The Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB) was designed to help position Texas A&M at the forefront of the multidisciplinary approach in life sciences, bringing together faculty from different disciplines to engage in research that helps solve complex global problems and provide cutting-edge experiences for students. When it opened in late 2009, a percentage of the research space was left unfinished to allow for maximum flexibility in attracting new faculty, who would gain the uncommon opportunity to outfit laboratories to match precisely the needs of their research programs. In less than two years, that flexibility has lived up to its promise, helping the University secure major funding and top faculty.

2004-2009

- $95 million of bonding authority made available from the Permanent University Fund to begin construction; additional $5 million allocated and approved from Texas A&M for construction.

- Groundbreaking for new facility on May 26, 2006. Then-President Gates states that the new facility would “greatly aid in our recruitment of additional high-quality faculty, in attracting significant new research grants and in enrolling the very best students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.”

- In addition to key research, education, and teaching space, the building would house 30 faculty members and their research teams.

- 30 percent of the potential research space would remain in unfinished, empty, “shell” status in order to ensure that it could later be designed according to the specifications of new faculty. Reason: To expand the University’s ability to attract the world’s best scientists. No funding was set aside for such customizations.

2009

- September 24, 2009, marks the formal opening of the Gold LEED $100 million facility, which features approximately 220,000 gross square feet of naturally-lit space housing laboratories, offices, two atriums, and an auditorium.

- Approximately 30 percent of research space on the second and third floors remains in unfinished “shell” status, to be completed as opportunities arise—with the goal to leverage the space to help attract outstanding new faculty and their research programs.

2010

- Texas A&M secures a competitive $3.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in February 2010, to complete the build-out of the second floor “shell” space with new state-of-the-art laboratories—ultimately making way for space that will accommodate six new research groups, three led by new investigators at Texas A&M.

- The $3.5 million grant from NIH provides for more than 12,000 additional square feet of research space for studies in structural biology, synthetic chemistry, drug discovery, and molecular virology.
- The design process begins for the new laboratory spaces, in collaboration with Texas A&M Facilities Planning and Construction and the architecture team. Process involves a comprehensive evaluation and review by NIH, with an anticipated approval timeline of nine months.

- The ILSB becomes home for four core infrastructure facilities, including the Microscopy and Imaging Center, the X-Ray Diffraction Laboratory, and the Laboratory for Biological Mass Spectrometry.

- These essential basic scientific research facilities support the capacities of the Texas Institute for Genomic Medicine, Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies, and the National Center for Therapeutics and Manufacturing.

2011

- In July 2011, Texas A&M receives final approval from the NIH on the technical plans to complete the build-out of the “shell” research space on the second floor. Texas A&M Facilities Planning & Construction initiates the process to secure a contractor.

  - A contractor is identified and construction on the second floor project commences in fall 2011 with a projected finish of early summer 2012.

- In summer of 2011, the third-floor “shell” space serves as a key factor in the recruitment of three outstanding senior faculty members for the Texas A&M Institute for Neuroscience (TAMIN).

  - A&M System Academic Scholar Enhancement (ASE) Funds ($2.9 million) are approved and allocated to convert the three “shell” spaces on the third floor of ILSB into functional laboratories and research spaces for the incoming TAMIN faculty members.

  - The design phase of the project, which will fully engage the newly recruited faculty members, began in late Summer 2011 with anticipated occupancy in Summer 2012.

Vision Realized

- By summer 2011, less than two years from the opening of the ILSB, a total of $6.4 million in additional funding has been secured to complete the build-out of the second- and third-floor “shell” research spaces, with success in attracting new faculty and research to Texas A&M—thus realizing the original vision for the facility.

- Projections indicate that, at the completion of the two laboratory build-out projects on the second and third floors, the ILSB will be home to 30 faculty-led research programs, with about half of them being new to the Texas A&M community since the ILSB opened. These faculty work across disciplines to conduct research that helps solve complex global problems; mentor and teach students who represent the next generation of researchers; and help drive Texas A&M’s commitment to technology development and commercialization.