



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



# Building Interdisciplinary Research Excellence for Innovative Solutions to Global Challenges

Presentation to  
PCAST Subcommittee



25 August 2008

## New Challenges for the Academy

### Technology Convergence

- life sciences
- engineering
- computing
- scale
  - funding
  - teams

### Academic Culture

- fundamental reforms for sustained competitiveness
- broadened horizons
- relentless change

### Broadened Collaboration Networks

- global horizon scan and sourcing
- proactive capture of innovation
- IP
- regulatory issues

### Scale

- 3M projects
  - multi-investigator, multi-institution, multi-million

### Use-Inspired Research

- real world engagement
  - understanding industry's needs
  - proof-of-concept and translational research
  - IP

**New Partnerships and Funding Sources**

# nature

International weekly journal of science



Arizona State University's president Michael Crow wants to shake up the hierarchy of American universities.



"ASU is the most radical experiment going on in American higher education."  
-George Poste

## THE ARIZONA EXPERIMENT



"It is a wonderful thing to be part of a place that is becoming, rather than a place that has been."  
— Kip Hodges

# Five Year Strategic Objectives

**Building an Entirely New Organization  
in an Era of Accelerating Change**

**Use-Inspired Research**

**Implementing a New Organizational Model  
for Cross-Disciplinary Academic Research:  
The Evolution of the 'Tightly-Coupled' Institute**

# **The Challenge of Building a New Organization in an Era of Accelerating Change**

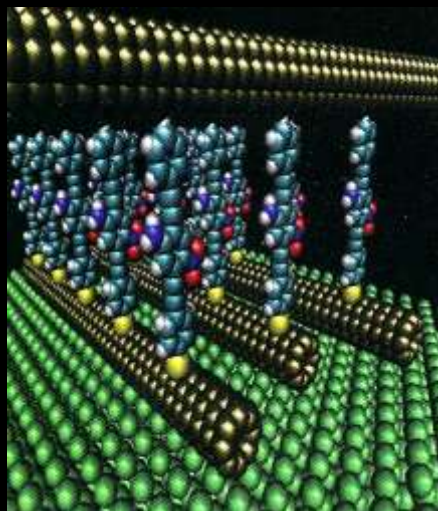
- **blurring of boundaries between traditional intellectual disciplines**
- **mastery of technology convergence**
  - **science, engineering and computing**
- **escalating funding requirements to support large scale, inter-disciplinary research**
- **new funding sources to counter anticipated constraints on USG agencies**
- **aggressive ROI and progression to economic independence**
- **globalization of research and intensifying competition**



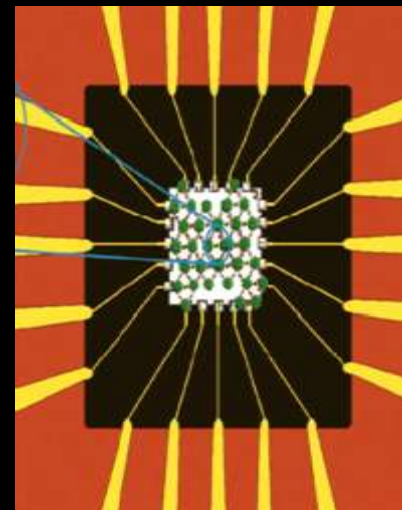
# Technology Convergence



**Biotechnology,  
Systems Biology and  
Synthetic Biology**



**Nanotechnology  
Materials Science  
and  
Miniaturization  
Engineering**



**Advanced  
Computing  
and  
Knowledge  
Management**

- technologies with radical, pervasive  
and enduring impact

**THE IMPERATIVE TO ADDRESS MAJOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

# **The Challenge of Building a New Organization in an Era of Accelerating Change: Strategic Goals**

- **use-inspired research to address major global challenges**
- **high impact research**
  - **transforming advances versus timid incrementalism**
- **funding scale: 3M grants-multi-institution, multi-investigator, multi-million dollar**
- **become self-supporting with funding from external sources**
- **accelerate technology transfer and commercial development of innovative discoveries**
- **create new education and training capabilities**

## A “Tightly Coupled” Research Institute

- interdisciplinary
- integrated
- aligned
- high risk: high reward projects
- competitive

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

**DELIVERY and ACCOUNTABILITY**

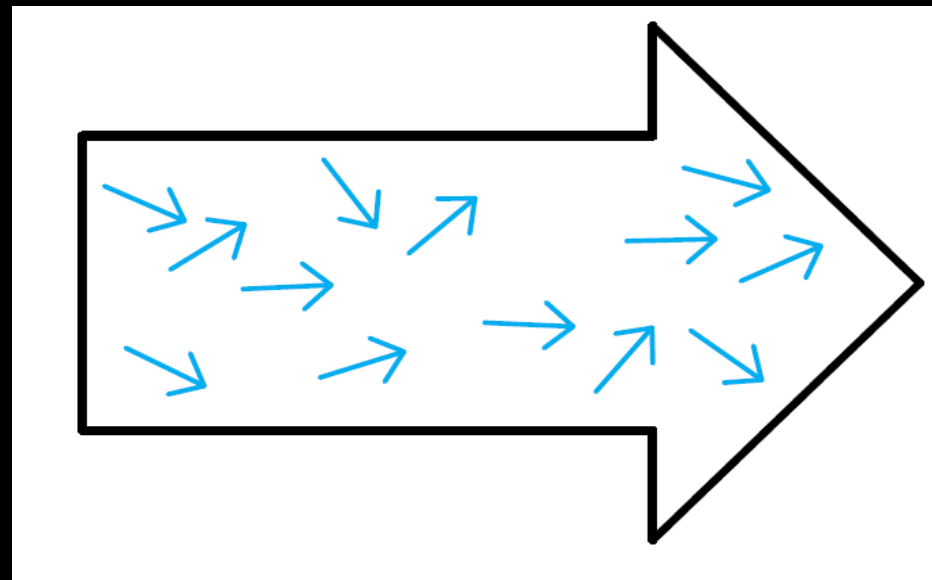
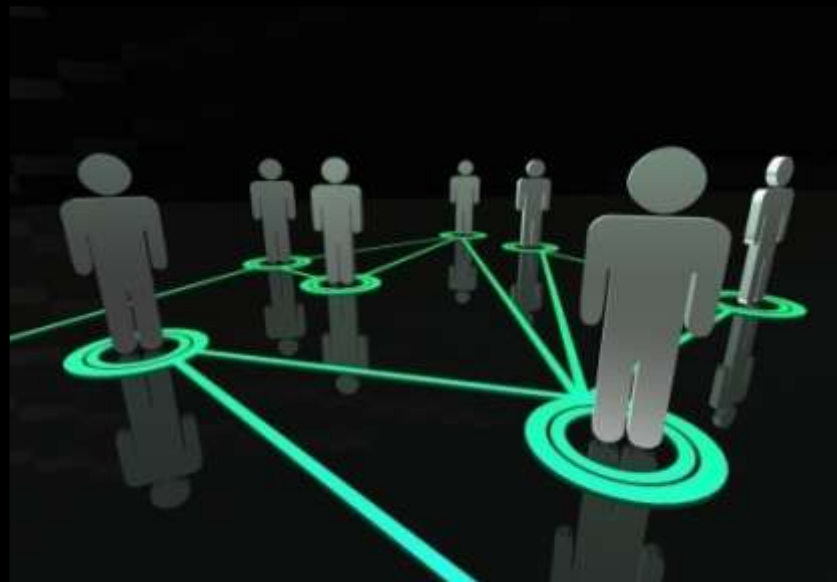
**IMPACT**



