicki Chandler.


"We needed a name that is easy to remember and one that conveys what we are doing with the institute. I think BIO5 does that," she says. "21st Century biology is all about collaboration, about teamwork."

"We hope our new name better describes an essential quality of the Institute, as a strong promoter of collaborative bioscience and as a strong partner with others engaged in developing a new economy for the state of Arizona."

She says BIO5's interdisciplinary teams will take on some of the most complex biological problems. The "5" in the name represents the major disciplines within the institute: agriculture, medicine, pharmacy, basic science and engineering.

Chandler is refining BIO5's research focus. Current initiatives include agricultural biotechnology, respiratory immunobiology, quantitative biology and a chemical screening facility for drug discovery.

Selection criteria for additional BIO5 research programs will include the research's potential to contribute to continued development of a strong biosciences industry. "BIO5 was built to benefit the economy, to help boost bio industry," said Chandler. "It is a founding mandate of the institute."

A new building is under construction that will bring together dozens of researchers and programs from across campus, all working together to advance the molecular life sciences. The facility includes laboratory and office space for a number of different research groups and core technology laboratories. Most importantly, the building will provide an environment conducive to interdisciplinary research and collaboration among experts from a variety of disciplines. 

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