# Cornell Bioengineering

**Looking to the Future** 



# The Cornell ECC Bioengineering Task Force

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### Team 2 – External Trends

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# Cornell ECC Bioengineering Task Force Charge

Provide strategic counsel about enhancement of bioengineering research, teaching and interdisciplinary engagement across the College and the University

- Define the aspirational objectives for bioengineering at Cornell
- Identify how to strengthen the bioengineering discipline at Cornell
  - What are the gaps that limit reaching our aspirations?
  - How can we strengthen the connections between the many Cornell and external entities that are needed to reach our aspiration?



# Bioengineering Task Force Approach

#### Phase 1

- Map Bioengineering at Cornell today
- Define requirements for the future
- Identify gaps and priorities for action
- Map plan for building action plan (phase 2)



#### Phase 2

- Develop plans for key gap areas
- Define resources needed
- Execute operational pilot projects where appropriate
- Deliver an integrated plan for Cornell Bioengineering



- Set goals and responsibilities for elements of the plan
- Launch the overall plan for enhancing bioengineering at Cornell
- Define metrics and initiate tracking of initiative

April ECC: Current state

Vision for the Future

Gaps and action plan

Fall ECC: Integrated Plan
Resources Requirements
Prospective implementation



# Phase 1 Goals of Bioengineering Task Force

- 1. Map the current state of bioengineering at Cornell across the involved areas of the university
- 2. Evaluate macro trends and develop perspectives on how they will impact Bioengineering
- 3. Apply this lens to the academic approach to the field to determine the implications for Cornell's Bioengineering strategy
- 4. Identify Cornell's strengths and gaps against our projected future requirements and suggest ideas for phase 2 to explore ways to extend Cornell's leadership position in the field



# Our Approach to Phase 1

#### Divided our team in two

- External Team: Review of macro trends and how they will impact the field
- Internal Team: Map current state of Bioengineering at Cornell

Full team meeting to combine views and discuss recommendations

- Recommendations for ECC Phase 1
- Ideas for Phase 2



### Summary Conclusions – Initial Perspectives

Cornell is starting from a position of strength in Bioengineering

- 83 faculty across 24 research areas
- 7 engineering departments involved

The recent progress made in many areas is well documented

- Success with faculty recruitment, awards, funding
- Rapid growth of biomedical engineering in particular

Our task force recommendations seek to build on this strength by incorporating a stronger strategic focus, informed by trends outside of Cornell

- We don't have a full view of all that is happening at Cornell
- Putting life into these recommendations will require broad input from the faculty, the engineering school, and the University



# Summary Conclusions – University Level

- There are broad areas of strength across the University in Bioengineering, but little unified strategy for the field
- The University should create a central place to capture comprehensive data and metrics on the Cornell's Bioengineering efforts to enable it to monitor and continually assess progress and identify areas where additional funding and resources are needed
- Cornell can build on its leadership in the field in many ways, but will need to both make choices in its areas of focus, and then define strategies and investments needed to establish a leadership position
- 4. While not necessary for success, Cornell can build on its leadership position by defining a broad mission or objective for its bioengineering efforts



### Summary Conclusions – Field Level

- 1. Areas of focus for bioengineering should better integrate future requirements resulting from our rapidly changing global ecosystem into their research planning
- 2. A strong and continuously refreshed set of relations with relevant industry, venture and government players should be established and maintained (with assigned responsibility) for each area of focus
- 3. Access to supporting tools from outside the field (and possibly the University) should be established to support integrated research efforts



# Summary Conclusions – Faculty / Program Level

- 1. Faculty should be given training and support to help them evaluate the relevancy of their research and the requirements it must meet to successfully drive impact
- 2. Programs should be evaluated, and then supported, to identify, build toward appropriate funding, and ultimately drive societal use of their discoveries (venture, corporation, government)
- 3. Regular review of programmatic investments should be the norm to assess relevance in a rapidly changing environment



### Summary Conclusions – Student Level

- 1. Limited bioengineering companies are coming on campus or recruiting through the online "Handbook" platform to hire bioengineering students
- 2. Placement strategies could be enhanced by conducting an annual review of students career interests so career service activities can be tailored to student's career objectives
  - Career services should have a strong target list of companies to pursue for recruiting graduates



# Summary Recommendations for Phase 2

### We have developed a set of four recommendations for phase 2

- 1. A University level strategic dialog about priorities and themes for bioengineering
- 2. An Engineering College level initiative to consider how to properly target efforts in priority areas
- 3. A set of pilot programs to bring strategic focus in two or three core areas and develop the tools for a broader rollout
- 4. An administrative project to develop the metrics and tools to map and monitor our progress in bioengineering

### This subcommittee is committed to support the University in phase 2

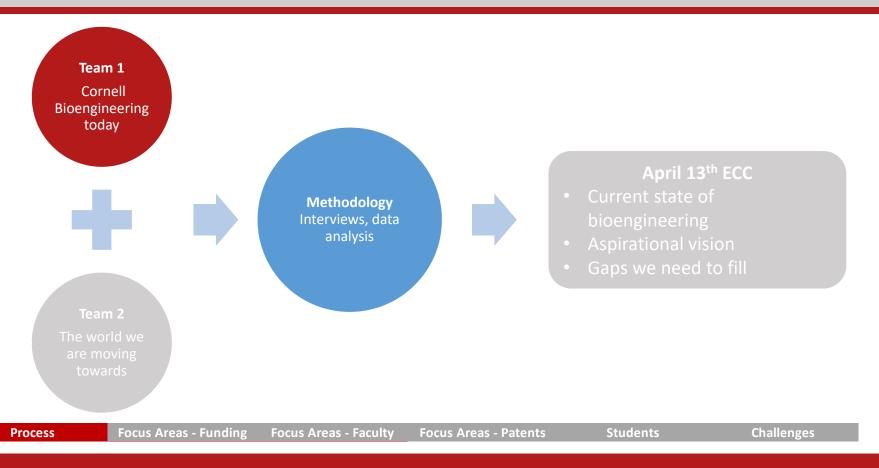
- But it will require significant Cornell resource
- And attention at senior levels



