

Biocenter Finland Strategy 2018-2020

Mission statement

Biocenter Finland fosters the renewal and impact of frontier life-science in Finland. It provides state-of-the-art, open-access technologies via its nationwide, research-infrastructure network, in line with the strategic profiles of its member universities.

Framework conditions

Biocenter Finland (BF) is a distributed, nationwide research-infrastructure network, embedded within five biocenters hosted by University of Eastern Finland, University of Helsinki, University of Oulu, University of Tampere, University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University. BF operates as an alliance between these universities, reinforcing their profiles and long-term research priorities.

BF currently oversees twelve technology platforms, Bioinformatics, Biological Imaging, Genome Editing, Genome-wide Methods, Liquid Biopsies, Model Organisms, Proteomics and Metabolomics, Single Cell Omics, Stem Cells, Structural Biology, Translational Technologies and Viral Gene Transfer and Cell Therapy. The addition of new platforms to BF is guided by the needs of the research community, subject to assessment by BF's international scientific advisory board. The platforms operate on an open-access principle.

BF is charged with establishing, developing and coordinating life-science technology services nationally, and with securing the necessary investment from competitive sources, mainly the Academy of Finland - the Finnish Research Council, to purchase and maintain state-of-the-art instrumentation. Personnel costs to operate these facilities are mainly covered by the host universities from their recurrent budgets.

Strategic priorities

- Aligning the BF technology platforms with the research profiles of BF's member universities, thus supporting the implementation of their life-science strategies
- Enhancing national research and infrastructure collaboration, including joint investments, whilst dividing responsibilities and preventing overlaps
- Strategically prioritizing and regularly evaluating the technology platforms, to enhance excellence and enable frontier research
- Co-ordinating with the Finnish nodes of ESFRIs in the Health and Food sectors to promote their use, as well as promoting the use of other international organisations such as the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
- Supporting Finland's Strategy for Research Infrastructures 2014-2020 and maintaining BF's pivotal and well-merited place in the Research Infrastructure Roadmap
- Aligning with relevant national strategies, such as the Growth Strategy for Health and the Genome Strategy, to enhance the societal impact of research findings
- Developing technology services and infrastructure investments that cut across the boundaries of scientific disciplines