Introduction

The Birck Nanotechnology Center (BNC) will be housed in a new $58 million state-of-the-art building being constructed in Discovery Park on the western portion of the WL campus. This building will house one of the most advanced nanotechnology research facilities in the world, with specialized laboratories for nanoscale chemistry, physics, and biology; semiconductor-grade cleanrooms; and office space for faculty, post-docs, and graduate students from various disciplines across campus. Even though the building will not be occupied until spring 2005, the Center is being organized now. Operation is being supported over the first three years by a $9 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, and the majority of these funds will be used to purchase new equipment for nanoscale research. A smaller amount will also be available as seed funding for promising new research concepts in nanotechnology. Members of the BNC will be eligible to apply for equipment grants and research initiation grants from the BNC, beginning immediately.

Benefits of Membership.

Members of the BNC are eligible to apply for...

- equipment grants from the BNC (available now)
- research funding from the BNC (available now)
- office space in the BNC building (available spring 2005)
- laboratory space in the BNC building (available spring 2005)
- access to cleanrooms in the BNC (available spring 2005)

In addition, the BNC will provide a professional staff to...

- offer training and perform routine maintenance on equipment
- operate equipment as “expert users” as a service for other researchers

Responsibilities of Membership.

Members of the BNC agree to...

- Acknowledge affiliation with the BNC on all publications and presentations related to work performed in the BNC or using BNC equipment. Example:

  Title of Research Paper or Report
  First Author, Second Author, etc.
  Department of Physical Biochemistry
  and Birck Nanotechnology Center
  Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

- Maintain an up-to-date record of papers, presentations, students, collaborations, proposals, and research grants that involve work performed in the BNC or using BNC equipment.
- Participate in the scholarly activities and contribute to the intellectual climate of the BNC.
- Abide by policies governing space and equipment in the BNC (see below).
Birck Nanotechnology Center
Policies Governing Space and Equipment

20 October 2003

• Laboratory space and office space in the BNC building will be assigned by the Directors, in consultation with the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC).

• Occupants of the BNC building must maintain an active research program that utilizes equipment in the BNC, or that benefit from close interaction with other occupants of the BNC.

• It is expected that laboratory space and equipment in the BNC will be open to all qualified users, except in cases where such access adversely affects the cleanliness, safety, or functionality of the space or equipment.

• Each laboratory and each item of equipment will be assigned a “person-in-charge” (PIC). The PIC will be the faculty member (or designee) most intimately involved with the use of the space or equipment. The PIC will establish rules governing access to the laboratory or equipment, including training requirements, scheduling, operational procedures, functional restrictions, etc. Such rules are subject to approval by the BNC Directors, in consultation with the IAC.

• In cases where equipment is shared by a large number of users, a user fee will be established to prorate the cost of maintenance among users proportional to their actual usage. The fee will be established by the PIC and business office, subject to approval by the BNC Directors, and will not exceed the actual per-use maintenance cost of that equipment. If a piece of equipment is restricted to a small group of users, that group can elect to provide their own maintenance. In such cases, no user fee will be charged.

• The BNC Directors will act as PICs of the cleanrooms and will establish regulations governing access, training requirements, operational protocols, and sanctions for violation of operating rules.

• To support operating expenses of the cleanrooms, a small per-semester clean room access fee will be charged. In cases where these fees would inhibit users from utilizing the facilities, users can apply to the BNC Directors for a waiver of fees. Each such request will be considered on an individual basis.
Birck Nanotechnology Center
Procedures Governing Equipment Grants

20 October 2003

• Members of the BNC can submit proposals for equipment grants from the BNC. The BNC has allocated funds for equipment purchases over the first three years of operation (beginning now). Some of these funds will be used for new faculty start-up packages and some for existing faculty.

• The BNC Directors, in consultation with the BNC Internal Advisory Committee, will establish selection criteria, review submitted proposals, and make recommendations for awards. Funding decisions will be made by the Director of Discovery Park, based on recommendations of the BNC Directors and the Discovery Park Executive Committee.

• Equipment proposals will be solicited (via a call-for-proposals), reviewed, and funded quarterly. Proposals not funded in a given quarter may be resubmitted for consideration in a later quarter.

• Equipment proposals should include an explanation of how the research will advance the mission of Discovery Park and foster collaborative interdisciplinary research. Information on the potential for attracting additional research funding should also be provided. The proposal should be supported by statements from both the Department Head and Dean. The proposal should also identify where the equipment will be housed until the BNC building is occupied. Proposals will be evaluated based on: (i) the quality of the proposed research, (ii) how the equipment will impact the research areas in the BNC, and (iii) the potential for enhancing the mission of Discovery Park.

• Requests for start-up grants for new faculty may be submitted at any time, and will receive priority consideration. Requests should include an explanation of how the research will advance the mission of Discovery Park and foster collaborative interdisciplinary research. Information on the potential for attracting additional research funding should also be provided. The proposal should be supported by statements from both the Department Head and Dean. These statements should provide the total funding package for the candidate, with other sources of support identified if possible. The proposal should also identify where the equipment will be housed until the BNC building is occupied. Proposals will be evaluated based on: (i) the quality of the proposed research, (ii) how the equipment will impact the research areas in the BNC, and (iii) the potential for enhancing the mission of Discovery Park. Decisions on start-up requests will normally be made within 15 days.
• Members of the BNC can submit proposals for internal research grants from the BNC. Preference will be given to new interdisciplinary initiatives that show promise for significant breakthroughs. The BNC has allocated funds for internal research grants over the first three years of operation (beginning now), and additional funding is currently being sought.

• The BNC Directors, in consultation with the BNC Internal Advisory Committee, will establish selection criteria, review submitted proposals, and make recommendations for awards. Funding decisions will be approved by the Director of Discovery Park, based on recommendations of the BNC Directors and the Discovery Park Executive Committee.

• Proposals may be submitted at any time, and will be reviewed immediately. Decisions will normally be made within 30 days.
I hereby apply for membership in the Birck Nanotechnology Center (BNC) at Purdue University. I certify that I have read the statement of benefits and responsibilities of membership and the policies governing space and equipment in the BNC, and I agree to accept these responsibilities while a member of BNC. Specifically, I agree to acknowledge BNC membership in all publications and presentations involving work performed in the BNC or using BNC equipment; I agree to maintain records of papers, presentations, students, proposals, and research grants that involve work performed in the BNC or using BNC equipment; and I agree to abide by rules and policies governing space and equipment in the BNC.

Please return this signature form to Deborah Starewich (email: bircknano@purdue.edu), BNC, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

Signed

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Printed Name

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Email

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Date