# Cornell Bioengineering Today

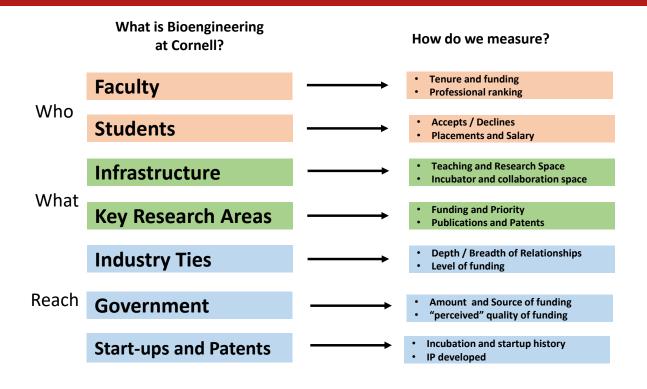


### Team 1: Mapping the Ecosystem of Bioengineering





# Our Process for Mapping the Ecosystem of Bioengineering Today



Process

**Focus Areas - Funding** 

**Focus Areas - Faculty** 

**Focus Areas - Patents** 

**Students** 

Challenges



### Refining our Project Scope

What is our operational definition of Bioengineering?

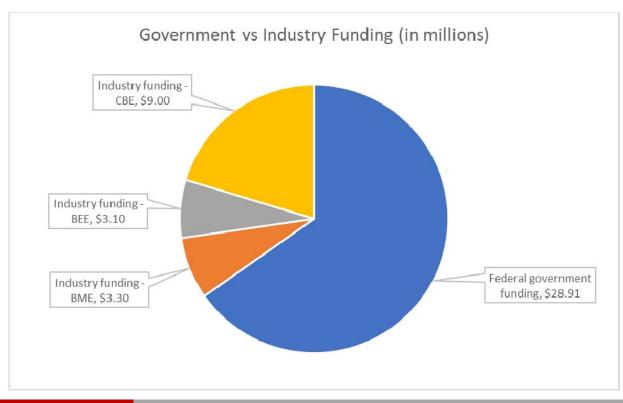
<u>Assumption 1</u>: To be categorized in the field of bioengineering, the activity must be at the confluence of biology and a complex system approachable with engineering techniques

<u>Assumption 2</u>: Areas of the field (meeting the above criteria) can be found in a broad range of applied research, and can be roughly categorized in three areas:

- 1. Biomedical Engineering
- 2. Biological and Environmental Engineering
- 3. Biomolecular Engineering



# Bioengineering receives significant funding from the federal government but industry and foundation funding could be stronger





**Focus Areas - Funding** 

Focus Areas - Faculty

**Focus Areas - Patents** 

**Students** 

Challenges



# Cornell Bioengineering has 24 research focus areas that overlap within several departments, the groupings below were used for further analyses

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- Molecular and Cellular Engineering
- Computational Mechanics

#### **BME**

- Biomechanics and Mechanobiology
- Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials
- Imaging and Instrumentation
- Microfluidics and Microsystems
- Computational and Systems Biology
- Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine
- Biotechnology
- Signal and Image Processing
- Systems and Synthetic Biology

#### **CBE**

- Materials Synthesis and Processing
- Microfluidics
- Mechanics of Biological Materials
- Molecular Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology
- Fluid Dynamics and Rheology
- Nanobio Applications

#### Other\*

- Computer Aided Diagnosis
- Biosignal and Biosystems
- Bioinspired Materials and Systems
- Biosensors and Medical Devices
- Biomedical Technology
- Biophysics

