

NOTRE DAME  
BIOENGINEERING & LIFE SCIENCES INITIATIVE  
KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR ONE *(academic year 2023–24)*

The Bioengineering & Life Sciences Initiative at Notre Dame advances human health and wellness through interdisciplinary biomedical research and training—from fundamental discoveries through detection, prevention, and treatment of disease. Emphasizing equity in healthcare access, BELS brings together researchers across disciplines to create transformative solutions in bioengineering and life sciences.

*“The Bioengineering & Life Sciences Initiative is off to a strong start, developing a clear and distinctive research agenda that will inspire breakthrough discoveries and attract top talent. By pursuing research that is multidisciplinary, mission-driven, and independent, Notre Dame is carving out a new space in the biomedical research landscape.”*



**Paul Bohn**

*Director, Bioengineering & Life Sciences Initiative; Arthur J. Schmitt Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry*

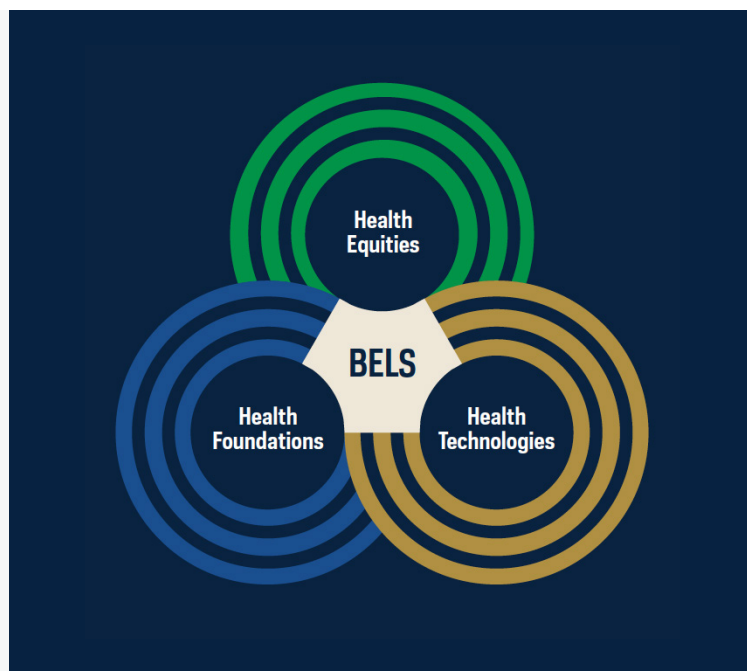
## EXPANDING BIOENGINEERING & LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Bioengineering & Life Sciences Initiative is working to accelerate transformative research discoveries across the University and develop future generations of leaders through innovative, cross-disciplinary graduate and postdoctoral training. Highlights from the first year include:

### Developing 3 major research themes:

The Bioengineering & Life Sciences Initiative’s research, training, and partnership efforts focus on three mission-driven research themes, which were **identified through a collaborative process involving faculty from more than 10 departments, centers, and institutes across three colleges.**

[Learn more about the themes](#)



## EXPANDING BIOENGINEERING & LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

(CONT'D)

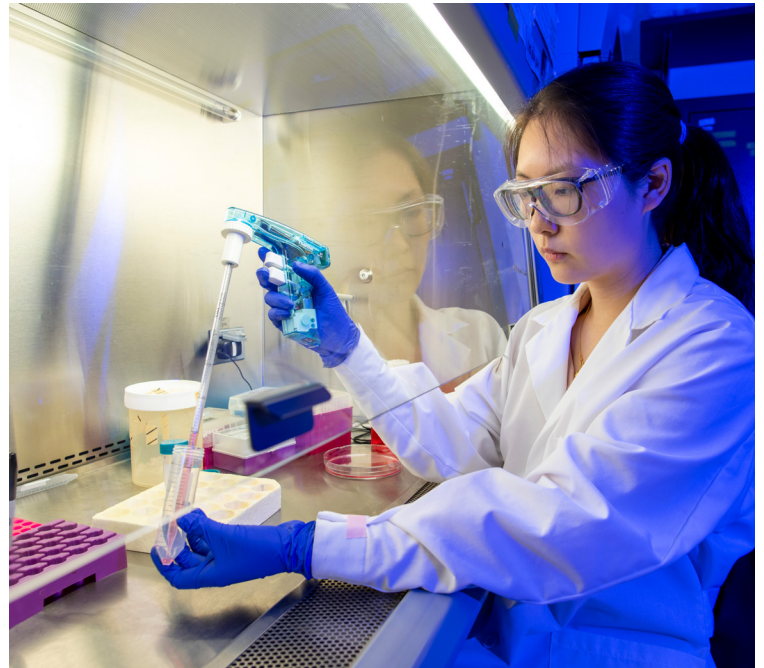
### Creating a

#### **\$2.4 million internal research grant program**

to spur the formation of collaborative multidisciplinary faculty teams to address compelling problems related to the initiative's research themes. This program will significantly advance the national research footprint of the bioengineering and life science disciplines at Notre Dame and help launch projects that will attract external grants and other large-scale investments. The first winning teams will be announced in the coming year.

### Developing a BELS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

to supercharge cross-disciplinary training for talented postdoctoral scholars and recruiting the first fellow.



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

### Partnered with a national search firm

to recruit exceptional **candidates to lead** the Bioengineering & Life Sciences Initiative into the future.

### Connected with 250+ stakeholders

in the first year through faculty information sessions, research strategy workshops, and conversations with partners and potential partners around the world, including in Mexico, Ireland, and South Korea.

### Formed a BELS Infrastructure Committee

to identify critical gaps, needs, and opportunities in biomedical research instrumentation at Notre Dame, and make recommendations on the purchase of major new equipment for campus use.

### Engaged a Research Strategy Committee

to advise the director on the Initiative's research mission and its implementation.

