The Center for RNA Biomedicine (CRB) at the University of Michigan was founded in 2016 to catalyze the pivot to rapidly emerging RNAs with functional roles in human disease. Collectively, the members of CRB are leveraging revolutionary new technologies for RNA analysis, ranging from single molecule microscopy to next-generation deep-sequencing, ushering in a bountiful era of discovery research, mechanistic molecular probing and medical translation in RNA biomedicine. The CRB benefits from a 15-year history of an RNA Supergroup at the UM together with the recent growth to >140 research groups across the UM working broadly on RNA. The CRB has raised $500K for our pilot year and will apply for an annual budget through UM’s Office of the Vice president for Research to expand our mission, with the following broader goals ([http://www.umichrna.org](http://www.umichrna.org/)):

* 1. Promote and develop cross-disciplinary collaborations on RNA across campus.
  2. Mentor the next generation of RNA biomedical scientists.
  3. Enrich the UM’s intellectual and training environment around RNA biomedicine.
  4. Leverage and promote the strengths of the UM RNA community, ranging from translational research to single cell and single molecule biophysics, and across RNA mediated diseases such as cancer, neurodegeneration and viral infection.
  5. Provide a central organizational structure to help recruit and develop common resources, including collaborative research grants and shared equipment, as well as domestic and international researchers.

To these ends, the CRB has already implemented the following activities:

1. A biweekly RNA Innovation Seminar series to learn about the breadth of RNA tools and bioscience from across campus.
2. An annual RNA symposium with a mix of external and internal speakers and internal poster presenters; the second symposium was held on March 31, 2017, entitled “RNA in Precision Medicine”.
3. A web-based portal for recruiting postdoctoral fellows and international visiting scholars.
4. A pilot grant program to fund new, trans-disciplinary RNA research projects with broad impact, including translational medical applications (<http://www.umichrna.org/pilot-grants>).

These activities broadly support all RNA researchers across the UM campuses.