**Process** 

**Focus Areas - Funding** 

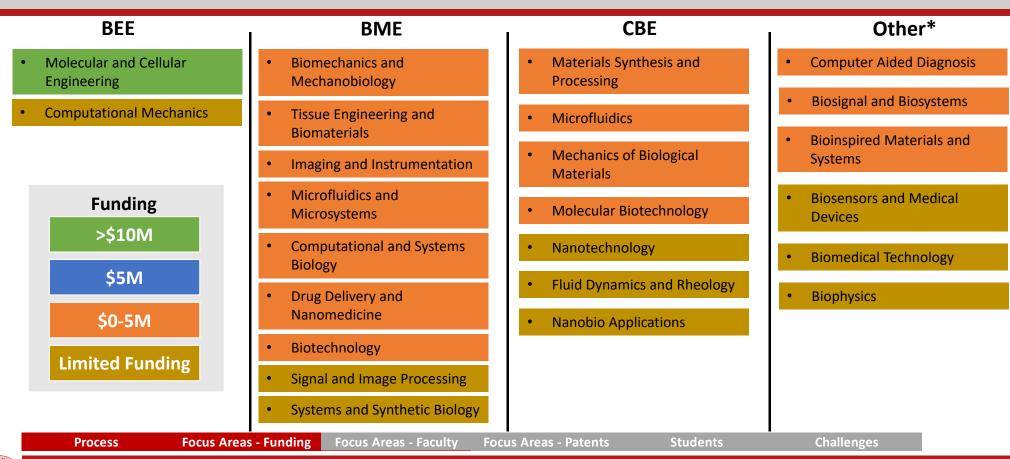
**Focus Areas - Faculty** 

**Focus Areas - Patents** 

**Students** 

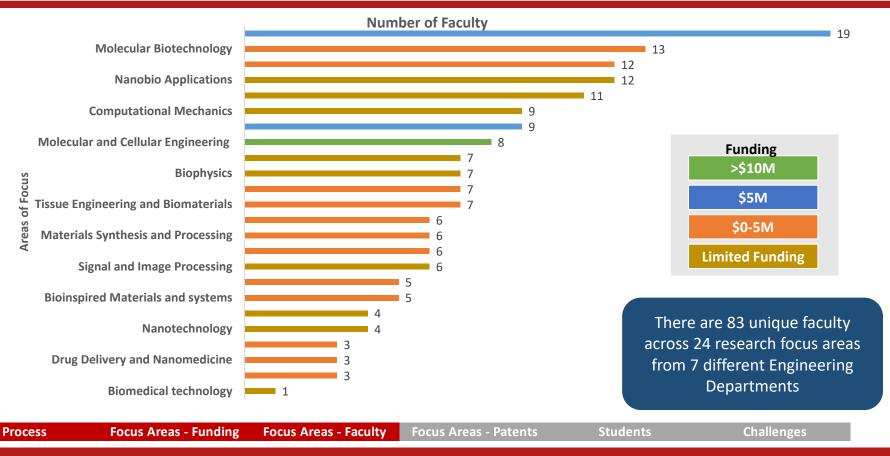
Challenges

# Cornell Bioengineering has 24 research focus areas with various levels of government funding



Other: MechE, ECE, AEP, MatSci, CEE

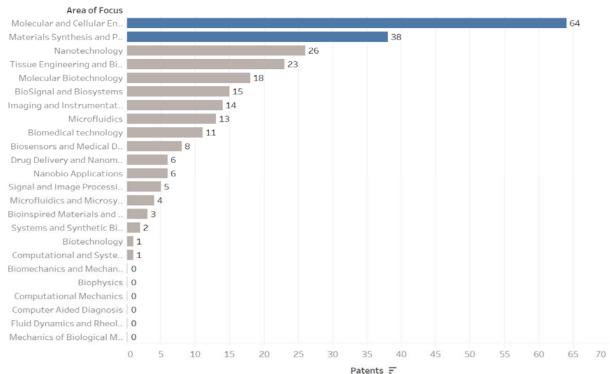
# Coordination across field areas and departments is difficult and it is unclear how focus areas evolve while adapting to constantly changing external needs





# Intellectual property from Molecular and Cellular Engineering and Materials Synthesis research dominated the bioengineering IP landscape

#### Number of Patents for each Area of Focus



Data from 2003 - 2018

Process

**Focus Areas - Funding** 

**Focus Areas - Faculty** 

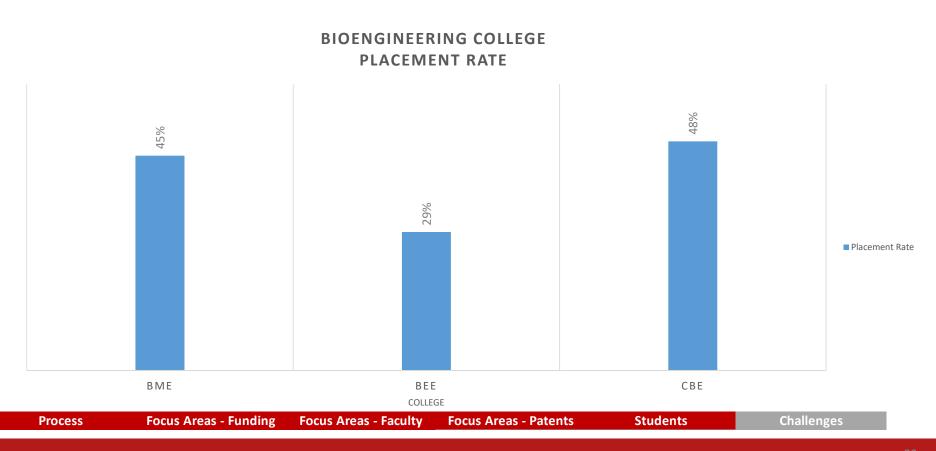
**Focus Areas - Patents** 

**Students** 

**Challenges** 



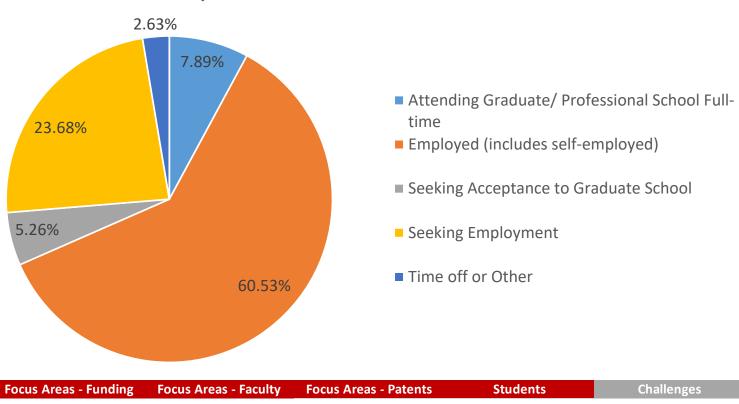
# Placement rate for the BME is commensurate with CBE, but over 15% higher than BEE





# About 1 in 4 biomedical engineering Mater of Engineering students from the Class 2016 were still seeking employment 12 months after graduation

### **Primary Status After Graduation**

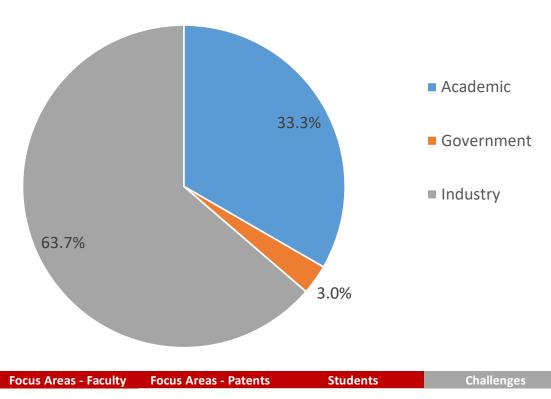




**Process** 

# The majority of biomedical M. Eng. students currently working are employed in industry as compared to academia or government

### Field Employed After Graduation





**Process** 

**Focus Areas - Funding** 

### Space is a big issues with the growth of Biomedical Engineering

- Bioengineering spans spaces in the Engineering Quad to Riley Robb to Weill Hall (Home of BME)
- Entrepreneurship and Incubator support for Bioengineering:
  - McGovern Family Center for Venture Development in the Life Sciences
  - PhD Commercialization Fellows Program







Focus Areas - Funding

Focus Areas - Faculty

**Focus Areas - Patents** 

**Students** 

**Challenges** 



### Additionally, several other challenges were identified based on this analysis







Very difficult to find data overall.

