4/2025 1 Dr. KRIM M. Chapter N?1 Overview of cell biology 1.It is the smallest structurally and functionally viable entity that possesses distinctive characteristics such as assimilation and self-reproduction. Cell definition Cell as the morphological and physiological unit of life serves as the fundamental building block shared among all living organisms. The study of cell biology originated in the 17th century largely propelled by advancements in microscopy. Consequently, the cell constitutes the fundamental unit for biological and biochemical activities.