



PennState Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences



VISION

We catalyze deep collaboration across disciplines to generate new and profoundly integrative approaches to life sciences research.

MISSION

We foster excellence in life sciences research and graduate training through focused investment in outstanding faculty, interdisciplinary programs, and state-of-the-art facilities.

CULTURE

We approach the vast Penn State resources available to us with a nimble mindset. Ever flexible, we leverage these resources in creative ways that extend our reach across the entire university system. As a truly diverse team of faculty, staff members and trainees, we inspire one another to reach higher than any of us could on our own.

Collaborative Research

- 110 co-hired faculty researchers
- 9 participating Penn State Colleges
- 6–8-fold ROI
- Impacting \$290M annual research portfolio

Graduate Education

- 250 PhD students advised by 330 faculty
- Inter-College thesis committees
- Unique lab rotation system
- Robust training grant program

Translational Impact

- Advancing biotechnology
- Improving global health
- Building the STEM economy
- Launching distinguished careers

STRATEGIC GOALS (2021-25)

* Attract and retain a diverse community of the best and brightest faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs by providing an inspiring, inclusive working environment equipped with best- in-class facilities and instrumentation

* Fund bold and transformative research in the life sciences at Penn State through internal seed grant programs that spur new and promising innovations

* Contribute to the growth of the high-tech STEM economy by facilitating discoveries in biotechnology and training the next generation of research scientists and technologists

* Build upon Penn State’s reputation as a global leader in infectious diseases; food and biosecurity; and global health

* Advance Penn State’s capacities to comprehensively map and assess factors that interactively affect the health of plants, animals and people across natural ecosystems and the built environment

* Expand Penn State’s capacities in biomedical research through strategic internal partnerships with Engineering, Social Sciences and Data Sciences, as well as external partners in the field

* Continually improve administrative processes to foster healthy levels of innovation and risk-taking while maintaining security and stability across departments



Troy Ott

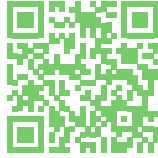
Acting Director, Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences; C. Lee Rumberger and Family Chair in Agricultural Sciences; Professor of Reproductive Physiology

✉ tlo12@psu.edu



We immerse students in an environment built on interdisciplinary collaboration—with unparalleled access to state-of-the-art facilities. That is why we consistently recruit outstanding people from across the globe. Programs include: Bioinformatics and Genomics; Ecology; Integrative and Biomedical Physiology; Master of Biotechnology; Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Biosciences; Neuroscience; and Plant Biology.

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Intercollege
Programs



Graduate Programs



With more than \$25 million of direct investment into core facilities since 2010, we provide services to over 300 research groups each year. Cores include: Automated Calorimetry; Cryo-Electron Microscopy; Fermentation; Flow Cytometry; Genomics; High-Field MRI; Metabolomics; Microscopy; Proteomics and Mass Spectrometry; Cell Culture; X-Ray Crystallography.

Core Facilities



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Cores

Our academic teams cut across dozens of departments at Penn State, engaging an unsurpassed variety of disciplines in life sciences research. Key topics include bio-renewables; infectious disease dynamics; human evolution and diversity; structural biology and oncology; industrial biotechnology; ecology; genome sciences; insect biodiversity; microbiomes; neuroscience; human health; and a unique variety of plant science initiatives.

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Research
Units



Institutes & Centers



The deeply complex and interconnected challenges we collectively face today can only be addressed by teams that bring in expertise from a variety of fields and backgrounds. At the Huck, we believe in bringing together scientists and stakeholders to collaborate in the face of threats as local as the aging population of Pennsylvania and as global as climate change and pandemics.

Collaborative Ventures



Key Collaborations

- PlantVillage
- Geroscience and Dementia Prevention Consortium
- Regenerative Engineering and Translational Ecosystem Forum
- Communication, Science and Society Initiative (CSSI)

We believe it's essential to take big risks in science – to think outside the box, “swing for the fences” and pursue ideas that might never yield success, but which could change the world if they do. That’s why we have implemented internal funding mechanisms at Penn State that empower bold, innovative researchers to fearlessly test out their most novel, unproven and exciting ideas, with room to fail. Because sometimes they don’t.



Disruptive Funding

Key Programs

- Huck Innovative and Transformational Seed (HITS) Fund
- Patricia and Steven Benkovic Research Initiative
- Interinstitutional Partnerships for Diversifying Research (IPDR) Fund