## **A Tightly Coupled Institute**

- **new concept for academic research**
- **progressive evolution from traditional “loose federation” of collaborating units to increasingly coordinated integration**
- **alignment (tightly) around shared goals**
- **integration of diverse skills from specialized research centers (coupled)**
- **significant cultural and management transitions**
- **new governance mechanisms for oversight and coordination of project portfolio**
- **performance milestones**

# Progressive Alignment, Shared Goals and a Collective Ethos for Success



# **The Challenge of Radical Change**

- **radical change is disruptive**
- **radical change is threatening**
- **radical change places great demands on individuals**
  - **engaging with unknown/unproven**
  - **adoption of new methods and acquisition of new skills**
  - **mastery of constant ambiguity and doubt**
  - **relentless, and often hostile, opposition from status quo defenders**
  - **untiring advocacy in the face of naysayers, the petty and the malignant**
  - **generosity to commit to activities that don't benefit individuals alone**

# R&D

Where Innovation Begins

## DEPARTMENTS

8 News & Developments

14 Data Management & Analysis

45 Emerging Technologies

[www.rdmag.com](http://www.rdmag.com)



Interdisciplinary Science + Technology II



COC's Emerging Infectious Diseases Lab



Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## 2006 Lab of the Year

Also in this issue:  
**Lab of the  
Future Report**  
*Exclusive*

**ASU** BIODESIGN  
INSTITUTE

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



# Facilities

- on-time, on-budget construction
- building A (opened Dec. 2004)
  - 172,000 sq. ft; \$73 million
- building B
  - 175,000 sq. ft; \$78.5 million
- specialized capabilities
  - low vibration/electromagnetic field zones
  - BSL-3 biocontainment
  - femtosecond laser laboratory
  - vivarium and surgical suites
- high security
  - CDC Select Agent regulations
- LEED Gold (Bldg A) and Platinum (Bldg B) Awards
- over 26 national awards for facility excellence

# **Five Year Accomplishments: Information Technologies**

- **scale, specialization and sophistication**
- **largest IT research infrastructure on ASU campus**
- **53 servers with 238TB total storage**
- **full backup and disaster recovery**
- **adoption as best practices elsewhere in ASU**
- **comprehensive AV capability**
  - **videoconferencing, podcasting, full HD studio**
- **expanding web-based applications**
  - **Institute web site**
  - **intranet services**



## **Five Year Accomplishments: Competitive Funding and Return on Investment**

- **received \$71 million in TRIF funds from ASU**
- **generated \$199 million in external funding**
- **2.8X return-on-investment in 3.7 years**
- **12 patents, 45 patents filed, 122 provisional patent filings, 212 records of invention**
- **catalyzed major reorganization of Arizona Technology Enterprises (AzTE)**



## **Five Year Accomplishments: Robust Administrative Systems and Support Systems**

- **set quantitative performance metrics**
- **parameters for continuous improvement**
- **customer-centric responsiveness**
- **standardization and automation**
- **electronic tracking systems**
- **electronic laboratory notebooks and IP**

## **Five Year Accomplishments: Robust Administrative Systems and Support Systems**

- **Office of Strategic Integration and Research Management**
- **establish comprehensive framework to support cross-disciplinary research teams**
- **significant reform/refinement of ASU policies**
  - **personnel, budgeting, purchasing, audit,**
  - **animal welfare, biosafety**
  - **sponsored research**
  - **standardized CDA/MTA procedures**
  - **clinical trials**
- **employee training and orientation programs**

## **Five Year Accomplishments: Education**

- **design/participate in 10 new ASU courses**
- **new post-doctoral fellowship scheme**
  - **108 fellows**
- **expand research opportunities for ASU students**
  - **316 undergraduates**
  - **174 graduate students**
- **new Ph.D. program in Biological Design**
- **launch new K-12 educational program**

## **Five Year Accomplishments: External Review**

- **crucial importance of external assessment**
  - **quality of research**
  - **progress in meeting performance goals**
  - **rational use of expensive resources**
  - **operational barriers/problems**
- **established worldclass Institute Advisory Board (IAB)**
  - **11 members of National Academies**
  - **1 Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine**



## Advisory Board

★ = National Academy Member

✪ = Nobel Laureate

### Chairman:

- ★ Dr. Stephen Benkovic, Professor; Eberly Chair in Chemistry — Penn State

### Members:

- ★ Dr. Allen J. Bard, Director, Laboratory of Electrochemistry — UT at Austin
- ★ Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi, T. Z. & Irmgard Chu Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry  
University of California, Berkeley
- ★ Dr. Charles R. Cantor, CSO — Sequenom, Inc.
- ★ Dr. John Donoghue, Professor of Neuroscience  
Division of Biology & Medicine — Brown University
- ★ Dr. David Eisenberg, Director, Institute for Genomics and Proteomics — UCLA
- ★ Dr. Larry Gold, Chairman and CSO — SomaLogic, Boulder, CO
- ✪★ Dr. Lee Hartwell, President and Director — Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA
- ★ Dr. Daniel Nocera, W. M. Keck Professor of Energy & Professor of Chemistry — MIT
- ★ Dr. James Rothman, Director, Department of Cell Biology, Yale Univ.
- ★ Dr. Lucy Shapiro, Director, Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine; Ludwig Professor of Cancer Research — Stanford University School of Medicine
- ★ Dr. James Wells, President and CSO — Sunesis Pharmaceuticals

# **Five Year Accomplishments: An External Critique**

- **Institute Advisory Board Reports**

**“The Institute has made excellent progress,  
far more than many would have dreamed possible at ASU”**

**December, 2007**

**“The achievements of the Institute in these initial years  
has been remarkable.”**

**March, 2008**

## **Making a Difference by Being Different**

- **vanguard initiatives that differentiate us from the current 'leaders'**
- **mastery of cross-disciplinary research**
  - **organizational, financial and cultural transitions**
- **use-inspired research that excites us plus new sponsors**
- **audacious goals**
- **relentless focus on few high profile target areas in which we can attain worldclass status**