There is need for better tracking mechanisms to measure and evaluate Bioengineering as a whole

Opportunity for more connections with Ithaca-based Bioengineering and NYC-based Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell Tech

There is no central site or platform that captured start ups developed out of Cornell Bioengineering as a whole

**Process** 

**Focus Areas - Funding** 

**Focus Areas - Faculty** 

**Focus Areas - Patents** 

Students

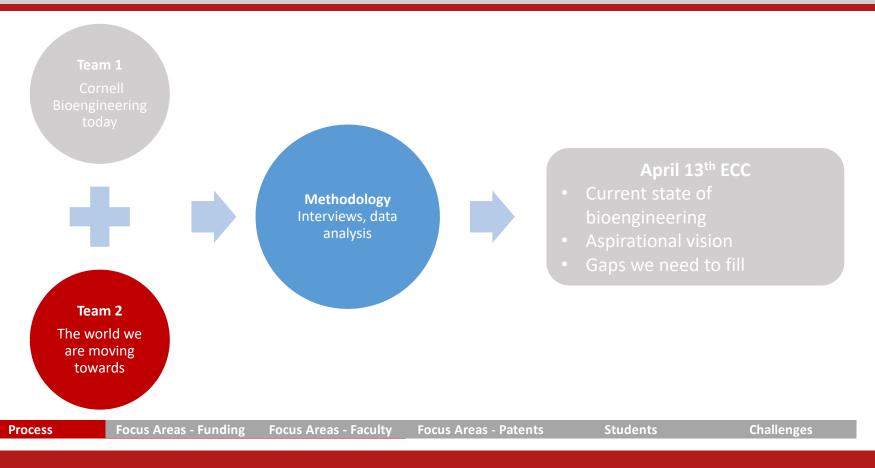
**Challenges** 



# Macro Trends and Their Implications



Team 2: Understanding the Macro Trends Impacting Bioengineering





# Biomedical Engineering Trends



### Biomedical Engineering at Cornell off to a Strong Start

The investments the college has made in the past decade have created a foundation for a world class presence in the field

- Strong, widely recognize faculty (existing and recently recruited) form the core of the effort
- Rapid growth in both faculty and students (and the addition of an undergraduate major) have cemented it as a leading area of the engineering school
- Have already chosen cellular imaging and micro / nano biotechnology as areas to drive to number one status
  - Other areas of strength include: biomaterials and drug delivery; molecular, cellular and tissue engineering; and soft tissue biomechanics



# Biomedical Engineering Ecosystem

**Funding Sources** 

#### **Materials**

- Nanotechnology
- Engineered materials
- Biomaterials

#### Data

- Data access
- Data mining tools
- Al decisions support

#### **Tools**

- 3D Printing
- Robotics
- Delivery technology

Regulation and Patents

Cornell Biomedical Engineering

**Economic Value** 

#### **Support Technology**

- Sensors
- · Delivery Technology
- Diagnostics

#### **Engineered Therapy**

- Replacement Joints
- Assist devices

#### **Emerging Fields**

- Regenerative Medicine
- Bioelectronics
- Microbiome

Industry

**Patients** 

Collaborators



### Bio Med Competitive Landscape – Universities

### Most University Biomedical Engineering "BME" programs are focused solely on research:

- Faculty accolades and facilities/technology are key differentiators between programs
- Not many Universities incorporate an innovation or a corporate connection to their BME research centers

### Innovation programs are strongest in Universities with high BME education rankings:

- Most of these Universities offer co-op internships for their students
  - Corporate partners provide early exposure to students due to their co-op experiences

### The Wallace Coulter Foundation partners with 13 Universities to fund BME startups:

- Most partner Universities are ranked in top 20 for BME education
- Startups receive up to \$200,000 with office/lab space and mentoring

Leading University Biomedical Engineering Programs			
University	Program Name	Notes	
Georgial*stitute of Techrology	Center for Pediatric Innovation	Ranked as the #1 BME school by U.S. News & World Report. Partners with Emory University to share facilities and encourage research collaboration.	
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	Carnegie Center for Surgical Innovation	Identifies clinical needs, develops new technology, and transitions research into clinical use. Also offers programs such as BME Design Day to encourage student innovation.	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Center for Biomedical Innovation	Connects government, academia, and industry together to focus on BME advancements. MIT offers 30+ research centers for specific BME concentrations.	
Dukę	Bioengineering Research initiative to Develop Global Entrepreneurs (BRiDGE)	Provides office/lab space, funding, and mentoring to startups founded by Duke BME faculty, PhD, and alumni.	
Stanford University	Byers Center for Biodesign	Has launched 45 companies, helped almost one million patients, and trains 300+ fellows a year.	
<b></b>	Rice 360 Institute for Global Health	Partners with clinics, schools, and organizations working in developing countries. Trains students to advance their research to a global health clinical application. Also has a Global Medical Innovation track for students to focus on research.	
Yale	Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology	Fosters greater innovation in medical technology through education, clinical immersion, corporate partnerships, and startup funding.	
USC University of Southern California	Alfred Mann Institute	Helps transition BME research to commercially successful medical products to prove/save lives. USC spends nearly \$700mm in research expenditures every year, and has the largest graduate STEM program of all private universities.	
		34	



### Healthcare Delivery is Undergoing a Dramatic Evolution

Healthcare systems - Dramatic changes in how care is delivered based on technology advances, competition, and ability to pay

Healthcare Demand – Demand increases driven by aging population, advanced living standards, and discretionary procedures

Healthcare Economics – Value chain is evolving, with cost effective solutions expected

- Purchasers of healthcare consolidating, driving prices down
- Governments are reaching limits in percent of public funds spent on care
- Increasing shift of payment burden to patients will increase cost sensitivity



# These System Changes will Drive Changes in Competitive Dynamics for Companies Providing Products for Healthcare

Global Competition – Increasing access to capital and living standards ex-US will drive technology investments globally

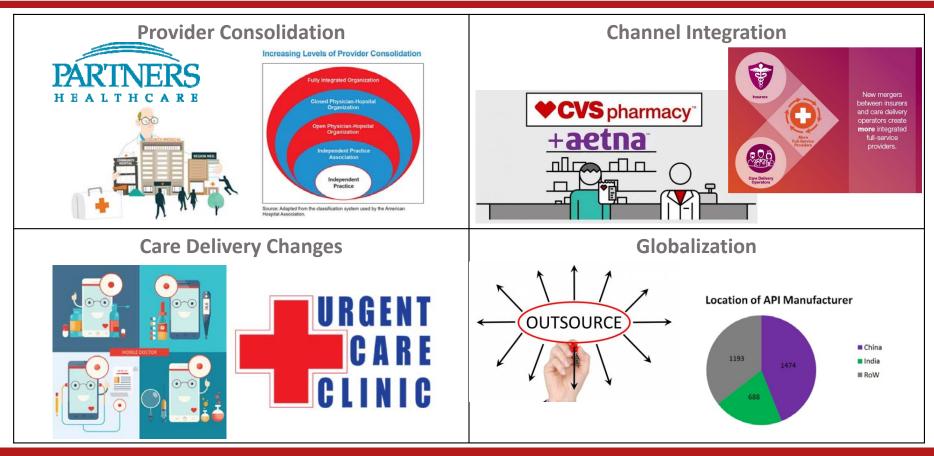
Lower Product Pricing – The changing healthcare delivery sector and increased buying power will result in lower margins for products

