FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second issue of the Life Sciences Institute’s annual magazine. I’m honored and excited by the opportunity to join such an amazing group of scientists at the LSI and across the campus. And I’m looking forward to working with this strong community to build on the institute’s success as we map the trajectory of our second decade.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to faculty member Stephen Weiss for his strong leadership as interim director.

In this issue, you’ll read about some of our recent research efforts. Our cover story, “Sense & Sense Ability,” takes readers inside the lab of faculty member Shawn Xu, who is unraveling the scientific mysteries of the senses and their connection to human health.

In “Of Flies, Mice and Men,” faculty member Ivan Maillard discusses an international research collaboration that seeks to prevent a deadly complication of bone marrow transplantation.

We also take a look at how the interdepartmental chemical biology graduate program — which is administratively housed at the LSI and directed by faculty member Anna Mapp — allows students to break through institutional silos and cross-disciplinary boundaries.

Also in this issue, you’ll learn more about efforts to fight the Zika virus using structural biology and hear a little bit more about me and my vision for the institute.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions at lsi-news@umich.edu.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Cone, Ph.D.

Mary Sue Coleman Director,
Life Sciences Institute