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## *News Release*

### **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency**

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **DARPA RELEASES BIOSPICE SOFTWARE**

On May 23, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) unveiled the first release of BioSPICE, a suite of software tools used to construct sophisticated computer models that simulate the complex behavior of living cells.

BioSPICE Version 1.0 provides life science researchers with a powerful set of open source software modules that can be used to create computer models of many different cellular processes, thereby allowing investigators to explore research questions that are not currently amenable to direct experimentation. BioSPICE is currently being employed to generate simulations of cell-division, circadian rhythms, bacterial sporulation, and gene transcription networks. It is expected to prove particularly useful in simulating the effects of heretofore unknown pathogenic agents in order to rapidly respond to new biological threats.

The software has been developed as an open source project, with a license agreement that has been structured to encourage commercialization via proprietary extensions to the base BioSPICE functionality. The project expects to release updated versions at roughly six-month increments. These updates will include refinements of previous models via experimental validation, simulations of new biological systems, and an expanded set of available tools. Key contributors to BioSPICE include: Virginia Polytechnic University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas, Harvard University, University of California, Los Angeles and Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Molecular Sciences Institute. The lead integrator for the project is SRI International.

DARPA is collaborating with the National Science Foundation on this effort, with participation by a number of other government agencies.

Organizations interested in obtaining the software or participating in the open source development should register at the BioSPICE website, <http://www.biospice.org>.

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