Message from iBEST Co-Directors

During 2025/26, iBEST continued to strengthen its multidisciplinary community, supporting approximately 75 researchers and scientists from Toronto Metropolitan University and Unity Health Toronto, along with approximately 121 trainees at the undergraduate, master's, doctoral and postdoctoral levels. The Institute also broadened its disciplinary expertise through the addition of psychology, represented by Dr. M. Natasha Rajah, further expanding the range of perspectives contributing to collaborative health research.

A major highlight of the year was the 2025 iBEST Symposium, *Innovative Biomedical Solutions for Organ Injury*. The event welcomed 167 attendees and featured three keynote speakers, 43 trainee posters, two trainee competitions and six trainee prizes. iBEST also continued its Visiting Lecture Series, hosting 11 speakers and attracting nearly 400 attendees across topics including artificial intelligence, biomedical imaging, therapeutic technologies, smart materials, drug delivery and clinical translation.

Trainee development remained central to iBEST's activities. Throughout the year, trainees participated in research competitions, mentorship and peer-review initiatives, career-development programming, networking opportunities and science outreach. iBEST trainees also helped deliver lab tours and hands-on activities for hundreds of high-school students. Through its continued partnership with the Leacross Foundation, iBEST supported women in STEM through clinically connected summer research experiences across the Institute's network.

iBEST also advanced multidisciplinary collaboration through major funding initiatives, commercialization support and cross-institutional partnerships. These activities included three significant Canada Foundation for Innovation collaborations.

These activities contribute directly to TMU's Scholarly, Research and Creative priorities by advancing health and well-being, strengthening intelligent technologies, creating experiential learning opportunities and connecting academic, clinical and industry partners. Through its longstanding partnership with Unity Health Toronto, iBEST continues to help move research from concept toward clinical application.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, iBEST will focus on strengthening its governance and leadership structure, deepening clinical engagement, building a more connected research community and pursuing new external funding and partnership opportunities.



Dr. Tom Schweizer

Co-Director, iBEST



Dr. Stephen Waldman

Co-Director, iBEST