# High Impact Research on Major Global Challenges and Unmet Needs



**personalized medicine**



**outpacing infectious diseases**



**energy and environment**



**securing a safer world**



**synthetic biology**

# Leveraging Technology Convergence for Diverse Applications

**Personalized  
Medicine**



**Outpacing  
Infectious  
Disease**



**Energy  
and  
Environment**



**Securing  
a Safer  
World**



**Synthetic  
Biology**



**Innovative  
Solutions for  
Major Global  
Challenges**

**Unifying  
Technology  
Platforms**

**Unique  
Signatures**

**Signature  
Detection**

**Actionable  
Information**

# Innovative Solutions for Major Global Challenges



**Unifying  
Technology  
Platforms**

**Unique  
Signatures**

**Signature  
Detection**

**Actionable  
Information**

**Objective**

**Profile**

**Sense**

**Act**



# Integrated Functional Platforms to Exploit Technology Convergence

**Identification  
of  
Unique  
Signatures**

**Detection  
of  
Signatures  
in  
Diverse  
Settings**

**Format  
and Transmit  
Actionable  
Information  
for  
Optimum  
Decisions**

**Profile**

**Sense**

**Act**

**Life Sciences  
and  
Mathematical/Statistical  
Tools for  
Complex Signal Analysis**

**Nanotechnology,  
Miniaturization  
Engineering,  
Materials Science**

**Large Scale  
Informatics  
and  
Information  
Architectures**

# Leveraging Common Technology Platforms for Diverse Applications

## Personalized Medicine



## Outpacing Infectious Disease



## Energy and Environment



## Securing a Safer World



## Synthetic Biology



## Unique Signatures

**Molecular Detection Systems: Diagnostics, Sensors & Taggants**

**Remote Monitoring: Wireless and Network Architectures**

**Personalized  
Medicine**

**Vaccines  
Safe Water**

**Bioremediation  
Bioenergy**

**Tag, Track,  
Locate**

**Bio-inspired  
Mfg.**

**Informatics: Complex Signal Deconvolution, Data Formatting & Visualization**

## Apollo Projects

- major projects and significant interdisciplinary collaboration
- dedicated project management resources
- supported by significant external funding

## Gemini Projects

- maturing high profile projects with anticipated progression to Apollo status 18-24 months
- mixture of internal (TRIF) and external funding

## Frontier Projects

- highly innovative concepts that require confirmatory data to attract external funding
- 'seed' funding for one year

## Core Technologies

- advanced technologies that support multiple Apollo and/or Gemini Projects

# Innovative Solutions for Global Challenges

**Personalized  
Medicine**



**Outpacing  
Infectious  
Disease**



**Energy  
and  
Environment**



**Securing  
a Safer  
World**



**Synthetic  
Biology**



## Apollo Projects

- Point-of-Care Molecular Diagnostics
- Partnership for Personalized Medicine
- Cancer Vaccines

- New Era Vaccine Technologies

- Tubes-in-the-Desert

- Forensic Profiler

- Living Systems Engineering
- Bio-inspired Design, Assembly and Manufacturing

# Innovative Solutions for Global Challenges

**Personalized  
Medicine**



**Outpacing  
Infectious  
Disease**



**Energy  
and  
Environment**



**Securing  
a Safer  
World**



**Synthetic  
Biology**



## Gemini Projects

- DNA Scaffolding\*
- Next Generation DNA sequencing\*
- Population Proteomics\*
- Dark Genome

- Synthetic Genomics for Immunization\*

- Biohydrogen\*
- Molecular Photovoltaics\*
- Biomimetic Fuel Cells\*

- Dirty Bomb DX\*
- Nanowires\*
- Sensors for Explosives Detection\*
- On Body: In Body Sensors (OBIBs)

- Ecogenomics\*
- Metagenomics\*
- Dark Genome

\* = external funding  
to supplement TRIF

## **Technology Core Platforms**

**Sophisticated Planning and Integration for  
End-to-End Solutions**

**New Expertise in Project Management**



# R&D Competencies for Bioinspired Energy Production and Bioremediation

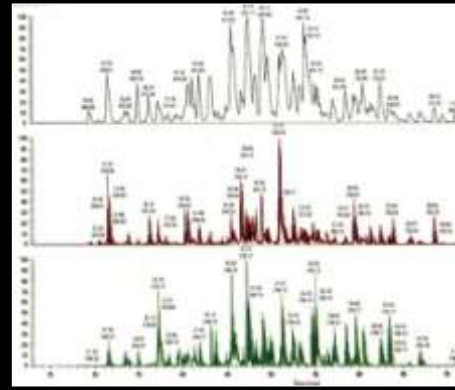
systems biology and  
synthetic biology



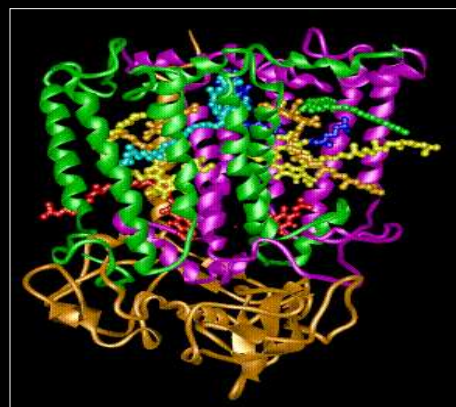
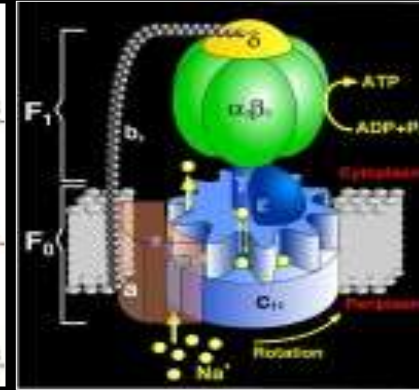
protein engineering,  
directed evolution  
and enzymology



