***Institute of Neuroscience******(ION):*** The Institute constitutes a group of biologists, psychologists, mathematicians, and human physiologists that all study fundamental questions in neuroscience. The majority of all ION labs are located within one building (Lewis Integrative Science Building (LISB)), and open onto an atrium connecting them with Cognitive Neuroscience laboratories, including an in-house dedicated fMRI center, and the Neuroinformatics Center. In addition to individual labs, the building has shared space housing a computer room; and an electronics workshop and stations for brain extraction, tissue processing and imaging; and a 650 sq. ft. mesoscope core facility that includes 12 mouse behavior boxes, adjacent to a dedicated room containing the Thorlabs mesocope. This design, in which all PIs and personnel are in adjoining space, tremendously enhances communication, collaboration, and creativity.

The complex is also connected to buildings for the departments of Computer Science and Physics, housing research groups focused on machine learning and biophysics. The co-localization of computational, systems, and cognitive neuroscience research groups, along with molecular biology, developmental neuroscience, and materials science on other floors, provides a unique environment to study the neural mechanisms underlying perception and cognition. This design enhances communication, collaboration, and creativity.

ION colloquia and seminars are regularly held in LISB or adjacent buildings and provide outstanding exposure to a diverse set of topics and methods in neuroscience. For example, the neuroscience seminar series brings internationally known speakers to campus and spans the range from cellular, developmental, systems, and cognitive neuroscience. The weekly Molecular Biology seminar series centers on transcriptional regulation, chromatin, cell biology, and genomics. Cognitive and systems neuroscience labs also regularly interact through social/science gatherings (e.g., regular “NeuroDinners”), creating a collaborative intellectual community for discussion of hypotheses, results, and current literature, and maintaining an environment that attracts and provides an intellectual community for excellent students and postdocs.