



ILLUMINATE YOUR RESEARCH

Rules of Life (RoL)
Research Community (RC)

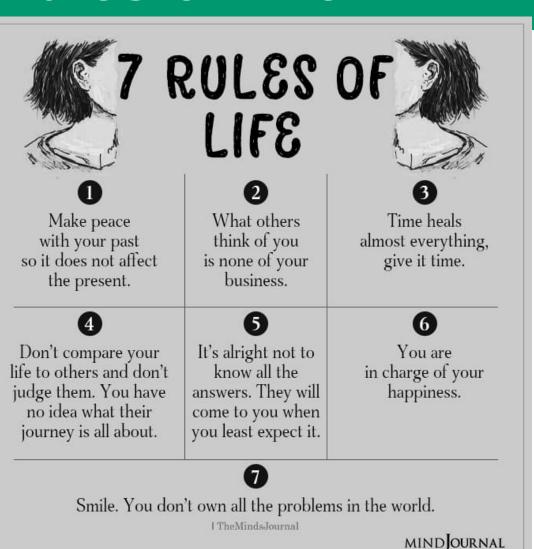
Vinayak P. Dravid

Coordinator

National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure

# The "Other" Rules of Life!



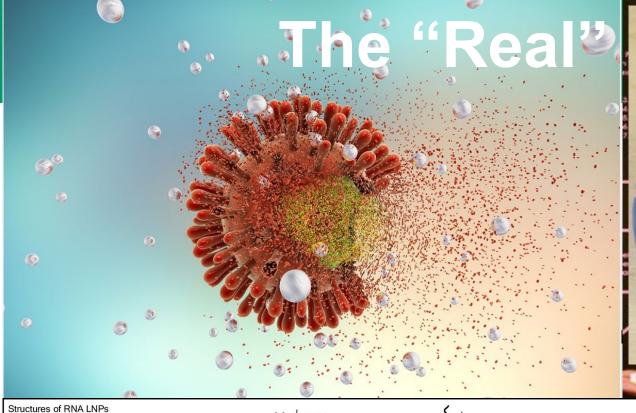




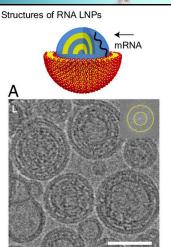


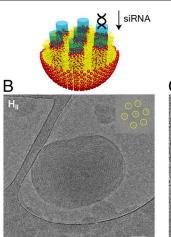
## Rules of Life – NSF Perspective

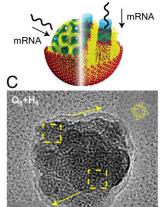
- > To enable discoveries to better understand -- "Rules" as to how life functions
- > To develop research tools & infrastructure
  - To further RoL research
  - The capacity to approach more complex questions than ever before;
- > To train the next generation of researchers to approach scientific inquiry in a way that crosses scales and scientific disciplines related to RoL
- > Foster collaboration & convergent research crossing multiple levels of organization and complexity in key questions related to "life".

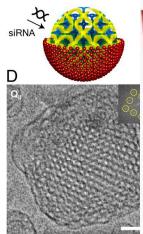


















### Defining & Describing Rules of Life – NSF Programs

- ✓ <u>Understanding the Rules of Life: Emergent Networks (URoL:EN) Predicting Transformation of Living Systems in Evolving Environments</u> (Program Announcement, Feb. 8, 2021)
- ✓ <u>Understanding the Rules of Life: Microbiome Interactions and Mechanisms</u> (<u>URoL:MIM</u>) (Program Announcement, Nov. 25, 2020)
- ✓ <u>Understanding the Rules of Life: Epigenetics</u> (Program Announcement, Nov. 4, 2019)
- ✓ <u>Understanding the Rules of Life: Epigenetics</u> (Program Announcement, Sept. 28, 2018)
- ✓ Understanding the Rules of Life: Building a Synthetic Cell



