

The University of Chicago Gwen and Jules Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery

Chicago, Illinois

Owner

The University of Chicago

Client/Architect

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP

Completion Date

2009

Construction Cost

\$180 million

Total Area

330,000 sf

Building Height

200 ft

Number of Stories

10 plus a one-story mechanical penthouse

Awards

Midwest Construction, Best of 2009
Award of Merit



Thornton Tomasetti provided structural engineering services for a 330,000-square-foot science and medical research facility for The University of Chicago. The 10-story concrete building, one of the tallest structures on the University's Hyde Park campus, accommodates the wet laboratory programs of the departments of medicine and pediatrics, and cancer research.

The award-winning building features multi-story spaces to facilitate the exchange of ideas among personnel on adjacent floors, and provides efficient and flexible areas for laboratories, laboratory and office support, and a vivarium. A 21-foot-long cantilever on the south side of the building supports all 10 floors and the serrated west wall affords each office a view.

The center's exterior is a limestone base with glass curtain walls. Two wing-like architectural elements, supported on steel trusses, cantilever from the building, extending the façade. Contributing to the building's visual appeal is the roof canopy, formed by a structural steel cornice.

A 90-foot-long pedestrian bridge extends from Knapp Center at its third floor to the Gordon Center for Integrative Science. A second bridge, spanning 38 feet, links to the Donnelly Biological Sciences Learning Center.

A green roof tops the building's one-story mechanical penthouse.

