

Collaboration between GEM⁴ and MCB

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A new international research consortium, Global Enterprise for Micro-Mechanics and Molecular Medicine (GEM⁴) was established on October 12, 2005 in Cambridge, MA, aiming to create a global forum for the definition and exploration of grand challenges and scientific studies, for the cross-fertilization of ideas among engineers, life scientists and medical professionals, and for the development of novel educational tools. GEM⁴ (www.gem4.org) presents a new paradigm in global interactions among leading institutions to work together seamlessly across the boundaries of science, engineering, technology, medicine, and public health. With a significant focus on cell and molecular biomechanics, and environmental health, in the context of select human diseases, GEM⁴ will launch international research projects on infectious diseases such as malaria, metastatic invasions of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and the biomechanical origins of inflammation. GEM⁴ will also organize summers schools on cell and molecular biomechanics in medicine, and sponsor major international conferences on cancer research, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular disease.

It is very clear that the vision and research focus of GEM⁴ are consistent with the aims and scope of MCB, and the collaboration between GEM⁴ and MCB will be mutually beneficial. Therefore, we have decided to have a formal collaboration between MCB and GEM⁴. Specifically, starting from this issue, GEM⁴ will have its name and logo on the cover of the MCB journal, and encourages its members to submit quality papers in cell and molecular biomechanics to MCB. The GEM⁴ website will provide a link to the MCB website, and vice versa. Making a concerted effort with GEM⁴, MCB will publish special issues based on GEM⁴-sponsored workshops and conferences in the area of cell and molecular biomechanics and its application to infectious diseases, cancer studies, cardiovascular research, and inflammation. MCB will also provide a forum for publishing specific review articles that will be useful as teaching material. It

is our hope that, working together, MCB and GEM⁴ will generate a huge impact on the development of cell and molecular biomechanics, and the related disease studies.

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