high throughput  
assay automation



computing and  
systems modeling



molecular  
bioenergetics  
and  
biological physics



directed  
molecular assembly



bioprocess  
engineering

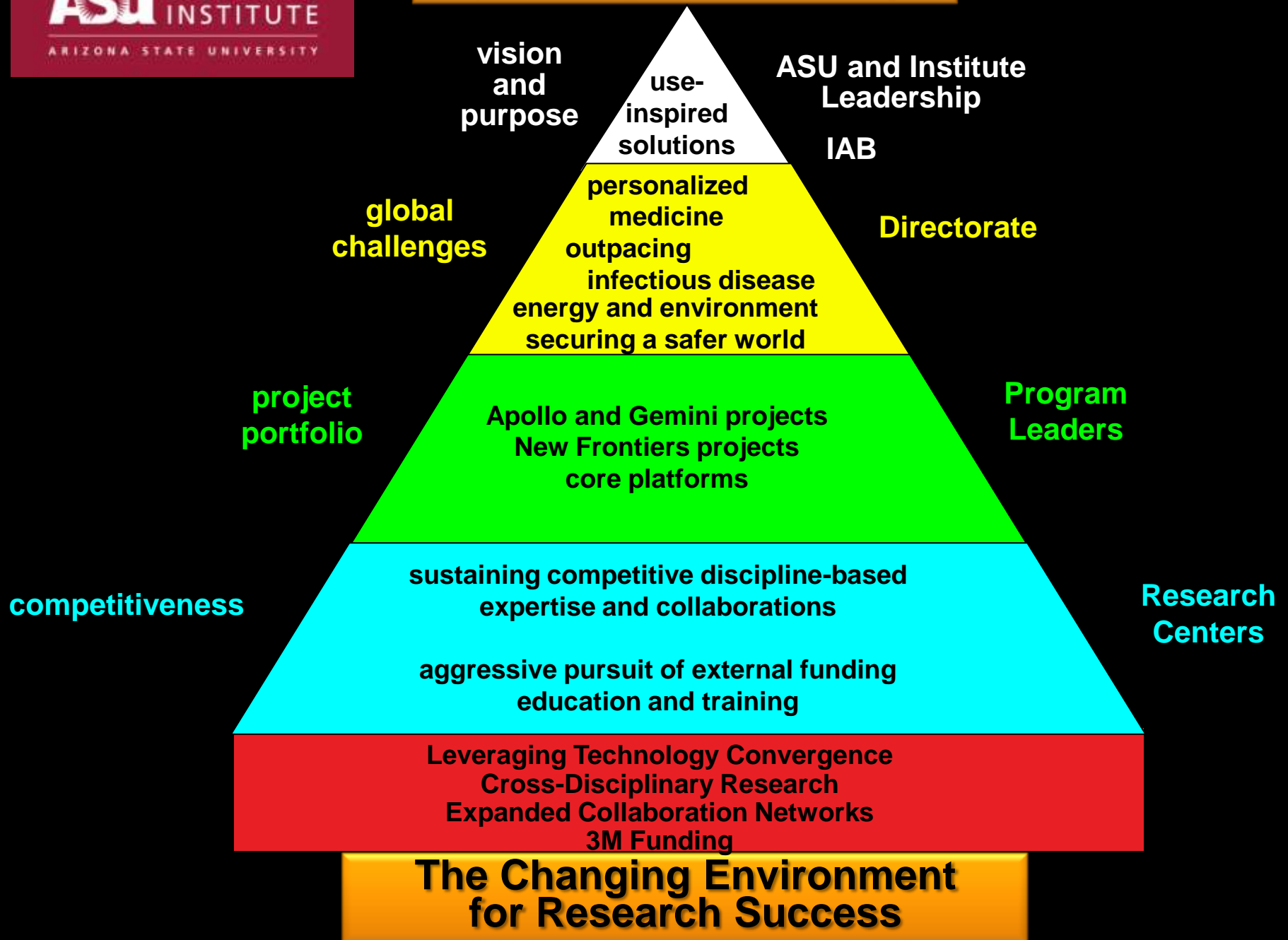


proof-of-concept  
for  
industrial interest

**Systems-Based R&D: Obligate Focus on End-to-End Solutions**

**Intellectual Property (IP): Building an IP Fortress**

## Impact on Global Challenges





## Research fusion

ASU is launching a major new initiative that will revolutionize academic research through the innovative convergence of science, engineering, social sciences and computing – building on the intellectual principles of success pioneered by ASU's Biodesign Institute.

*Excellence*

# **The Complex Adaptive Systems Initiative (CASI)**

- **both exemplar and a catalyst to expand use-inspired, cross-disciplinary research more broadly at ASU**
- **leveraging Biodesign's success to launch additional research initiatives in which ASU can achieve worldclass status**
  - **focus on nascent, emerging areas arising from the 'convergence' of previously distinct research domains**
- **draw upon substantial but dispersed expertise at ASU**



# Design Principles in Complex Adaptive Systems

- understanding connectivity patterns and unitary organizational principles in seemingly highly different entities
- ultimate resolution as patterns of information flow
  - “it from bits”
  - “the ecology of information networks”
  - “the ecology of knowledge”
- overarching and unifying concept for the integration of knowledge
  - science, technology, humanities, law, social sciences, business

**Robo-**

**Cogno-**

**Info-**

**CONVERGENCE**

new interaction  
patterns and  
complex adaptive  
- systems

**Eco-**

**Nano-**

**Bio-**

# EMERGENCE

- new strategic spaces

- new strategic surprises?

