CLP Executive Advisory Board: An Invitation to Share in Discovery

The Chemistry of Life Processes Institute at Northwestern University has developed a robust ecosystem for basic and translational research that transcends disciplinary boundaries. A custom-designed physical environment for transdisciplinary research in the Richard and Barbara Silverman Hall for Molecular Therapeutics and Diagnostics functions as a nexus for interaction and collaboration between physical, engineering, and life science researchers. The Institute draws its membership from 65 faculty members in four schools within the University and integrates the activity of more specialized centers on campus.

The CLP Executive Advisory Board (EAB) has been integral to the growth and success of the Institute. Founded in 2005, the Board includes business leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, physicians, and tech experts. The EAB provides members with a gateway to the world of transdisciplinary biomedical discovery, innovation, and education.

Board members have a history of contributing their individual strengths to the Institute in the form of business advice and assistance in commercializing innovations, insight into educational programs, feedback on operations, strategic plans, marketing, fundraising, and individual philanthropy.
EXAMPLES OF BOARD INITIATIVES

- Annual CLP-Cornell Innovation Awards, funded by EAB members, fund early stage transdisciplinary research and discovery. These have catalyzed $23 million in new research funding and enabled the development of important new therapeutics for Parkinson’s disease, new insights into the molecular mechanisms of fertility and the early stages of embryonic development, and new non-invasive tests for detecting early stage lung and colon cancer.

- New undergraduate research programs, such as The Lambert Fellowship, endowed in 2016, by Andrew Chan, MD, PhD, CLP Executive Advisory Board Chairman and Vice President of Research Biology at Genentech, bring undergraduates into the labs of CLP’s elite faculty and provide funding for their lab supplies and stipends to support summer research.

- EAB members provide mentoring, through career forums and talks, to graduate students in CLP’s predoctoral program to foster management, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills of stellar young researchers.

- EAB guidance and expertise have helped launch new companies built on faculty innovations.

All CLP EAB members, regardless of their chosen route of participation, get to share in the excitement of growing a premier institute for biomedical research that is unmatched in its combination of resources and expertise supporting cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The board meets twice annually with Institute leadership and faculty to review progress, provide feedback on new initiatives, and hear presentations from CLP faculty on new discoveries and innovations that are changing our understanding of the molecular basis of disease and enabling the development of new therapeutics and diagnostics.

MEMBERSHIP

The current board consists of 20 active members. New members are welcome to join with the expectation that they will attend bi-annual board meetings, contribute annually to the Institute, and deploy their individual talents and connections to benefit the Institute. Members are expected to serve a three-year term, renewable at the discretion of the chair and CLP director.