The University of Chicago established the Institute for Biophysical Dynamics (http://ibd.uchicago.edu/) to meet the challenges of achieving a molecular-level understanding of the structure, diversity and function of biological entities. The Institute represents a new approach to scientific research at the interface between biology and the physical sciences, bringing together experimentalists, theoreticians, and computational scientists to forge a scientific culture of fluid exchange of ideas and collaboration across disciplines and among laboratories.

In addition, the Institute has established programs to involve undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students in this new cross-disciplinary approach to science. Notably, the Graduate Program in Biophysical Sciences (http://biophysics.uchicago.edu/) is designed to immerse graduate students in this culture of interdisciplinary research. Work by Institute faculty and researchers in their laboratories provides insights profoundly influencing endeavors as diverse as molecular-based computing and the treatment of illness at the bedside.

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