**Consolidation and New Competitors** 

- Traditional competitors will consolidate to gain access to cost savings, global scale, and technology
- New "disruptive" competitors from the tech industry will accelerate market changes
- Strategic focus will begin to migrate to wellness maintenance and access to private pay



### Recent Examples of Industry Changes in the Biomedical Field

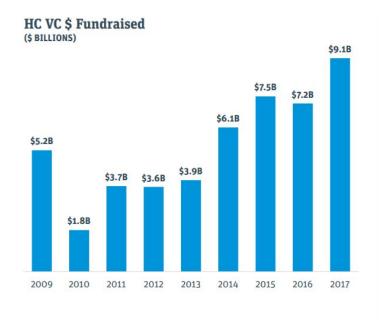




### Venture funding of Healthcare Startups Accelerating

#### **Healthcare Fundraising Reaches New Heights**

U.S. Healthcare Venture Fundraising\*, 2009 - 2017



Healthcare venture funding hit a new high in 2017. The increase started in 2014 when fundraising jumped 50% over the previous year. This has led to a large pool of capital available to invest in venture-backed companies.

Venture healthcare investors have recently focused on biopharma and Dx/Tools. As Dx/Tools companies integrate computational methods such as artificial intelligence, we see tech investors, many new to healthcare, starting to invest in these deals.

Over the past few years, traditional VCs scaled back medical device investments. This trend reversed in 2017.

Looking ahead, we anticipate fundraising will continue to be strong, but will decline to the \$6B-7B range in 2018.

Trends in Healthcare Investments and Exits 2018



\*SVB estimates the dollars allocated to healthcare by all U.S. venture funds. Source: PitchBook and SVB proprietary data



# Key Trends Affecting Biomedical Engineering

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 $\bullet~$  By 2030, the global population over 60 (1.4B) will outnumber children age 0 – 9

Obesity

Statistics from 2104 indicate ~2B adults are overweight (600M morbidly obese)

• <u>Urbanization</u>

• Globally, over 60% of the population will live in urban settings by 2030

Rise of Millennials

• The first "digital generation" is reshaping the cultural landscape

• Will control 30% of retail spend by 2020

#### **Tech Trends**

Internet driven change accelerates

• Driven by increasingly unrestricted bandwidth and ubiquitous mobile technology

• Continued change driver for social, economic and scientific interaction

Rise of Nanotechnology

• Dramatically increasing the ability to engineer at very small scale

• Accelerating discovery of new engineered materials

Potential to disrupt many industries

Powerful new data mining opportunities emerging

• Driven by computing power, access to vast data sets, and emergence of Al

**Econo Trends** 

Global Competition Increasing

· Companies are investing more in R&D and talent to survive

• <u>Value migration to service businesses</u>

Service sector accounts for over 2/3 of global GDP (over \$50T)

Capital flows increasing to developing countries

• Capital inflows to developing countries more than doubled in the past 10 yrs (>\$.5T)

Rise in E-commerce

• Retail e-commerce sales expected to pass \$4T by 2020

Meta Trends

Rising Security Risks

• Privacy, personal financial security and well as safety all more at risk

• Driven by increased connectivity across people and "things"

Fabric of Society Evolving

Internet enabling new communities to form

Increased polarization across the societal spectrum

• Globalization increasing

· Instant information exchange

Global migrations and global disease risk

• Financial systems highly linked



### Products from Biomedical Engineering: What to Expect

Advances in the standard of care will still be important, but evidence of cost savings and avoidance of future care will be critical

Technology advances will continue to accelerate, resulting in faster product replacement

Market dynamics will require careful analysis of relevant patient segments

- Many new products and techniques will be limited to small subsets of patients
- Ability to segment and screen patients based on genetics or other health factors will be critical to drive use
- Risk based contracting based on patient outcome may offer higher revenue opportunity



# Impact on Biomedical Engineering Field

#### **Evolving Science Priorities**

- Increasing focus on wellness and early intervention
- · Technologies that reduced cost of healthcare will be prioritized
- Access to rapidly evolving tool technologies critical
  - Nanotechnology and new materials
  - Information sciences and data mining
  - · Robotics and 3D printing

#### **Evolving Funding Model**

- Science will increasingly be sourced globally as industry and academia work across traditional boundaries
- Critical projects will increasingly be seen as cross disciplinary and will require coordinated efforts to attract funding
- Economic potential (value and cost savings as well as market potential) will become central elements of project selection and evaluation for ongoing funding

#### **Evolving Customer Base**

- Consolidation and purchasing consortiums are driving more purchasing power, driving lower prices
- Cost pressures at Federal and State level pushing aggressive tactics to restrict high cost care and resist high prices through regulation
- Emerging care models driven by technology (remote diagnosis and care) and employers (employee healthcare management) will increasingly impact field
- Private pay by patients will be an important element of value for some technologies due to growing global middle class

#### **Evolving Industry / Governmental Participation**

- Industry participation
  - Increased need for innovative products in more aggressive global market
  - Prices likely under pressure as higher demand attracts competition and regulation
  - Will likely invest in academic ideas, but with short time horizon
- Government participation
  - Domestic governmental funding will likely shift focus to drive cost effective therapies
    as high healthcare cost increasingly pressure budgets
  - Internationally, governments likely to continue to increase investments to help build leading positions for local companies (China, India)



# Implications for Cornell Biomedical Engineering

#### University Level

- · Selecting priority areas for investment will be critical to develop and maintain leading positions in the field
  - May conflict with academic independence at some levels
- Global focus and capabilities of the University will be important for the Biomedical engineering in the future as funding becomes more international
- · Flexibility around IP and a willingness to work with corporate priorities may be necessary for some attractive funding sources, policy will be critical

#### Field Level

- · Biomedical Engineering should prioritize areas it wishes to lead in and identify a road map to attain leadership in each area
- · Strategy to access critical tools (data mining, materials, fabrication technologies) should be considered across biomedical engineering
- · Evaluation tools should be developed to help faculty understand economic value of their ideas early in research