technology acceleration

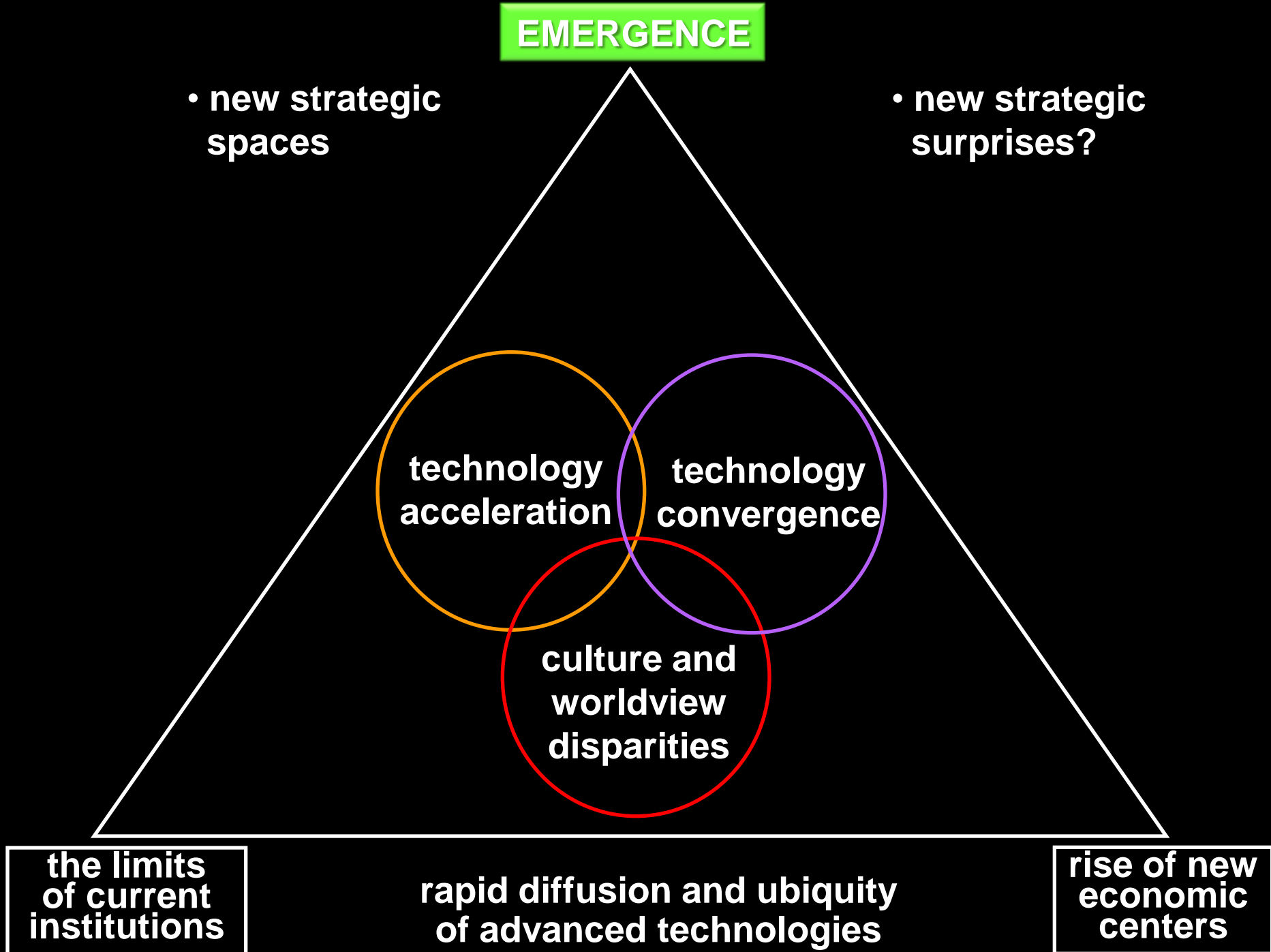
technology convergence

culture and worldview disparities

the limits of current institutions

rapid diffusion and ubiquity of advanced technologies

rise of new economic centers



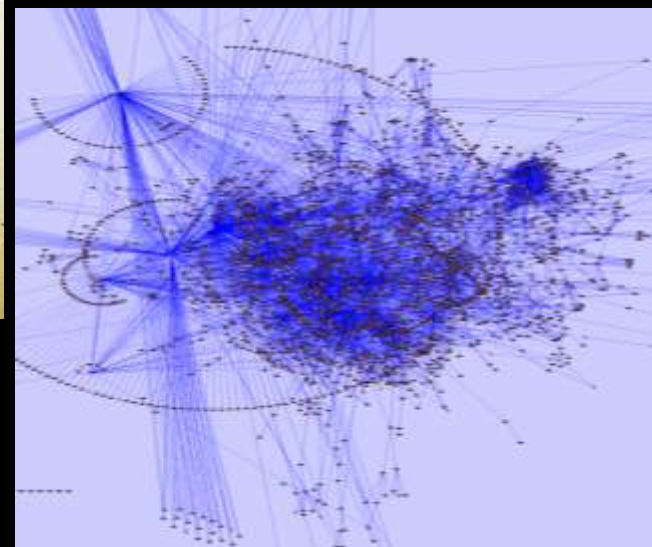
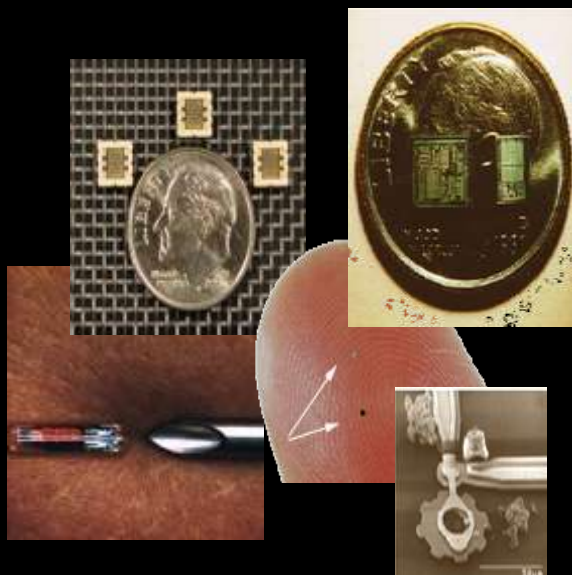
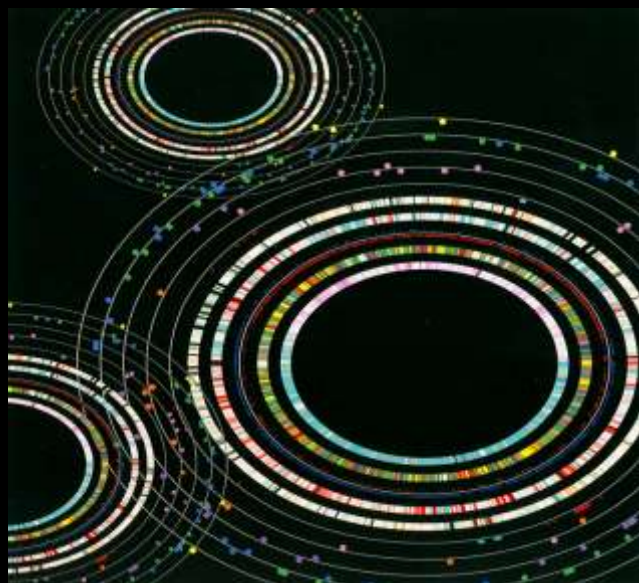


# Initial Research Areas for CASI

## Synthetic Biology

## Ubiquitous Sensing

## CAS Modeling and Simulation



- Engineering of Biological Networks

- Remote Monitoring for Healthcare and Environmental Sustainability

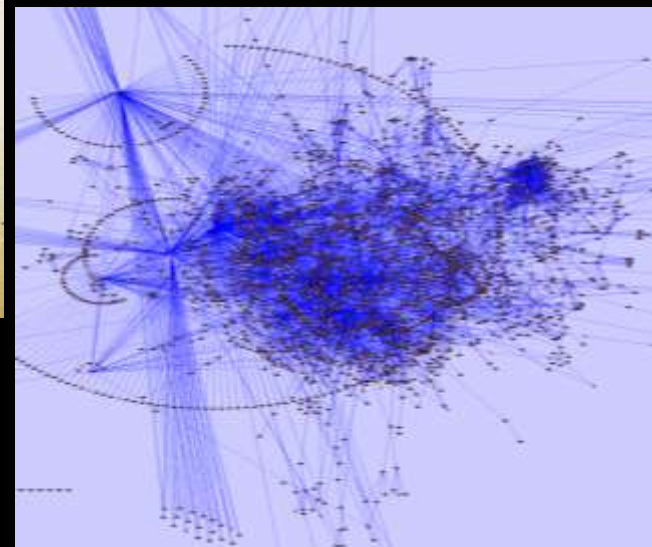
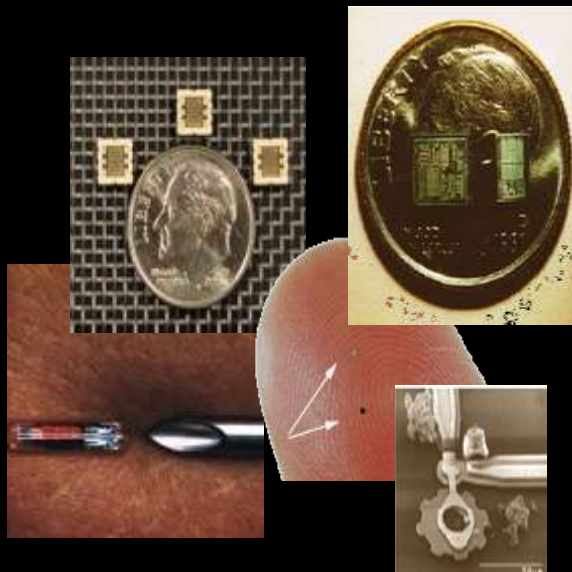
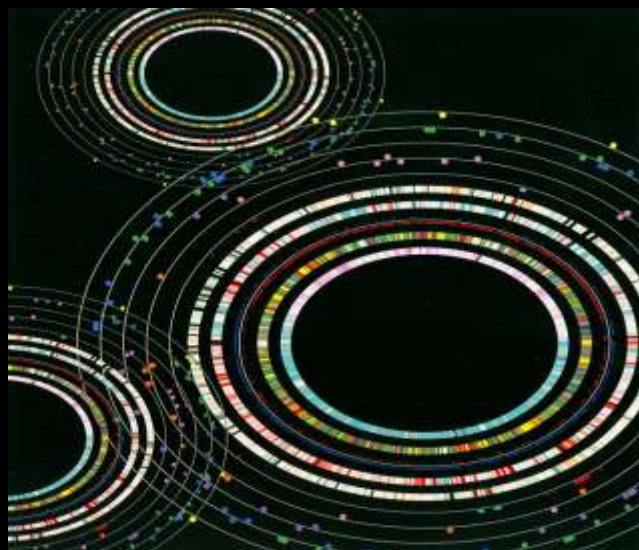
- Advanced Medical Diagnostics and Healthcare Information Systems

