



BIOCHEMISTRY

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2024



Carleton
University

Faculty
of Science

OUR CONTEXT

The Institute of Biochemistry was formed in 1971 to address programmatic needs in the rapidly developing field of biochemistry. This initiative by the Chairs of the Department of Chemistry and Department of Biology lead to the first undergraduate biochemistry courses and recognition of the biochemistry research being conducted at Carleton University. The institute is now thirty-two faculty strong, including members from the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and more recently direct hires in Biochemistry. Our collective expertise is broad, positioning us well to address evolving in the field of biochemistry.

OUR PROCESS

To develop this strategy, the Institute of Biochemistry's strategic planning committee, supported by the Office of Quality Initiatives, conducted an environmental scan of biochemistry related programming at comparable institutions, conducted three student focus groups, and hosted four consultations with the Institute's staff and faculty to discuss research, teaching, governance, and infrastructure.





AREAS OF FOCUS

Three areas of focus were identified to guide the Institute's efforts and maximize its potential. Over the next five years, the Institute of Biochemistry will:

- **DEVELOP A STRONG INSTITUTE IDENTITY**
- **STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE**
- **SUPPORT AND SHOWCASE OUR RESEARCH IMPACT**

Develop a strong Institute identity

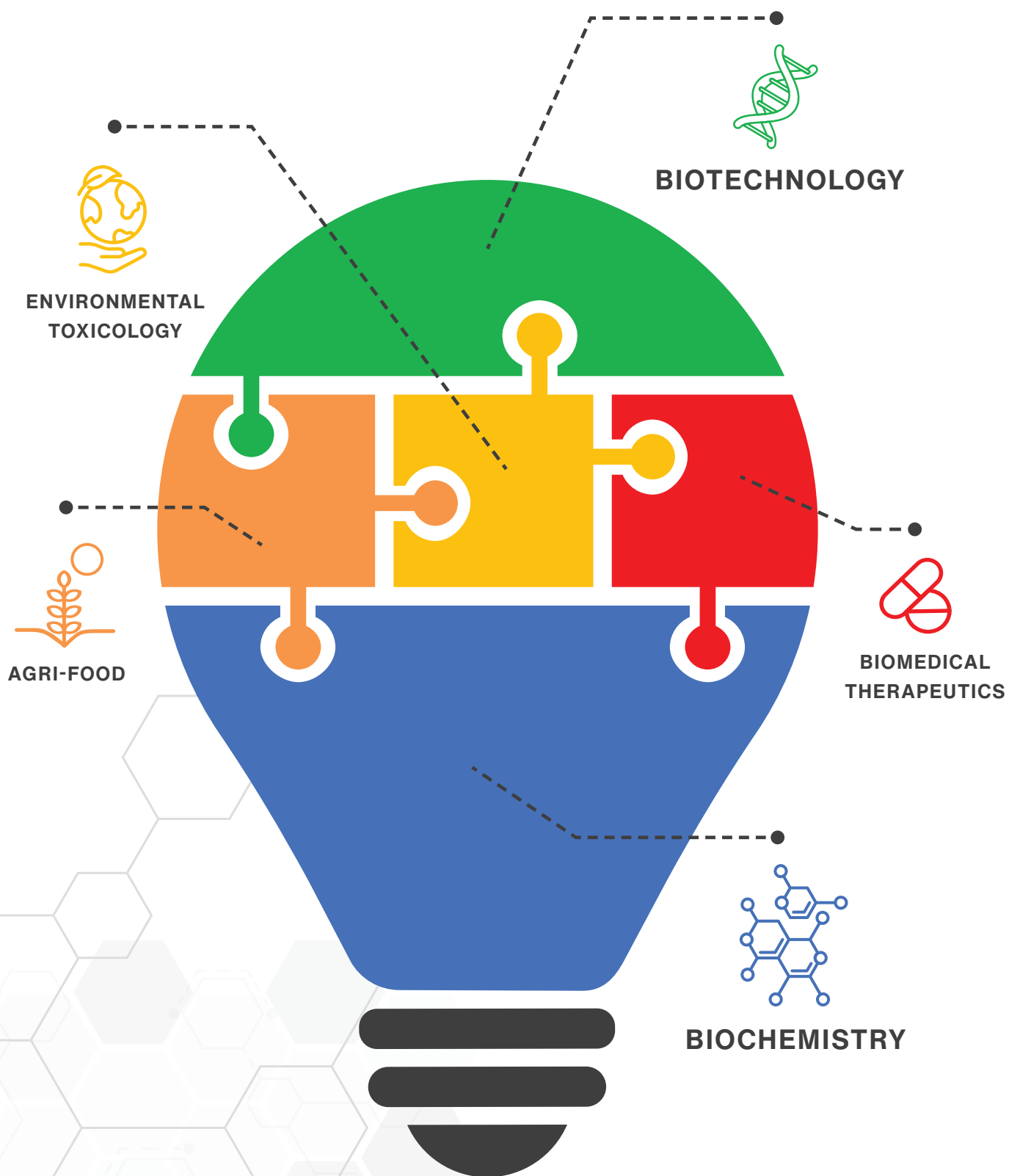
- We will form a nucleus of enthusiastic members to shape biochemistry as a thriving contributor to the life sciences landscape at Carleton
- We will standardize our practices to empower the Institute in its decision-making process and promote continuity
- We will increase the visibility of biochemistry within and beyond Carleton to promote growth and success
- We will optimize our current and future space to enhance faculty, staff and student experience
- We will support biochemistry students in their goals of fostering community and connection through the student society

Strengthen programs and student experience

- We will review undergraduate courses and programs to improve alignment with our biochemical research in life sciences, including agrifood, environmental toxicology, and biomedicine & therapeutics
- We will leverage the power of the Institute to unite and elevate undergraduate biotechnology programming across our expertise and strengthen contributions to next-generation technologies and sustainability
- We will address program gaps to meet specific needs of biochemistry students and labour market demands
- We will embed High-Impact Practices and evidence-based teaching practices in our programs, including experiential learning in the classroom and work-integrated learning in the community
- We will integrate EDI in our research, teaching, and mentoring, including at least one Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundle in undergraduate programming
- We will nurture student - faculty connections to build a strong and supportive learning community

Support and showcase our research impact

- We will remove institutional barriers and enhance our infrastructure to better support interdisciplinary collaboration
- We will advocate for a life science research hub to increase collaboration within and across academic units
- We will foster research partnerships with the local biotechnology community to contribute to our city and its population
- We will expand our research and teaching in areas aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals including no hunger, good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, climate action, and responsible consumption and production
- We will showcase faculty and student trailblazers engaged in impactful pedagogical and discipline-specific research



Inspiration for the Institute of Biochemistry's strategic plan was provided by several existing Carleton University strategic initiatives, including:

Strategic Integrated Plan (2020-2025)

Faculty of Science Strategic Integrated Plan (2020-2025)

Academic Plan (2023)

Comprehensive Sustainability Plan (2020-2025)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2021)

Kinàmàgawin (2020)



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