Milwaukee Computational Biology Center Forms

One of the great challenges for the field of biomedical research is analyzing the large amounts of complex data generated, and synthesizing them into useful systems-wide models of biological processes. Whether operating on a large or small scale the use of mathematical and computational methods is becoming an integral part of biological research.

To take on this challenge, the Milwaukee Computational Biology Center has been formed with Charles Welzig, MD, an Associate Professor of Neurology and Physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, and a member of MCW's Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center as its head.

The goal of this group is to bring together the unique strengths of Milwaukee academic and research institutions and industry partners in medicine, biology, mathematics and the physical sciences. Partners in the group so far include faculty from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette University's Department of Biomedical Engineering and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

"This center will be the catalyst to create new cross-Milwaukee research projects. We will engage faculty in these respective institutions through meetings and mini-symposia to identify shared interests for future collaborations, facilitate access to computational resources, connect students with mentors, reach out to industry partners and most importantly coordinate grant funding opportunities," said Dr. Welzig.

Members of the Milwaukee Computational Biology Center Advisory Board met in late February to begin discussions on how to get this group off the ground. Advisory Board members include: Charles Welzig, MD (MCW); Thomas Chelimsky, MD, Professor of Neurology (MCW); Andrew Greene, PhD, Director of the Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center (MCW); Chris Olsen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience (MCW); Kurt Hecox, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurology (MCW); Kristina Ropella, PhD, Executive Associate Dean and Professor of Biomedical Engineering (Marquette); Scott Beardsley, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, (Marquette); Brett Peters, PhD, Dean of the College of Engineering & Applied Science (UWM); and Ethan Munson, PhD, Professor of Computer Science (UWM).