

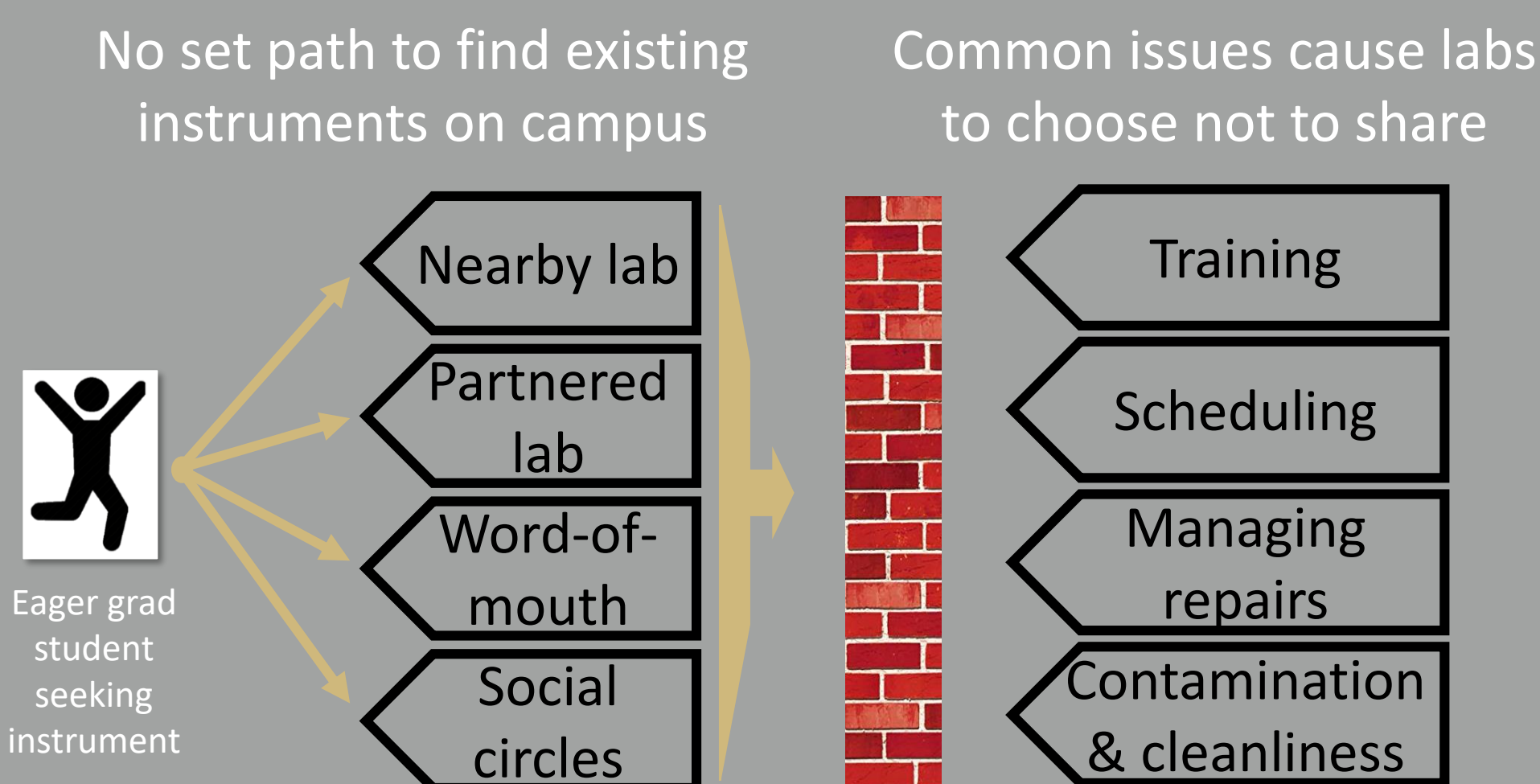
Establishing a Shared Instruments Program From Chaos to Order

