

## Essential Elements – the Living Laboratory<sup>®</sup> model

### Goals for Public Audiences

#### Positive Educational Experiences with Research that are Accessible to any Visitor

- Visitors engage in conversations, with researchers and/or museum educators, to learn about scientific research
- Visitor education focuses on the process of science, increasing interest in and understanding of research questions and research methods, as well as study results
- Visitors contribute to the process of scientific discovery through participation in active studies
- Non-participant visitors talk with researchers and learn about on-going studies in ways similar to study participants
- Studies occur in plain-view of the public, on the exhibit floor (not behind closed doors)

### Goals for Professional Audiences

#### Mutual Professional Development Among Researchers and Educators

- Researchers and museum educators share their respective expertise in order to strengthen cross-disciplinary practice in communicating science with public audiences
- Museum educators and researchers communicate regularly, collaboratively monitoring the program to ensure scientific and educational goals are met, and facilitating negotiation of logistical and financial needs.
- On-site research is an expected and predictable presence in the museum