# Initial Research Areas for CASI

## Synthetic Biology

## Ubiquitous Sensing

## CAS Modeling and Simulation



- Engineering of Biological Networks

- Remote Monitoring for Healthcare and Environmental Sustainability

- Advanced Medical Diagnostics and Healthcare Information Systems

**Dual-Use Complexity**  
**Science and Industrial Policy, Regulation and Oversight**  
**Socio-Cultural, Ethical and Legal Implications**



# Synthetic Biology

- emerging technology with myriad applications across diverse industrial sectors

**Healthcare**



**Public  
Health**



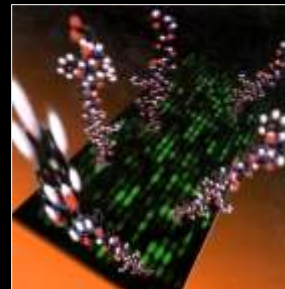
**Agriculture**



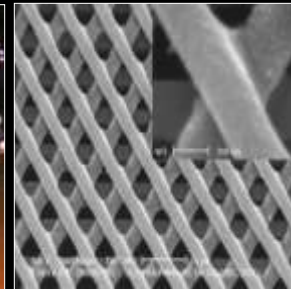
**Functional  
Foods**



**Novel  
Materials**



**Textiles**



**Bioenergy  
and  
Biofuels**



**Industrial  
Enzymes**



**'Green'  
Mfg**



**Bio-  
remediation**



**Clean  
Water**



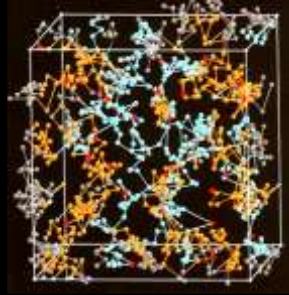
**Ubiquitous  
Sensors**

# **Synthetic Biology: Inter-disciplinary Convergence and Complex Policy Issues**

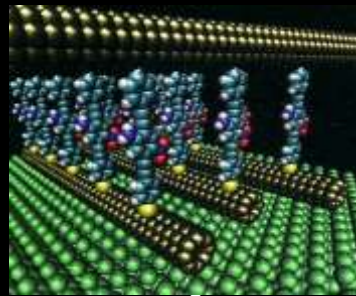
**Systems  
Biology**



**Computational  
Biology**



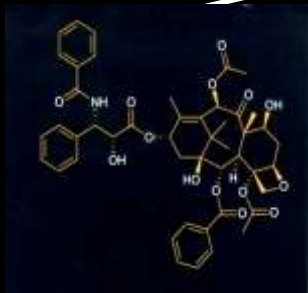
**Materials and  
Nanobiotechnology**



**Industrial Bioprocess  
Engineering**



**Specific Applications**



**Occupational  
Safety**



**Dual-Use  
Applications**



**Public and Media  
Responses**



**Public Policy and  
Regulatory Oversight**

# Meta-Planning for Synthetic Biology

**ASU** BIODESIGN  
INSTITUTE  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

- metagenomics
- ecogenomics
- biobricks\*
- biofoundry\*

**Astrobiology\***

BEYOND

School of  
Earth and  
Space  
Exploration

**biogeochemistry**

- materials\*
- bioengineering\*

- chemistry
- physics
- mathematics

**ASU** COLLEGE of  
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

- pattern analysis
- simulation of  
complex systems

**sustainability  
initiatives\***

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

GLOBAL INSTITUTE  
of SUSTAINABILITY  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR  
COLLEGE OF LAW  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

**ethics/science  
policy/regulation**

CONSORTIUM FOR SCIENCE, POLICY & OUTCOMES  
AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

\* major opportunity for 3M collaboration(s)



# The Infocosm: Emerging Networks of Global Connectivity

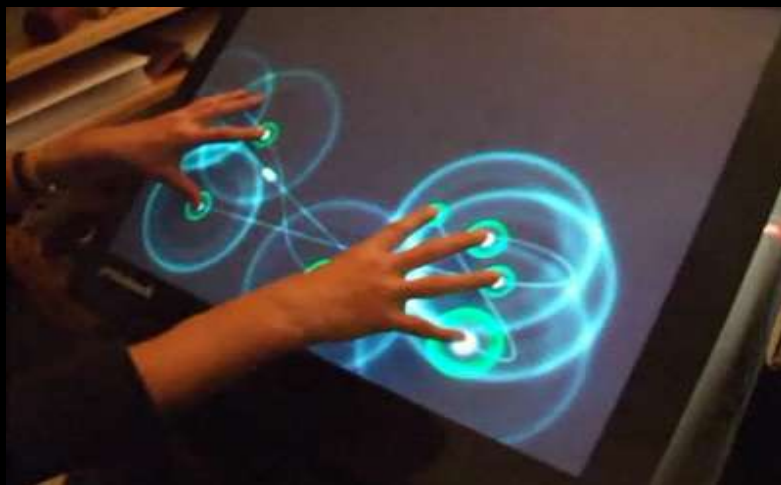
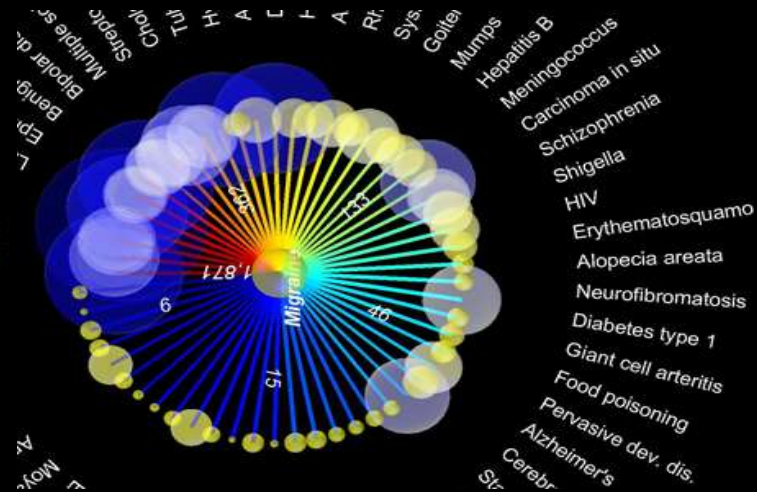
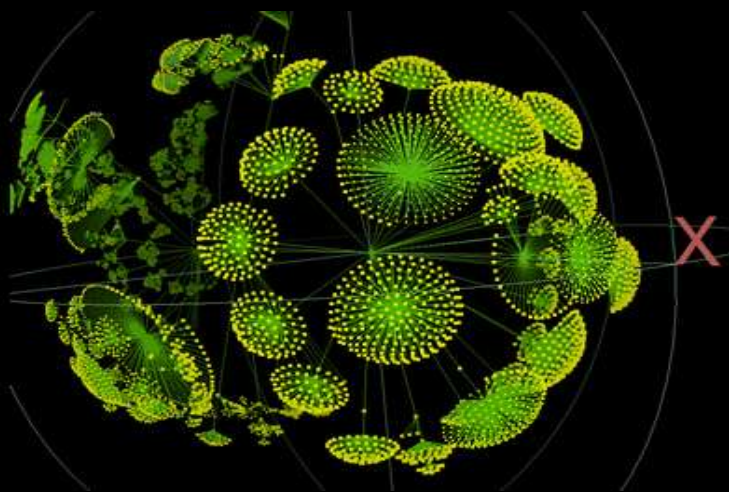