Dustin Quandt¹, Kathryn Ramirez-Aguilar, PhD²

¹University of Colorado BioCore, ²University of Colorado Green Labs

A Neglected Niche

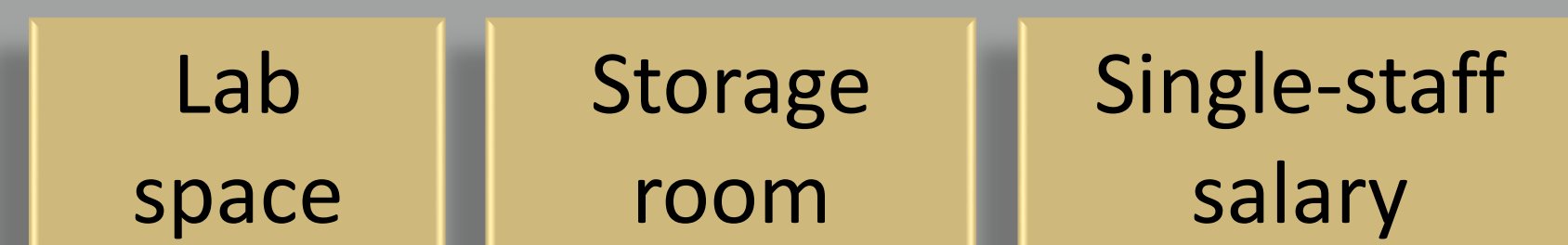
Many academic institutions lack a small- to mid-scale instrument sharing program. Researchers therefore use valuable research time tracking down shared instruments. If researchers fail to find shared instruments they will purchase instruments, change their experimental design, or not perform an experiment. On CU Boulder campus:



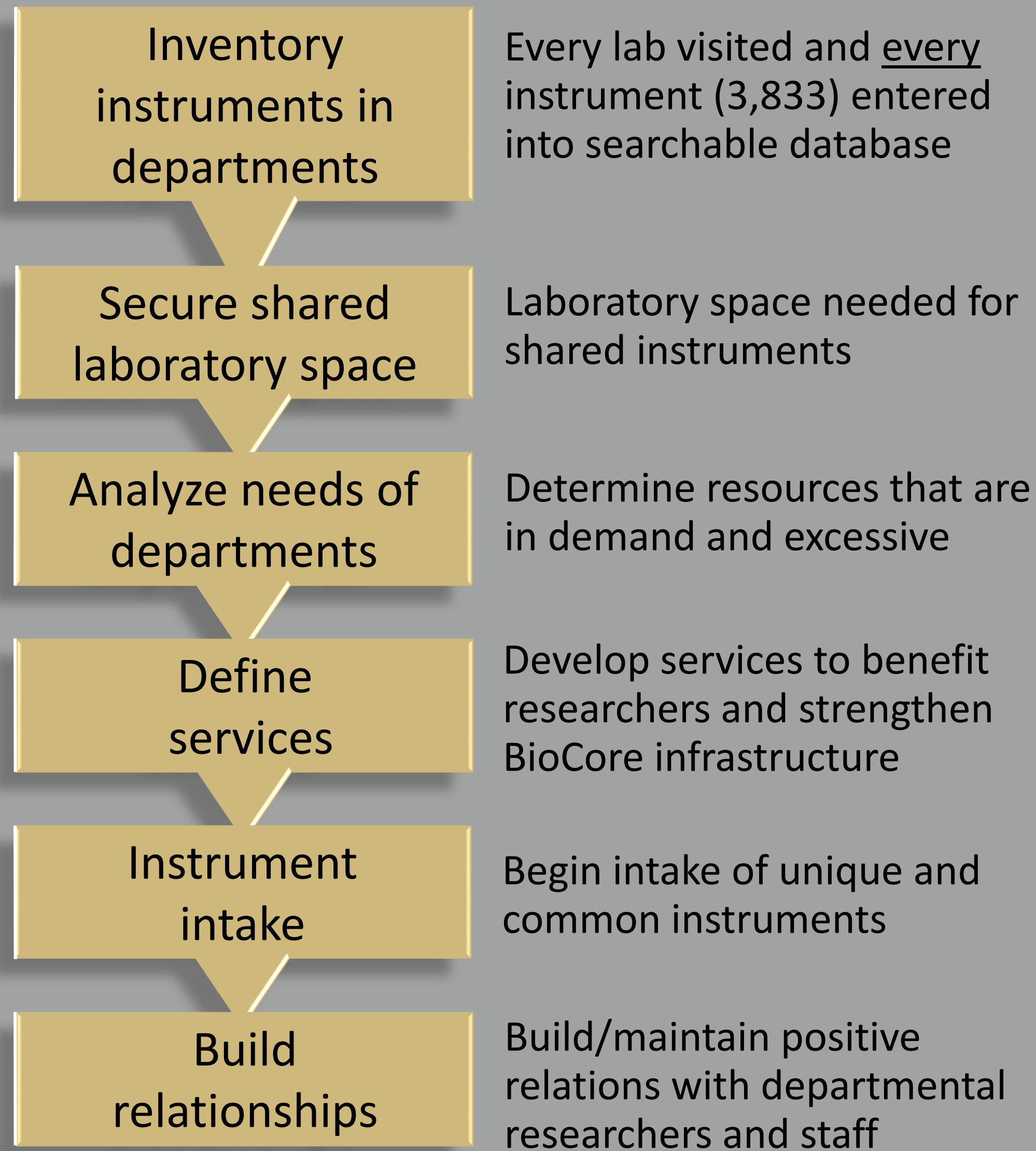
Establishing the BioCore

A small- to mid-scale instrument sharing program was established in May, 2018 to enhance sharing within three departments: Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Integrative Physiology. The purpose is to benefit research, efficient instrument utilization and improved lab space utilization.

Initial resources provided for this program:



Steps developed and followed to establish the instrument sharing program



In the First 18 Months

3,833 Instruments tracked across three departments

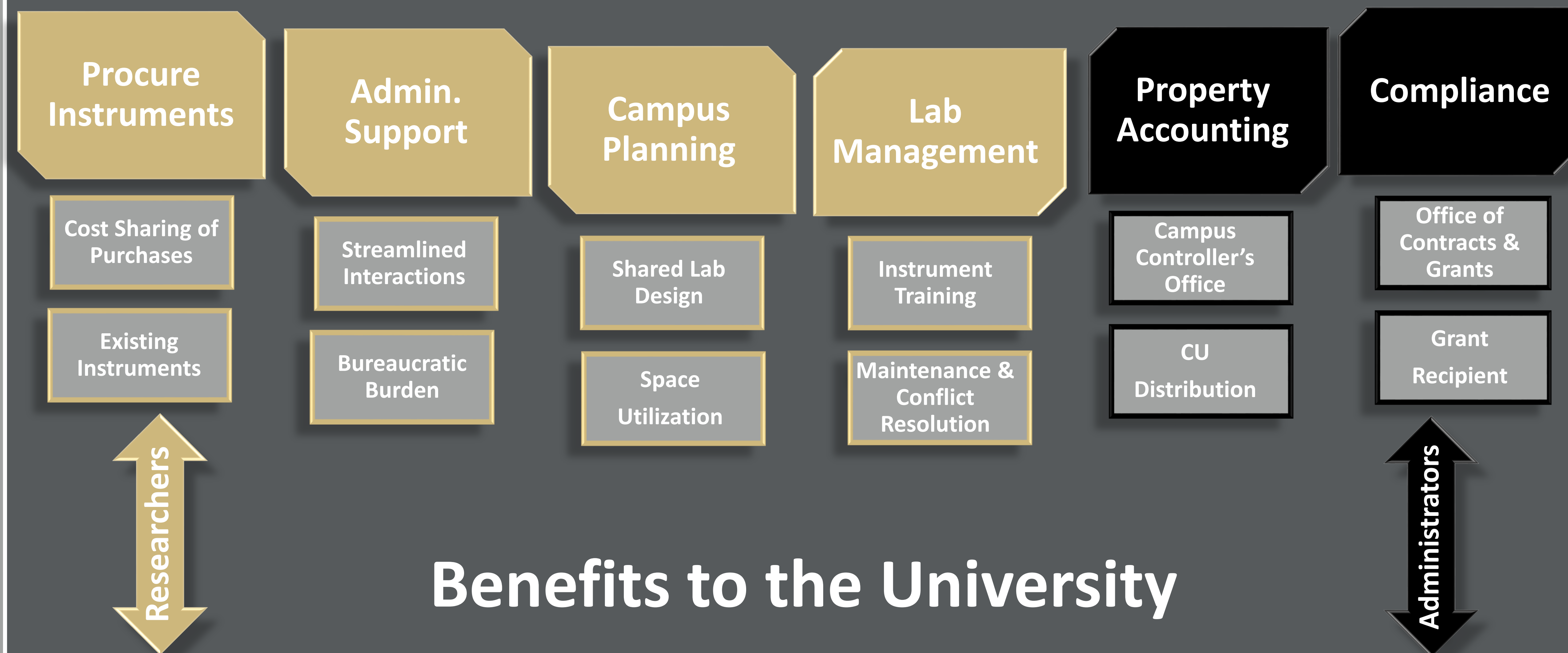
60 + Researchers utilizing instruments & services

