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Professor Nielsen heads the Systems and Synthetic Biology Group at the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology.

The centre is dedicated to both the advancement of bioengineering science and its application to specific problems. Using thermodynamic principles,

novel approaches are developed for handling complex, transient dynamics in developing tissue as well as rational design of complex pathways.

A team of 50 people is using these novel approaches in the design of bioprocesses as diverse as the production of blood cells for transfusion and the production of industrial biopolymers.

Professor Nielsen also heads the Metabolomics Australia Queensland Node, which is focused on assisting Australian scientists developing flux modeling and analysis approaches for their biological systems of interest.