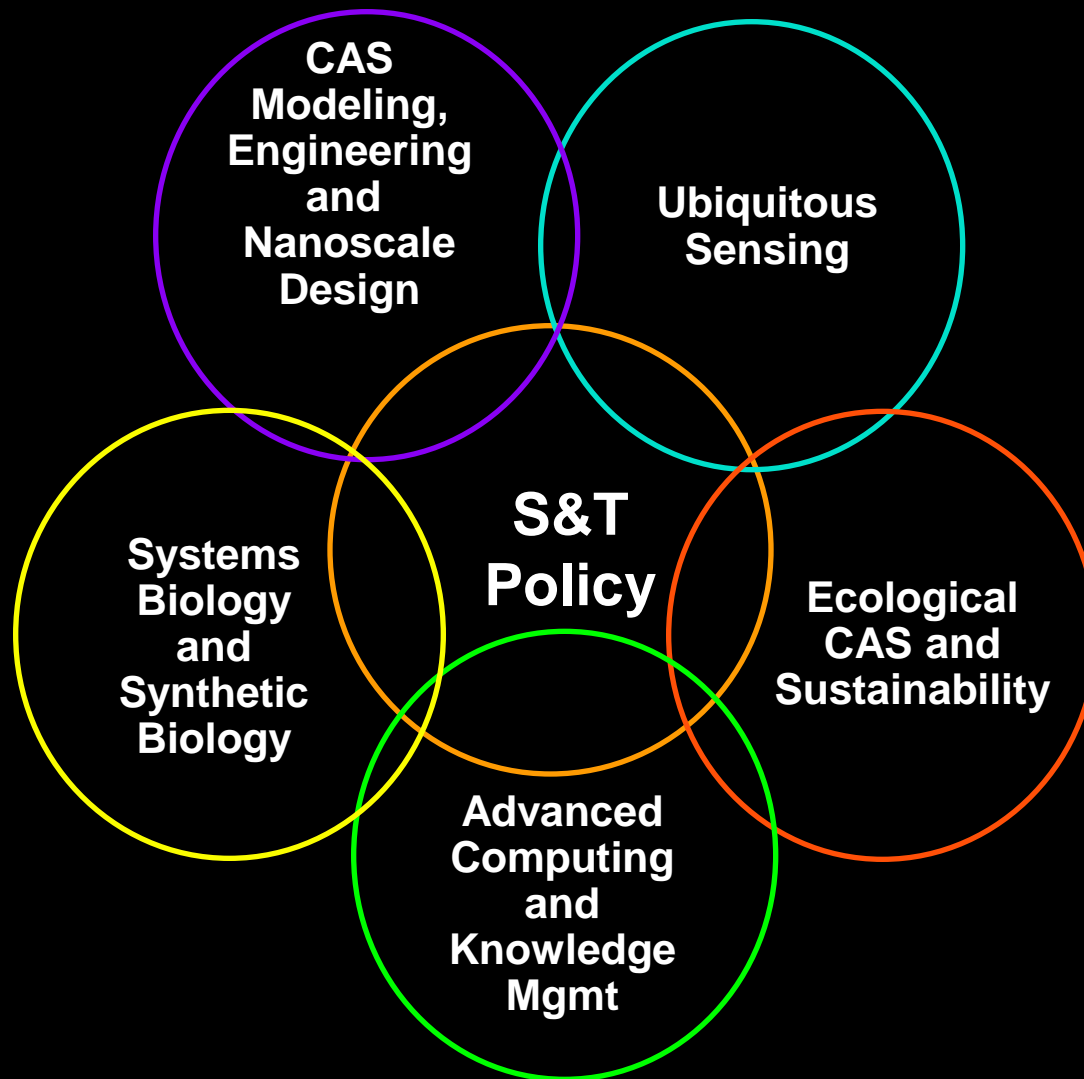
# **Ubiquitous Sensing and Ambient Intelligence: A Burgeoning Infocosm and An Expanding Metaverse**

- **everything is a reporter**
- **everything goes everywhere**
- **everybody sees everything**
- **everything moves fast**

