

# Biology

▶ Many topics that are of global importance, such as human health, evolution, genomics, and data science, are based in the biological sciences and drive interest in the University of Rochester's Department of Biology. Here, students can explore all aspects of biology, from the molecular structure of cells to large-scale evolutionary changes.

Students are attracted to Rochester's biology program for its breadth, collaborative approach, access to world-class professors, and myriad research opportunities on the River Campus and at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Students who go through this program are inquisitive, resourceful problem solvers; many of them move on to make significant contributions in basic research as well as the medical community, field of law, and business.

## Points of Pride

### Record Growth

The department's undergraduate population has grown nearly 20

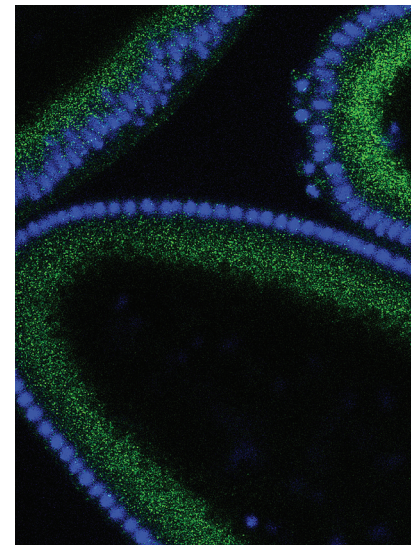
percent over the last few years, and nearly half of incoming freshmen now take biology classes. Over the last 20 years, the department has awarded 125 PhDs.

### Distinguished Faculty

H. Allen Orr, the Shirley Cox Kearns Professor of biology, is the recipient of the Darwin-Wallace Medal, an award that is presented to the leading minds in evolutionary science only once every 50 years. Professor Vera Gorbunova and Assistant Professor Andrei Seluanov have won numerous awards for their pioneering research on the causes of cancer resistance in naked mole rats. For his research on river blindness and on ways to protect crops from parasitic roundworms, Professor John Jaenike has received two Gates Foundation grants.

### Stellar Research

The department is uniquely positioned to leverage the academic strength across the River Campus and the Medical Center. Nearly 80 undergraduate students each year



## Key Research Areas

- Biochemistry
- Cellular biology
- Developmental biology
- Molecular biology
- Evolutionary biology
- Computational biology and bioinformatics
- Genetics

push the boundaries of knowledge by participating in independent research projects.



*“The education I’ve received at Rochester has enabled me to work in a research lab, volunteer in a hospital, intern in health clinics in Cape Town, and study health policy in London. Beyond the specific knowledge I’ve gained here, the school’s rigor and emphasis on hard work will have prepared me well for the future.”*

**Katherine Wegman '15**  
biology and anthropology major



## A Transformative Gift

In 2012, Dr. Nathaniel Wisch '55, and his wife, Helen, established **the Nathaniel and Helen Wisch Professorship in Biology** to help Rochester attract and retain the very best researchers and educators—scholars who will both advance the field of biology and inspire their students. Professor Jack Werren, an expert in evolutionary genetics, was installed as the first holder of the professorship. Their support is extensive and includes an endowed scholarship for students majoring in biology.

## How You Can Help

Gifts to the biology department help create academic and research opportunities for students and faculty that will have a profound effect on human health. Consider any of the following giving opportunities:

### Students

Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at Rochester. Create a new undergraduate scholarship or contribute toward an existing one as these are of vital importance. The Howard Bryant Memorial Scholarship Fund supports an outstanding student with financial needs each year. The de Kiewiet Summer Research Fellowships support hands-on

learning opportunities for undergraduates. Competitive graduate fellowships and stipends are needed to help attract the most qualified students.

### Faculty

Endowed professorships help to attract and retain faculty of exceptional talent and are visible honors recognized across the University and by other top institutions. Investing in endowed professorships gives donors the satisfaction of linking their names or the names of loved ones in perpetuity to academic excellence and innovation.

### Programs

Help move the lab experience to the next level by providing resources to support people and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Or contribute funds to enhance the innovative workshop program, developed at Rochester, that enables peer-to-peer learning and one-to-one interactions for students, teaching assistants, and professors even in large lecture classes. Or fund essential instrumentation that makes computational biology and bioinformatics possible and keeps Rochester competitive within the rapidly growing field of data science.

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better  
[www.rochester.edu/College/BIO](http://www.rochester.edu/College/BIO)



For more information on giving opportunities, please contact  
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