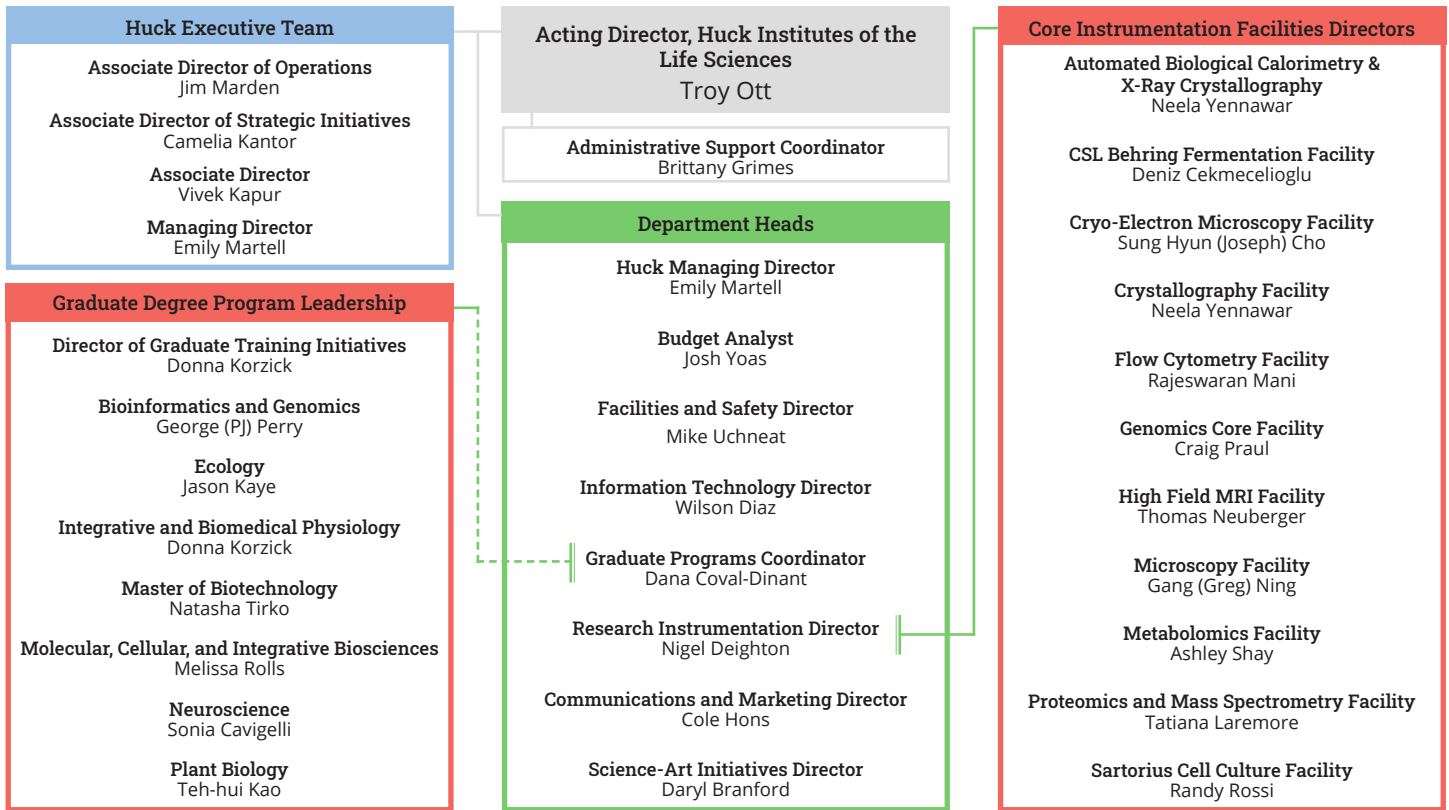
Media & Creative

With hundreds of scientists working at Huck, translating the innumerable insights yielded by their research requires constant creativity. It also requires clear, engaging methods of communication. From our SciArt initiatives to our videos, podcasts, and eNews updates, we’re proud to produce media that tells the stories of the science done here, the people who do it, and the impacts our science has on communities around the world.



Key Outlets

- SciArt Initiatives
- Life From All Angles videos
- Free-Range Science videos
- The Pulse Newsletter



Research Center and Institute Directors		
Center for Biorenewables Charles Anderson & Daniel Ciolkosz	Center for Medical Genomics Kateryna Makova	Center for Root and Rhizosphere Biology Liana Burghardt
Center for Brain, Behavior, and Cognition Charles Geier & Sonia Cavigelli	Center for Molecular Immunology and Infectious Disease Girish Kirimanjeswara	Center for Statistical Genetics Rongling Wu
Center for Cellular Dynamics Emily Bell & Melissa Rolls	Center for Molecular Investigation of Neurological Disorders Bernhard Luscher	Center for Structural Biology Katsuhiko Murakami
Center for Chemical Ecology Jared Ali	Center for Molecular Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Gary Perdue	Center for Structural Oncology Deb Kelly
Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Paul Medvedev	Center for Movement Science and Technology Robert Sainburg	Center of Excellence in Industrial Biotechnology Daniel Hayes
Center for Eukaryotic Gene Regulation Song Tan	Center for Neural Engineering Bruce Gluckman	Ecology Institute Jennifer Macalady
Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics Matthew Ferrari	Center for Neurotechnology in Mental Health Research Nanyin Zhang	Genome Sciences Institute Francesca Chiaromonte
Center for Human Evolution and Diversity David Puts & Mark Shriver	Center for Parasitic and Carnivorous Plants Claude dePamphilis	Insect Biodiversity Center Christina Grozinger
Center for Malaria Research Scott Lindner & Manuel Llinas	Center for Pollinator Research Christina Grozinger	Neuroscience Institute Krishnankutty Sathian & Patrick Drew
Center for Mathematical Biology Andrew Belmonte	Center for Reproductive Biology and Health Francisco Diaz	One HealthMicrobiome Center Seth Bordenstein
Center for Mathematics of Living and Mimetic Matter Igor Aronson & Leonid Berlyand	Center for RNA Molecular Biology Paul Babitzke & Philip Bevilacqua	Plant Institute Sally Mackenzie