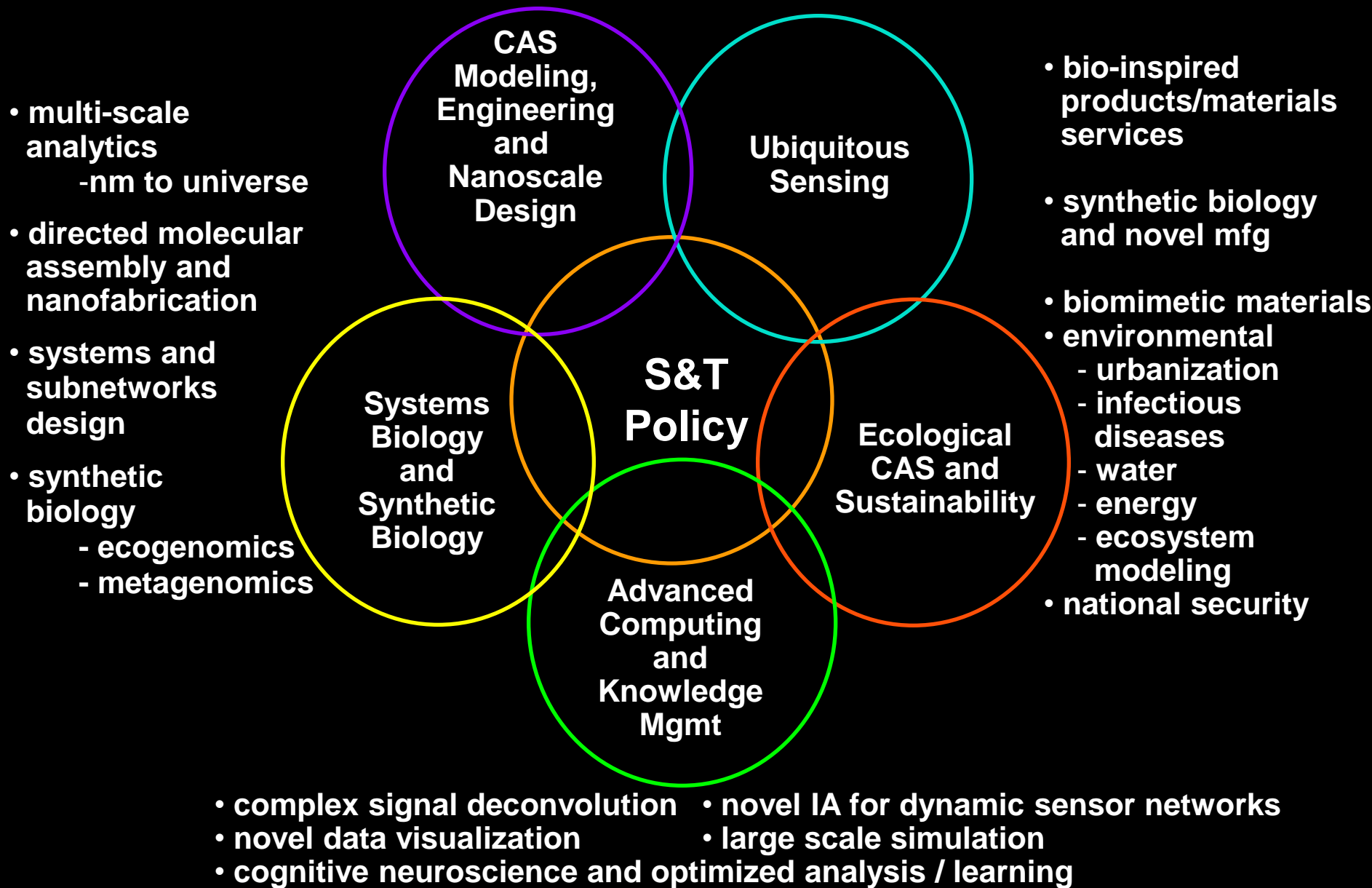
# Design of Context-Dependent Data Mining and Visualization Tools and Integration with Advances in Cognitive Biology



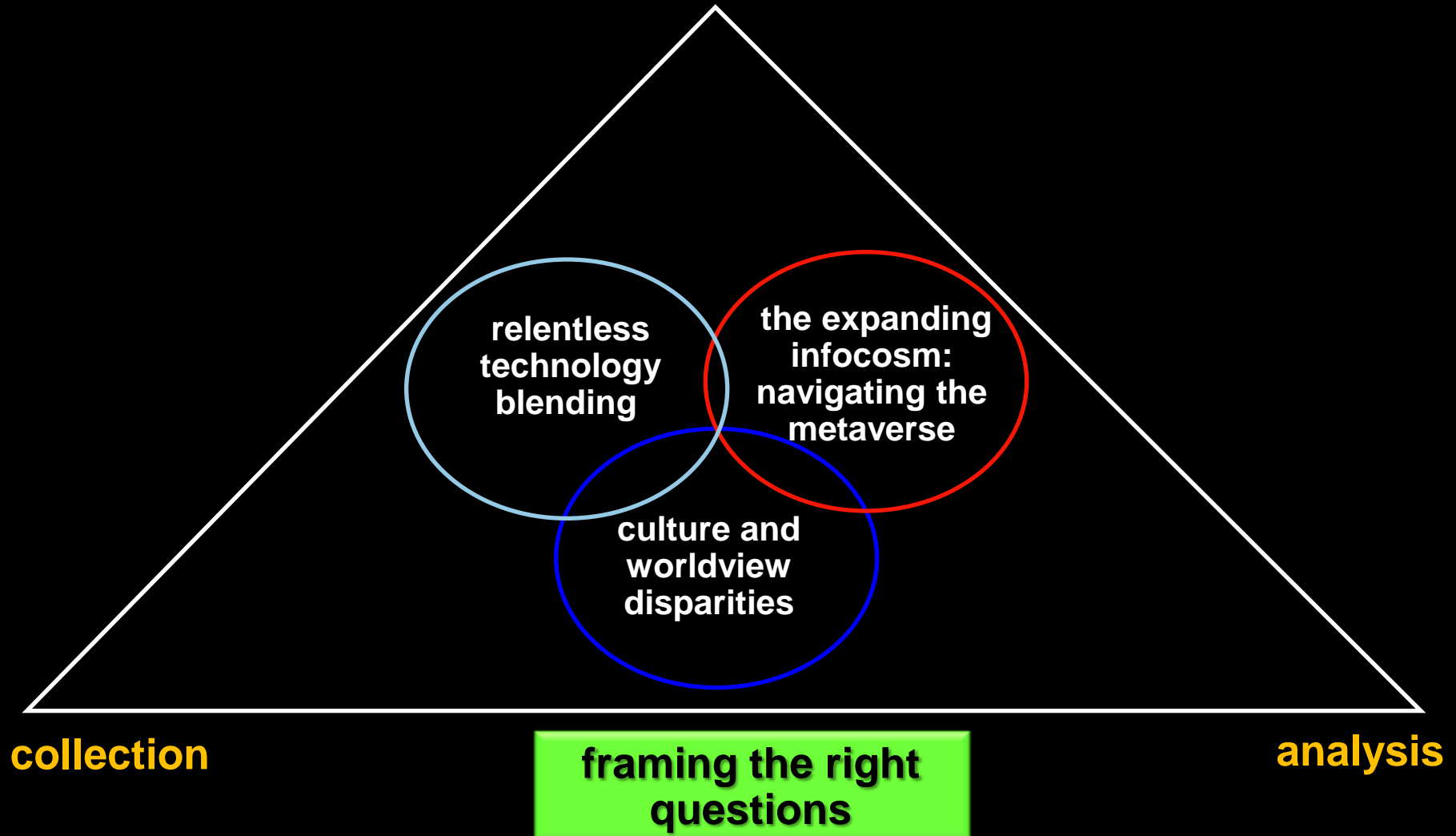
# Integrated Components for Understanding the Design Principles of Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS)



# Integrated Components for Understanding the Design Principles of Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS)



**strategy, policy and solutions**



# Future Thinking for Thinking About the Future

- what is possible?
- what is probable?
- what is preferable?
- what is preventable?



- how do we develop and apply new tools to understand complex systems
  - scientific research
  - technological solutions
  - institutional reform
  - education and training



**Intellectual  
“Grand Challenges”**

**Pragmatic  
“Real World  
Challenges”**

**Competency,  
Courage and  
Commitment  
to  
Engage Complex  
Issues**

**“Urgency”**

**“Focus and Resolve”**

**“Passion and Purpose”**