

GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS BEING EXPLORED BY

today's scientists, it's not surprising that the most innovative discoveries often occur at the intersection of disciplines, where the perspectives and expertise of multiple fields are brought to bear on a common problem. Different approaches, new insights and greater understandings can lead to discovery unimaginable within the confines of one discipline.

In this issue, you'll read about remarkable work sparked by connections among experts from different disciplines. Often these connections happen coincidentally, as in the new field of analytic morphomics, and the results can be spectacular. What serendipity has reaped in the past can expand a thousand-fold when the space and way in which we work facilitate and encourage new partnerships and possibilities.

Recently the Medical School, with the College of Engineering, formed the first joint department in the university's history. The Department of Biomedical Engineering will draw upon the world-class strengths of both schools, and formalize a structure of collaboration for the benefit of education, biomedical science and patient care. And at the new Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, researchers from across the U-M and beyond will converge to help solve the vexing problems of health care's present and future.

Such collaborations are a powerful way to accelerate the pace of discovery for the greatest possible impact on human health and well-being.

Sincerely,



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