

# Constitution of “UTM Bioinnovation Network”

## 1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is **UTM Bioinnovation Network**.

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: **UBIN**.

## 2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the UTM Bioinnovation Network is to foster an interdisciplinary, student-led community dedicated to biotechnology, life sciences, and health innovation through written science communication and digital engagement. The group aims to bridge the gap between complex scientific research and public understanding by producing accessible, well-researched, and engaging written content shared through social media and digital platforms.

Our mission is to empower students interested in biotechnology, research, medicine, and science communication to collaboratively explore emerging scientific topics while developing professional skills in writing, critical analysis, and public engagement.

The objectives of the organization are outlined as follows:

- **Science Communication:** To create high-quality written blog-style passages and educational content that translate complex biotechnology and life science concepts into accessible and engaging language for a broad audience.
- **Educational Engagement:** To promote awareness of current developments in biotechnology, health innovation, and research culture through curated written content, thematic series, and educational campaigns.
- **Professional Development:** To provide members with opportunities to develop skills in scientific writing, editing, research synthesis, and digital communication relevant to academic, clinical, and industry careers.
- **Collaboration and Innovation:** To encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among students from life sciences, health sciences, engineering, and related fields to foster innovative perspectives on biotechnology.
- **Community Building:** To cultivate an inclusive and intellectually stimulating community where members can contribute ideas, publish content, and engage in thoughtful discussion about science and innovation.

### 3. Methods and Approach

The UTM Bioinnovation Network will pursue its objectives through a variety of formats and initiatives, including but not limited to:

- Written blog-style posts and serialized content shared through social media platforms
- Collaborative writing and editorial projects
- Educational campaigns highlighting biotechnology topics, research pathways, and ethical considerations
- Guest features, interviews, and research spotlights where feasible

By combining structured editorial oversight with creative expression, the organization seeks to deliver impactful science communication that is accurate, accessible, and relevant.

### 4. Membership

Membership in the UTM Bioinnovation Network is open to all members of the University of Toronto community, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni. The organization encourages diverse participation to reflect a wide range of academic backgrounds, experiences, and interests.

All University of Toronto members are permitted to:

- Run for executive positions
- Nominate candidates
- Vote in elections and constitutional amendments

Non-U of T members may participate in activities but do not hold the aforementioned rights.

To become a member, individuals must register with a designated executive by providing their full name and a valid email address to ensure effective communication.

The annual membership fee shall be **FREE**, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all interested participants.

### 5. Executive List and Duties

The executive committee shall consist of **five (5) elected officers**, each responsible for the effective operation of the organization.

### **Co-President (Mariam Ayoub)**

- Serve as a principal leader of the UTM Bioinnovation Network, overseeing strategic direction and overall operations
  - Act as a primary spokesperson representing the organization within the university community and externally when appropriate
  - Preside over executive and general meetings, ensuring inclusive and democratic discussion
  - Provide leadership in long-term planning, content direction, and organizational growth
  - Ensure continuity by facilitating smooth transitions between executive teams

### **Co-President (Yousef Ayoub)**

- Share equal leadership responsibilities with the Co-President
- Assume the duties of the Co-President in their absence
- Coordinate initiatives and projects to ensure alignment with the organization's mission
- Oversee compliance with University of Toronto policies and regulations
- Support collaboration among executives, contributors, and committees

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Strategic planning
- External collaboration and outreach

### **Vice President (Karman Boparai)**

- Support the Co-Presidents in managing the organization's internal operations
- Assume the duties of the Co-Presidents when required
- Oversee internal coordination among committees and contributors
- Facilitate recruitment and engagement of general members
- Serve as a liaison between the executive team and the general membership

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Organizing educational initiatives
- Assisting with internal governance and policy adherence

### **Communications & Social Media Director (Tiffany Rohan)**

- Manage the organization's official social media platforms and digital presence
- Oversee the creation, scheduling, and dissemination of written content
- Ensure consistent branding, tone, and messaging across platforms
- Promote initiatives, publications, and member contributions
- Coordinate outreach to increase visibility and engagement

## Research & Editorial Director (Yassmina Mostafa)

- Oversee the editorial process for all written content
- Ensure scientific accuracy, clarity, and credibility of published material
- Coordinate writers, editors, and reviewers
- Develop content guidelines and editorial standards
- Lead research-focused initiatives and thematic content series

## 6. Appointed Positions and Committees

The organization may appoint Directors, Editors, or Coordinators to support specific initiatives or committees. These roles do not hold executive decision-making authority.

## 7. Termination of Executives or General Members

Any member whose actions significantly harm the interests or integrity of the organization may be subject to removal following due process.

The member shall have the right to respond to allegations before the executive committee. Removal requires a **two-thirds majority vote** of members present.

Executive members are subject to the same procedures and may be removed from office and/or membership if deemed necessary.

## 8. Elections

An Elections Committee shall be established annually, led by one (1) Senior Election Officer (SEO) from the general membership.

Elections shall occur annually in March. Candidates must:

- Be U of T members
- Be members in good standing
- Have held membership for at least one (1) month prior to nomination

Voting shall occur on designated weekdays, and results shall be reported transparently to members.

Executive terms shall run from **May 1st to April 30th** of the following year.

## **9. Finances**

The UTM Bioinnovation Network shall operate on a non-commercial basis.

No salaries shall be paid to officers. Any funds raised will be used solely to support organizational initiatives. Financial transparency shall be maintained at all times.

## **10. Meetings**

### **A) General Meetings**

At least two (2) general meetings shall be held per academic year. Members may propose agenda items, and resolutions shall pass by simple majority.

### **B) Executive Meetings**

Executive meetings shall occur at least once per month during the academic year.

### **C) Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of one-third of active members.

## **11. Amendments**

Amendments must be submitted in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to a vote. A **two-thirds majority** is required for passage.

## **12. Dissolution**

The organization may be dissolved by a unanimous executive vote or a two-thirds majority of active members. Remaining assets shall be allocated in accordance with university policy.

## **13. Ratification**

This constitution shall be ratified by a simple majority vote of members present at the inaugural meeting of the UTM Bioinnovation Network.