

Warwick Integrated Structural Biology Centre (WISBIC)

Constitution

Aims of the centre

The overarching aim of the centre is to drive excellence in structural biology research at Warwick, with specific aims to:

1. Establish and grow a focussed community of scientists who are interested in using and developing techniques to analyse biological structure at multiple length- and timescales.
2. Enhance visibility of existing expertise and cutting-edge infrastructure available within Warwick, stimulate exchange of ideas that lead to new interdisciplinary collaborations, and thus advance the research strategy of the University.
3. Act as a platform to engage with external stakeholders including but not limited to: industrial partners, policy makers, public, to augment the reputation of Warwick structural biology research at local, national, and international levels, and to enable translation of research findings to real-world applications.
4. Put the centre in a competitive position to successfully obtain substantial funding, such as infrastructure bids, Centre and Hub bids, doctoral training centres and Programme grants.
5. Establish close working relationships with other relevant Warwick Centres including Warwick Centre for Integrative Structural Biology, Warwick Analytical Science Centre, Howard Dalton Centre, Warwick Antimicrobial Interdisciplinary Centre, Warwick CaTCh, Warwick Cancer Research Centre and Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology.
6. Foster a research environment characterised by academic excellence, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, with the particular focus on providing a high-quality and inspiring training experience for the next generation of structural biologists, namely PDRAs, ECRs, Research Technical Professionals and PhD students.

Activities of the Centre

To achieve its aims the centre will undertake a range of activities including:

1. Hold regular meetings of Centre members to stimulate research and grant applications, develop new projects at inter-disciplinary boundaries, and support Centre members at all career stages.
2. Organize symposia and regular workshops on specific themes within structural biology to share research findings and discuss emerging technologies and methodologies.
3. Provide training opportunities in structural biology techniques both to the Centre membership and more widely.
4. Host excellent external speakers and collaborators to present their findings and share ideas with interested researchers in Warwick
5. Maintain a strong media presence to promote structural biology research in Warwick to the outside world.
6. Seek funding to support cutting-edge research infrastructure, instrumentation and technical expertise to facilitate world-leading structural biology research, as well as collaborative research across departments at Warwick and at national, regional and international level.

7. To support all research in the general area of Structural Biology by sharing information about techniques and technologies, actively facilitating and coordinating collaborations, and informing researchers of the technical capabilities and expertise available and/or necessary to support their science. Seek funding to expand the doctoral training opportunities currently available in structural biology research at Warwick.
8. Attract high quality researchers to apply for fellowships to be held at Warwick including Royal Society URF's, UKRI FLFs, EPSRC Open and OpenPlus Fellowships, BBSRC Fellowships, EU ERC Standard, Consolidator and Advanced grants.

Membership

The members of the Centre shall consist of all staff, visiting and associate fellows, professional and technical staff, postgraduate and undergraduate students of the University who have research interests in structural biology. Individuals who wish to be a member of the Centre should approach the Director who will seek confirmation from the Management Committee that their membership will enhance the Centre. Criteria for membership are: to demonstrate interest in structural biology, to commit to contributing to the aims of the centre and to demonstrate a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach. Requests to become members will not normally be refused.

Academic and research staff in other universities and governmental research agencies may be nominated for membership by the Director to the Management Committee. This will be granted if there is a demonstrable benefit to the Centre.

Directorship

There shall be a democratic vote amongst the structural biology centre membership to determine the Director and co-Directors of the Centre who shall then be appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Science, initially for a period of three years, the appointment being renewable following a vote amongst the structural biology centre membership. The Director shall be responsible to the Management Committee for the planning, direction and execution of the Centre's affairs.

Details of Management Committee

The role of the Management Committee shall be to advise the Director on the day-to-day activities of the Centre and to provide a link to multiple departments within the University. The Management Committee shall consist of:

- the Director
- up to two Co-Directors
- up to 5 other co-opted members of the Centre representative of participating Departments and other key stakeholders
- up to 5 co-opted members willing to undertake specific responsibilities beneficial to the work of the Centre

The appointments to the Management Committee shall be for up to three years and shall be phased to permit continuity of experience and expertise within the committee. The Director and co-Directors shall appoint the other members of the Management Committee to reflect

departmental and scientific diversity across the Centre, following university guidance for equality, diversity and inclusion in Management Committee membership.

The Management Committee shall meet as required, and at least twice per year, following accepted good practice for University committees.

Financial Responsibility

The Centre does not have any financial standing, responsibility or profile. Any funding obtained to conduct Centre activities will be administered through Departments.