#### Faculty / Program Level

- · For each program area, an understanding of the industrial as well as academic space should be developed to inform the research
- · Look for best academic and industrial partners to access adjacent tools and technologies (Inside of and outside of Cornell)
- · Review each program for viability regularly (technology is moving very fast and ideas could be obsolete before they emerge from a lab)



### Key Take-Aways for Cornell Biomedical Engineering

- 1. For all key programs, it will be important to factor the requirement of the changing ecosystem into research plans
- 2. Funding sources will shift, and Biomedical Engineering should prepare
  - Access to corporate investments will require global view, and may be from unexpected sources such as tech companies
  - Government funding may become much more focused on cost saving technologies
- 3. Biomedical Engineering has some of the most advanced thinking in how they want to focus, may be a good area to pilot new strategies



# Ag-Biotech Engineering Trends



# Ag Bio Competitive Landscape – Universities

#### University Ag Biotech programs are fairly recent:

- Most Universities placing increased emphasis on Ag Biotech
  - Some Universities have colleges dedicated to Agriculture & Biology Technology ("ABE" or "BAE")

#### Leading Ag Biotech programs are in states with strong agricultural economies:

- These states are funding their public Universities for research to improve their state's agricultural practices
- Some Universities have strong relationships with large agriculture companies, resulting in additional funding

#### Most university programs are focused solely on research:

- Some programs have started to focus on commercial objectives, however there is no clear market leading program
- Most Universities do not offer an agricultural startup incubator for their students

Leading University Ag Biotech Programs								
University	Program Name	Notes						
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	OBIC Bioproducts Innovation Center	Founded in 2014. Provides client services, research studies, and undergraduate incubator.						
NC STATE UNIVERSITY	Cooperative Extention	Collaboration between NC State and NC A&T. Cites \$1.5bn impact on rural NC. Generated more than \$25mm in licensing revenue since 2011.						
The University of Georgia	Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics	Mission is to develop improved plant cultivars from agronomic and horticultural species. Faculty train graduate students in modern plant breeding and conduct research on genetics.						
WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON	Crop Innovation Center	Founded in 1981. Current building through a gift by Monsato. Services include Maize, Soybean, and Sorghuim Transformation. Also has phenotyping and molecular technology capabilities.,						
Nebraska	Center for Biotechnology	Focuses on bioinformatics, flow cytometry, microscopy, plant transformation, and metabolomics. Provides scholarships and fellowships.						
UCDAVIS UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	Seed Biotechnology Center	Founded in 1999. Famous for sequencing the genomes of 100 indigenous African plant species						
Iowa State university	Seed Science Center	Offers two programs: Seed Science Center focuses specifically on seed sample testing and Biotechnology Outreach Center for agricultural education.						



### Animal Bio - Competitive Landscape - Universities

### Animal Biotechnology is a mix of technology and engineering:

- Assisted reproductive technologies refers to the distribution of genetics beyond natural mating
- Cloning is the rapid distribution of desirable traits
- Genetic Engineering introduces/modifies genes to add new traits

#### Most American universities do not offer a Animal Biotechnology Major:

 However, a few universities offer a "Animal" concentration in their Biotechnology Master Degree

#### Most centers focused on Animal Biotechnology are located in flagship International Universities:

 National governments provide funding for research for livestock innovation

#### **Leading University Animal Biotechnology Programs** Country University Notes Offers Animal Biotechnology as an undergraduate concentration for Animal Science majors and offers student organizations with corporate partnerships. Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics focuses on the development of management and clinical therapies to increase reproductive health, and enhance reproductive efficiency in humans and domestic animals. Offers Animal Biotechnology as an undergraduate concentration for Animal Science majors and offers student organizations with corporate partnerships. National Institute of Animal Biotechnology conducts research on livestock breeding and functions as an incubator for startups. Centre for Animal Biotechnology (CAB) was established in 1990 to apply THE UNIVERSITY OF discoveries to practical methods of livestock management, develop links with MELBOURNE companies for testing, and encourage entry of scientists into the field. Department of Animal Biotechnology has been a world leader since 1962 and is one of the few universities to offer a Animal Biotechnology undergraduate KONKUK



major. Research focuses on control of animal diseases, development of new

medicines using animal cells, and cloning.

### Ag Bio Competitive Landscape – Institutions

#### Private corporations are spending large amounts on Ag Biotech R&D:

- Most corporations do not publicly share their research due to its proprietary nature
- Monsanto has the most public approach out of the major Ag Biotech players

### While there are many programs for agricultural innovation, few are dedicated to Ag Biotech:

- Most nonprofits do not have a dedicated department to Ag Biotech, but many focus on holistic agriculture
- Many large nonprofits are starting to focus on Ag Biotech due to its potential value to society

Leading Ag Biotech Institutions					
Institutions	Notes				
AgBio[sphere]*	Funded by the North Carolina Biotech Center. Provides thought leadership sharing and funding for agriculture startups.				
DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER	Independent research facility with 267 employees, including 193 scientists. Focuses on bioinformatics, microscopy, phenotyping, plant growth, and tissue culture. 2017 Operating budget: \$30mm. 45% from grants, 40% endowment, 15% annual gifts				
MONSANTO  (University of Illinois Collaboration)	Opened an agricultural innovation center at the University of Illinois in 02/18. Employs 24+ students across different colleges.				
McKinsey &Company	Center for Agricultural Transformation offers private sector engagement strategy, data analytics, and aids in fundraising. 1890 agricultural projects to date in 69 countries from 371 clients.				
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM	Research team concentrates on health and agrictulture biotech. WEF collaborates with the best scientists/researchers in the world.				



