

Since its formal opening in September 2008, staff and researchers at the Biotron have begun to turn the vision of a vibrant and exciting facility dedicated to climate change research into reality. Leading this process are the Scientific Director, Prof. Jeremy McNeil and the recently appointed Managing Director, Robert Poole.



The Biotron is experiencing growth – literally! From the number of dedicated Biotron staff, to the number of researcher and graduate student users, all the way to the plants and insects in the controlled environmental chambers. Complimenting all this is the great support from many in the Western community who are keen to make the Biotron a success.

Almost all the Biotron is now fully operational. The rooftop Biomes are the last piece in the puzzle – they are the most complex part of the facility and are currently undergoing a rigorous testing process.

The Year in Review

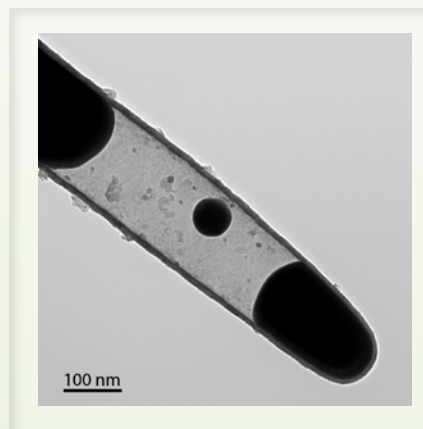
During the 2008/09 period, the Biotron delivered a broad range of microscopy and analytical chemistry services to clients from across Ontario. In addition we hosted a variety of interesting research projects tied to the climate change theme and requiring controlled environments. Word is spreading that the Biotron is now ready for business!

Research at the Biotron included:

- services to 74 Principal Investors leading to 41 publications
- use of Biotron facilities by 19 PhDs, 35 PhD, 22 MSc and 23 Undergraduate students
- hosting 15 visiting scientists, 11 of whom were from Europe, South America, Asia, Australia and the USA.
- A five year Ministry of Research and Innovation project with researchers from Schulich, Engineering and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to develop ginseng agriculture in Ontario.

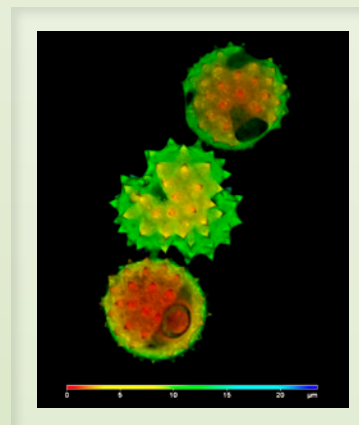
Looking to collaborate...

Having only recently started to operate, we are already asking the question “*what can we do better?*”



Carbon covered Sn nanowire

One thing we quickly identified is that the Biotron offers many opportunities for collaborations and partnerships across a broad spectrum of research needs. These can take many forms, such as pooling of resources, developing joint grant applications or simply finding ways in which we can share information. We are currently involved in discussions for several such initiatives, and will report on these next time.



Pollen grains at 660X