### In-house Reading

NSF uses Rules of Life research to address societal challenges, from clean water to climate change (NSF News Release, August 8, 2023)

<u>Understanding the Rules of Life Program: Scientific Advancements and Future Opportunities</u> (National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Publication, July 14, 2023)

Reflections on the National Science Foundation's Understanding the Rules of Life Program: Proceedings of a Workshop Series

(National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Publication, July 14, 2023)

<u>Using the Rules of Life to Address Societal Challenges (URoL:ASC)</u> (Program Announcement, Oct. 31, 2022)

Outcomes of Workshop Series on Using the Rules of Life to Address Societal Challenges (Report, Aug. 5, 2022)







### Rules of Life – NNCI/Our Perspective

- > Research tools and infrastructure (Nano for Bio)
  - Metrology in Biology "Measuring" in bio, and as life connects to the world
  - Sensing/diagnostics integrating nano-bio, cargo/delivery, tissue engg
  - Imaging by- and of "Nano-Bio"
- > Themes of NNCI Interest:
  - > Synthetic Biology Imaging tools/methods AI/ML into RoL
  - > Specific technical themes:
    - Diagnostics & sensing, Imaging
    - Unconventional fields: Nano-X (Agriculture, Food, Water etc.)
- > Vendor/Webinar events, training, outreach...
- > Other ideas/plans Continued discussions 2023-24 (Spring '24 Workshop)



### An Assessment of Short-Term Milestones in EBRC's Roadmap, *Engineering Biology*

**VIEW THE ASSESSMENT** 

#### **EBRC Technical Roadmaps**

EBRC Roadmapping is an evergreen process, with new roadmaps available annually.



Engineering Biology (2019)



Microbiome Engineering (2020)



Engineering Biology & Materials Science (2021)



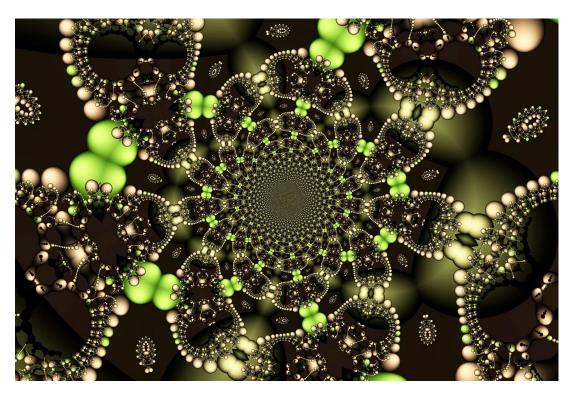
Engineering Biology for Climate & Sustainability (2022)





# Moving Forward.....

### Local RoL Activities, Coordination and Synergy



### **Potential Thrust Areas**

- Innovative (**synthetic biology**) tools and methods for health and environmental monitoring/diagnostics.
- "Road-mapping" for infrastructure and facility needs
- Training/strategy for collaborative culture and education related to RoL
- Networking & collaborations: (Bio-banks, CZ BioHubs, NIH Centers)
- Interdisciplinary education & workforce training

# Discussion

Q & A

Northwestern

University

### Rules of Life - Research Community: Plans & Ideas

- > Research tools, methods & infrastructure
  - Core ideas
    - o Diagnostics/Sensing: e.g., integrating biology with microelectronics/fab
    - o *Imaging:* 
      - Nano-enabled : Molecules to Mice; Atoms to Animals
      - Cryo/Bio Microscopy & Characterization
    - Infrastructure for SynBio Fab analogy Road-mapping,
    - RoL in unconventional fields and intersections:
      - Agriculture, food/water, enviro, extra-terrestrial/Space, AstroBio.
  - Activities: Technical Themes/Seminars: Challenges in RoL Infrastructure/Facilities
- > Teaching/Training, Public/Societal Outreach/Impact:
  - Museum/public Institutions, gardens and eco-parks
  - Workforce development, community engagement/related