# Key Trends Driving Ag-Tech

- Growing global population feed 10B by 2050
- Urbanization 50% of the world's population live in urban areas
- Climate change
- Consumer preferences demands for transparency, healthy food, sustainability



- Yield (there is 30% room for improvement)
   and reduction of value chain loss (33% on
   average, as a percentage of initial production)
- Vertical farming
- Better water management and better seeds
- Organic and healthy products, fewer pesticides

Ag-Tech – Broad category which includes: Farm Management, Sensing, IoT, Robotics, and Ag-Biotech. We are focusing on *Ag-Biotech* 



# Key Trends Affecting Ag-Biotech Engineering

#### **Evolving Science Priorities**

Bio-Agriculture Engineering – known as Ag-Biotech

- Plant Ag-Biotech: new approaches to driving top-line value for the grower
  - Small-molecule discovery platforms -eg. 'shape shifting' boron to produce pesticides to combat pesticide resistant organisms
  - Biologicals eg. engineered microbes that provide 'organic' pesticides
- Food tech: artificial meat, plant based meat
- Animal Ag-Biotech: new approaches to alternative therapies for animal health, advanced genetic engineering

#### **Evolving Market Dynamics**

Turbulence ahead for big 6 (BASF, Bayer, Dupont, Dow Chemical Company, Monsanto, and Syngenta)

- key products in seed and chemistry have come off patent, the change imperative for the Big 6 has only strengthened
- Organic disruption unlikely, so expect heavy acquisition activity –
  presenting great opportunities for startups to be acquired for big \$\$\$

#### **Evolving Funding Model**

Investments in ag-tech accelerating

- Global agriculture and food technology companies \$10.1 billion in investments in 2017, up 29 percent from 2016, according to an annual report from food and agriculture investment platform AgFunder 2017.
- Of that, Ag biotechnology investments \$670 million
- Corporate venture capital activity in the sector has expanded, with more than 30 active funds, joining the agtech-focused funds like Khosla, Fall Line, Finistere, Innovation Endeavors and S2G, among others
- Even players like Softbank, Amazon, Google getting into the food game with major investments and funds dedicated for agriculture innovation

#### **Evolving Industry / Governmental Participation**

Water and GMO Regulations

- GMO labeling bill passed in July 2017 Action on GMO ingredients is in early stages and likely take 2 years to complete
- If not implemented carefully could undercut innovation
- Will heighten consumer sensitivity

Immigration reform

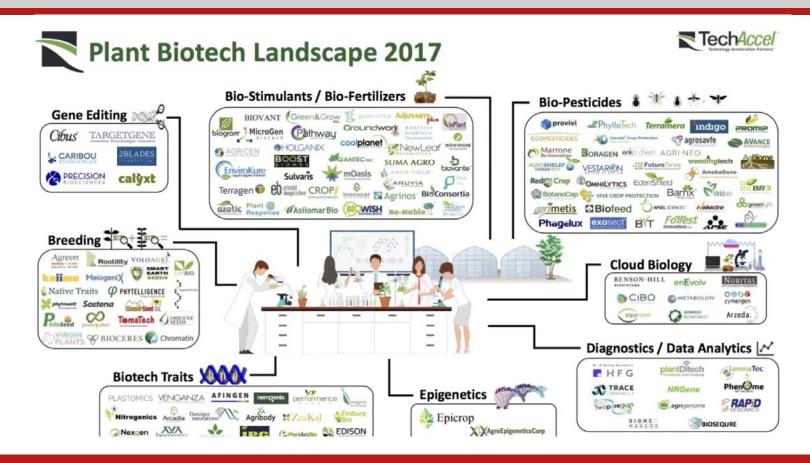
 Undocumented workers make up 16% of the workforce – pressures on the workforce will drive innovation in labor (think robots)

Government investment in Ag Biotech

Eg: Dubai sovereign fund investment of \$205M in Indigo



### Evolving Science Priorities – Plant Bio-Tech Landscape





# Evolving Science Priorities – Indigo Case

By using sophisticated genomic sequencing and computational bioinformatics, Indigo has assembled an enormous database of genomic information from these microbes.

We apply algorithms and machine learning to this database to predict which microbes are most beneficial to the plant's health, applying these specially selected microbes to crops in the form of a seed coating.

The resulting seed treatments complement a plant's natural processes to improve health and development across each phase of life while boosting crop yields.

Raised \$360M to date including \$203 series D from Dubai Sovereign Fund

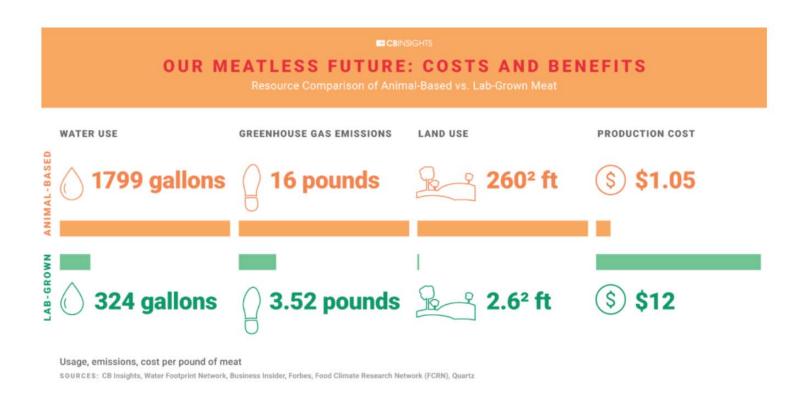
Microbial seed coatings for corn, soy, wheat, and cotton

Help crops to withstand environmental stressors such as drought, high temperatures, salty soils or low nitrogen and bolster resistance to disease and pests

Products also produce higher quality crops, such as increasing the protein content of wheat.



### **Evolving Science Priorities - Meatless Future**





# Evolving Funding Model – Leading Investors





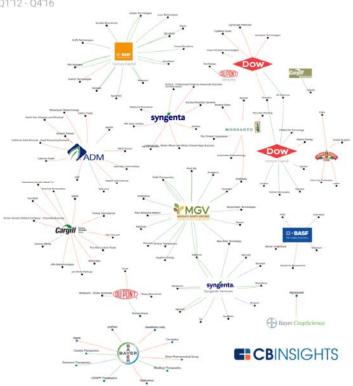
https://www.cbinsights.com/research/agricu lture-tech-top-investors/

