



An Interdisciplinary Life Science Research Center in Beijing

As early as January, 2008, CAS made the decision to set up Beijing Institutes of Life Science (BIOLS). Only about one year after, in June, 2009, its initial establishment was completed and approved by CAS.

Its establishment is based on the reorganization of seven CAS research institutes engaged in life science research in Beijing, including Institute of Biophysics, Institute of Zoology, Institute of Microbiology, Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Institute of Genomics, Institute of Psychology and Institute of Botany. As an interdisciplinary life science research center, BIOLS provides support to the institutes in terms of research facilities, international collaboration, academic forum and graduate education, aiming to promote interdisciplinary research and national and international academic communication and to offer an efficient network for scientists from different areas.

To meet the requirements of national strategies for life science research, BIOLS focuses on optimizing administration, improving infrastructure and supporting key research projects. It is committed to establish a public platform to facilitate academic communication and cross-disciplinary integration. In addition, through encouraging innovative research and collaboration with industrial organizations, BIOLS strives to promote translation of original research results into biotechnologies.

BIOLS has a highly efficient administrative team, which is responsible for coordination of the institutes.

The academic committee of BIOLS is composed of internationally renowned scientists who are actively working on interdisciplinary research. They are in charge of reviewing grant applications, inspecting on-going projects and planning long-term goals of BIOLS.

Beijing Forum of Life Science is a high-level academic forum organized by BIOLS, which is aimed to boost cross-disciplinary research and broad cooperation among different organizations and industries. Moreover, BIOLS leaders regularly held meetings with the institute directors so as to talk about issues like development strategy of BIOLS, cooperation among the institutes and management of large-scale public platform and infrastructure.



KANG Le, a CAS Member and Professor of Entomology & Ecology at the State Key Laboratory of Integrated Management of Pest Insects & Rodents, Institute of Zoology, serves as the founding President of BIOLS.

Contact: lkang@ioz.ac.cn

Four Types of BIOLS Research Centers with Striking Characteristics

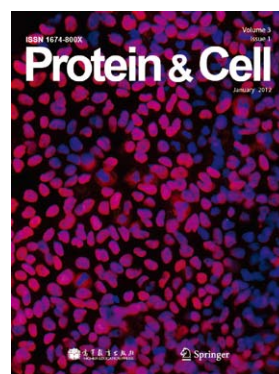
BIOLS has been working on establishing the following types of research centers:

- **Open-Hotel research centers.** BIOLS will establish a series of Open-Hotel research centers, including

Bioinformatics Research Center, Chemical Biology Research Center and Synthetic Biology Research Center. In this type of centers, there will be only a few regular workers responsible for providing technological supports to researchers from the institutes. It opens to all the member institutes with an aim to stimulate cross-field cooperation on these platforms.

- **Virtual research centers.** This type of centers includes, but is not limited to, Research Network of Computational Biology, Research Network of Immunity and Health and Research Network of Global Change Biology. It is aimed to provide a platform for researchers to hold regular talks on specific scientific problems and exchange information.

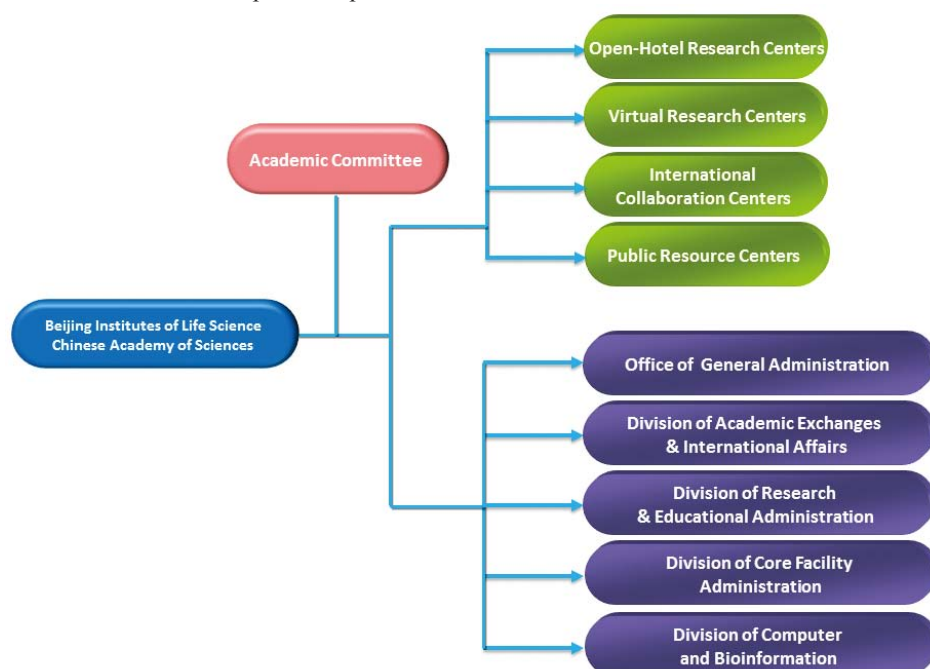
- **International collaboration centers.** They include China-US Research Center for Life Sciences, China-Japan Joint Research Laboratory, China-Germany Research Center and China-Canada Research Center. So far, the China-US Research Center for Life Sciences has been successfully established between CAS and various US universities and research institutes, including University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of California at Davis, University of California at Riverside, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Monell Chemical Senses Center. The mission of the center is to promote life science research collaborations between CAS and US institutions, mainly in the areas of stem cells, cancer, immunology, neuroscience and other important topics.



Jointly managed by Higher Education Press, BIOLS, and Biophysical Society of China, *Protein & Cell* is a new peer-reviewed international journal that publishes original research articles, reviews, and commentaries concerning latest development in multidisciplinary areas in biology and biomedicine.

- **Public resource centers.** They include Beijing Equipment Center for Life Science and Innovation Center of Instruments & Technologies for Life Science, which effectively integrate various resources among the institutes, including equipments, technology and tech support experts. Reagent Supply Center and Intellectual Property Management Center are in preparation. These centers provide platforms for interdisciplinary research, and promote national and international communication.

Facing toward the opportunities and challenges in the phase III of CAS Knowledge Innovation Program, BIOLS will continue its leading role in life science research and make contributions to biological and biomedical research and biotechnology in China.



Organization chart of BIOLS, showing the overall structure of its administration and research branches.