\$850,000 Cost avoidance for instrument purchases

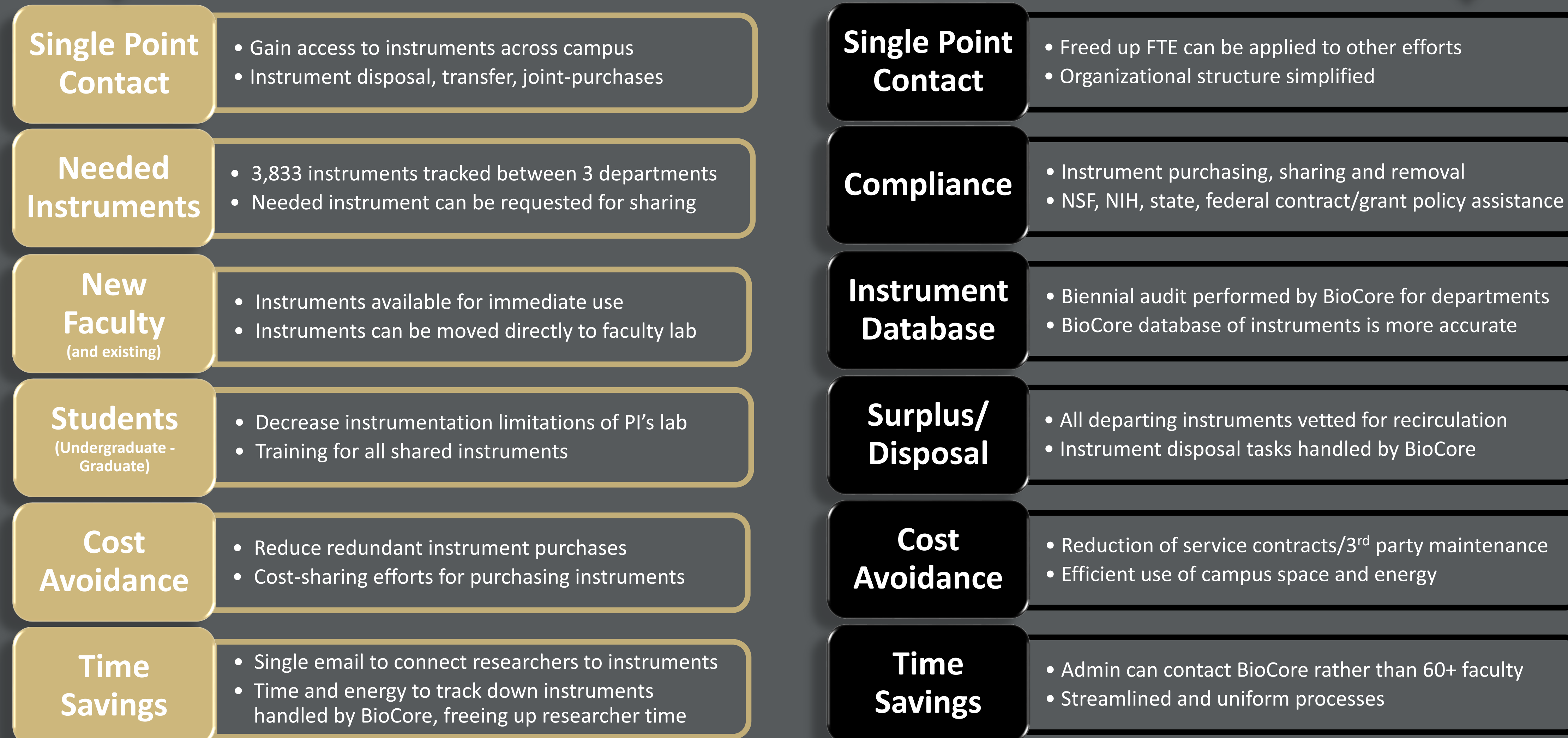
2 Shared labs managed by the BioCore

>2,000 ft² of lab bench and floor space freed up in PI labs

BioCore Services



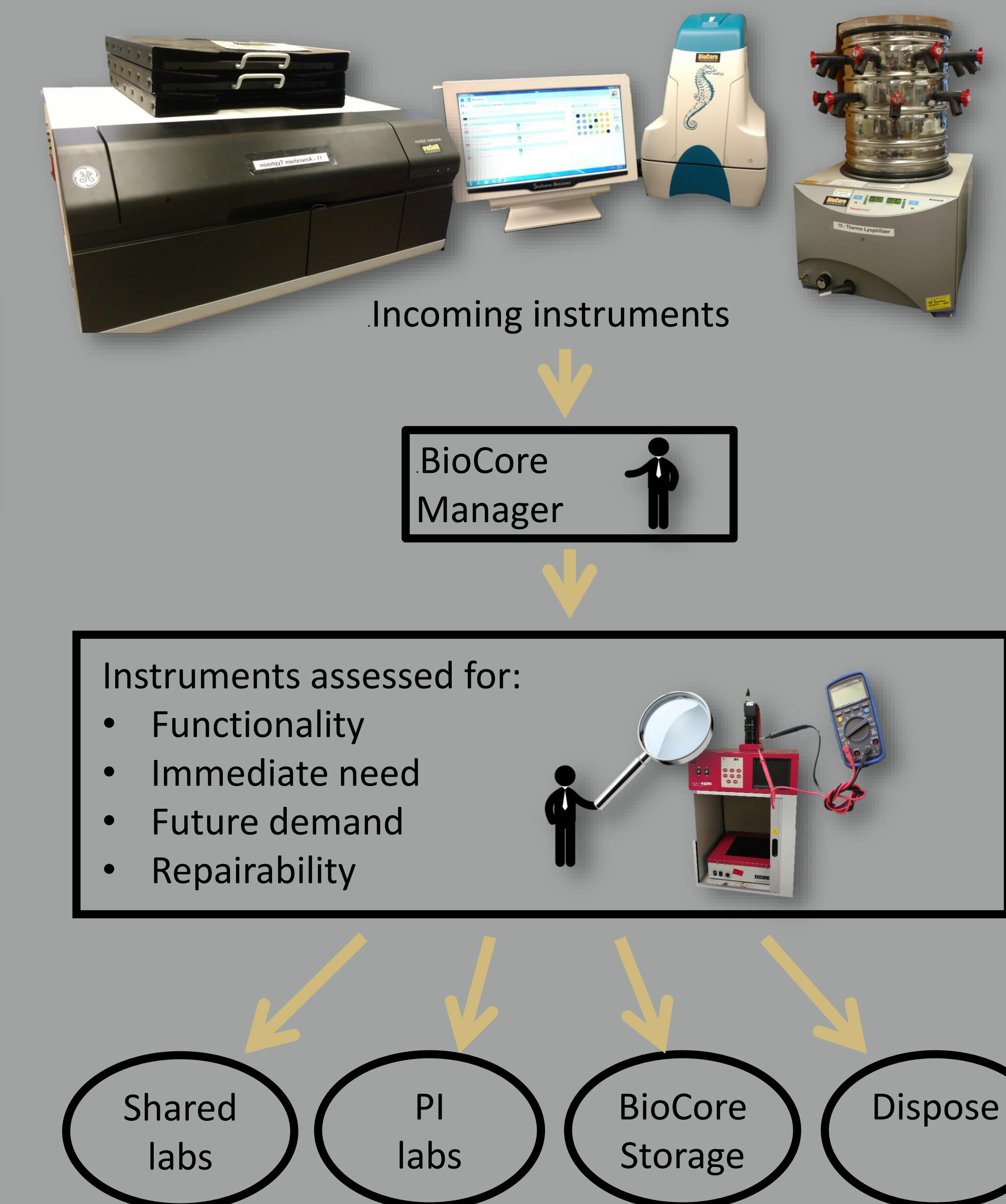
Benefits to the University



Instrument Intake Process

Instruments are pulled in to the shared program in three main ways:

1. Instruments no longer needed in PI labs that are destined to be disposed of or given away are vetted for continued usefulness
2. All new purchases of Capital Equipment are tracked as they enter departments
3. When faculty retire, move labs, or are organizing laboratory purges, lab cleanouts are performed



Future Directions

With current success of the BioCore, the program is expected to expand across CU's Boulder campus in one of the following ways, dependent on University support, overlap of research, and campus location:

1. Integrate additional departments:

Psychology and Neuroscience
Biochemistry
Chemistry
Geological Sciences
Environmental Sciences

2. Repeat program design in department clusters:

Biochemistry
Chemistry
Chemical & Biological Engineering

Physics
Geological Sciences
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

College of Engineering Departments