www.cbinsights.com



# Evolving Market Dynamics - Acquisition Landscape

AGRIBUSINESS & CHEMICAL CORPORATIONS: DEALS AND ACQUISITIONS



Farm Tech Exits (2	)10 to date, \$50m+)
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Year	Target	Acquirer		Category	Amount (\$m)	Notable Investors
2011	Divergence	Monsanto		Ag Biotech	71	Cultivian Ventures, Prolog Ventures
2011	Beeologics	Monsanto		Ag Biotech	114	
2012	AgraQuest	Bayer		Ag Biotech	425	TPG Growth, Otter Capital, Generation Capital
2012	Precision Planting	Monsanto	Rob	otics, Machinery & Other Farm Equip	250	
2012	Pasteuria Bioscience	Syngenta		Ag Biotech	113	Advantage Capital Partners
2012	Becker Underwood	BASF		Ag Biotech	1020	Norwest Equity Partners
2013	The Climate Corporation	Monsanto		Management Software, Sensing & IoT	930	Khosla Ventures, GV. Founders Fund, First Round Capital
2013	Devgen	Syngenta		Ag Biotech	523	Capricorn Venture Partners, ING Group, Flanders Biotech Fund
2013	Marrone Bio	IPO		Ag Biotech	57	Syngenta Ventures, Mitsui Global Investment, Saffron Hill Ventures
2014	Wolf Trax	Compass Minerals		Ag Biotech	85	Avria Ventures
2014	Virdia	Stora Enso	Bior	naterials & Biochemicals	62	Khosla Ventures
2014	Allylix	Evolva		Miscellaneous	59	Middleland Capital, Cultivian Ventures, BASF Venture Capital, Tate & Lyle Ventures
2014	640 Labs	The Climate Corporation		Farm Management Software, Sensing & Io7	not disclosed	Serra Ventures
2015	Zoner	Bayer		Farm Management Software, Sensing & IoT	not disclosed	
2015	Arcadia Biosciences	IPO		Ag Biotech	\$65.6m	Mandala Capital, BASF Venture Capital, Saints Capital, CMEA Capital
2015	Taxon Biosciences	DuPont		Ag Biotech	not disclosed	BP Ventures
2015	Oxitec	Intrexon		Ag Biotech	160	Oxford Capital Partners
2015	AgConnections	Syngenta		Farm Management Software, Sensing & IoT	not disclosed	
2015	AGRI-TREND	Trimble		Misc	not disclosed	
2016	proPlant	Bayer		Farm Management Software, Sensing & IoT	not disclosed	
2016	EnviroFlight	Intrexon		Ag Biotech	not disclosed	
2017	Granular	DuPont		Farm Management Software, Sensing & IoT	300	Andreessen Horowitz, GV, Khosla Ventures
2017	Blue River Tech	John Deere		Robotics & Equipment	305	Khosla Ventures, Monsanto Growth Ventures, Syngenta Ventures, Data Collective
2017	Agronomic Tech Corp	Yara International		Farm Management Software, Sensing & IoT	No disclosed	



# Implications for Cornell Ag-Biotech Engineering

#### **University Level**

- Cornell has a unique opportunity to position itself as an institution that can foster innovation in the field due to its unique set of capabilities across schools (Engineering, Ag School, Bio&Chem from Arts and Science school
- Explore creating a 'Cornell Center of Excellence for Ag-Biotech for a Sustainable Future' CCEABSF a new vehicle through which we can drive and execute on the mission of establishing Cornell as a leader in ag-biotech
  - Establish tiger team made up of inter school faculty
  - Identify key faculty to spearhead the effort
  - Establish board made up of key players in industry and investment community
- Through this vehicle gain access to research monies from institutions
- Startups The CEABSF can provide a platform to enable Cornell faculty, researchers and graduates to start companies
  - Startups will have immediate access and visibility with potential acquirers (industry members of the CEABSF)
  - Easier access to funding due to participation from leading investor members of the CEABSF)
  - Provide opportunities for and leverage undergraduates to participate in research geared towards startups and commercialization of technology
- Beyond Ag-Biotech? Should we go broader than Ag-Biotech and look at creating a platform for Ag-Tech?

#### Field Level

• Understand the overall strategy of the big 6 by studying their acquisitions, and the startups that are receiving funding, to zero in on some key areas of future investments, and use the information to help build the multi-year roadmap – Microbes, CRISPR, man made meat ,etc

#### Faculty / Program Level

- Identify existing faculty working in the areas of interest across schools (eg. Microbes, genetics) and form a tiger team to help build a multi-year roadmap for the school
- Explore recruiting top researchers in the areas of interest



# Bioenvironmental Engineering Trends



### Bioenvironmental Competitive Landscape – Universities

#### Many Universities have interdisciplinary environmental/sustainability programs:

 Few Universities have initiatives dedicated to environmental engineering

#### Federal funding contributes heavily to smaller Universities' sustainability programs:

 Most Fortune 500 corporate partnerships are with larger Universities

### Some Universities focus on sustainability specific to their geographic area:

- These are typically public universities located in unique climates
  - E.g. UCLA focuses heavily on its local environmental issues (LA smog from traffic)





# **ECC Task Force Recommendations**



### ECC Bioengineering Task Force Recommendations (1)

Initiate a strategic dialog at School / University level to determine critical areas of focus and discuss if we have a need for a Cornell wide bioengineering vision

- What technology areas do we want to focus on as the core of our leadership in the field(s)?
- Are there broader themes which can unify our mission and efforts?
  - Human wellness
  - Cost effective technology delivery



### ECC Bioengineering Task Force Recommendations (2)

Launch an initiative to consider how to support and target programmatic efforts without overly interfering with academic freedom

- How can we better integrate cross disciplinary science (internal to Cornell or outside) into our programs?
- How do we make sure our thinking and direction tracks the critical trends impacting the field?
- How do we routinely and effectively review and where needed, redirect our research and investments?



### ECC Bioengineering Task Force Recommendations (3)

Pilot enhanced program support model in two or three key areas to build tools and test concepts

- Develop an external trend map impacting the program and consider how to integrate it into research strategy
- Map and build relationships to promote technical exchange, funding and commercialization partnerships for the program
- Define review criteria and frequency to enable effective review and course correction



### ECC Bioengineering Task Force Recommendations (4)

Develop a set of metrics and tools to continuously map activities and assess progress against goals across Cornell's bioengineering efforts

- A standard way of looking at bioengineering across the various departments involved
- A tool to guide investment and recruitment decisions based on the needs of the mission and goals
- A common package to describe to the world our leadership in bioengineering



# Advancing to Phase 2

Our phase 1 analysis indicates a substantial opportunity for Cornell to enhance its position in Bioengineering

Capturing the value will require inside out thinking, a willingness to broaden our definitions of success in an academic enterprise, and an investment in our faculty and supporting infrastructure

The ECC Bioengineering Task force stands ready to help, and suggests a smaller discussion with a College / University leadership team to refine a plan for phase 2

