

The Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre: orchestrating research and training at the interface

*John McCarthy
Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB)
Manchester, UK*

It is generally recognised that in the 21st century the biosciences are destined to undergo a dramatic transition to higher levels of quantitative precision. The core mission of the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) is to integrate analytical tools, technologies and theoretical rigour derived from the physical sciences, engineering and mathematics into the very fabric of bioscience research. With more than 550 highly trained academic and support staff and up to 85 different research groups, the (MIB) will work across disciplinary boundaries. The MIB will house a number of large-scale research initiatives. For example, in the face of intense competition, the MIB has been chosen as the site for the new UK Centre of Excellence in Biocatalysis, Biotransformations, and Biocatalytic Manufacture and for the UK National Centre of Text Mining. Other key areas of the MIB research programme will include systems biology, bionanotechnology, bioelectronics, mechanochemistry, structural analysis and self-assembling systems. The MIB will also establish its own graduate training programme. This will specialise in training graduates of the physical sciences and engineering who wish to move into research at the interface with biology. The aim is to train the next generation of interdisciplinary bioscientists.