

William R. Wiley

EMSL In Brief

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

EMSL Celebrates 10 Years as a National Scientific User Facility

Nearly 200 staff and users of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) and their families helped the national scientific user facility commemorate 10 years of world-leading science. The celebration took place on September 28 and coincided with the announcement of contract award to HP for delivery of EMSL's next-generation supercomputer.

The guest of honor was Gus Wiley, wife of former Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Director Bill Wiley, who in the mid-1980s outlined his vision for a facility where scientists from around the world could gather to conduct molecular-level environmental, biological, chemical, and computational research. The result was EMSL, which was dedicated in October 1996, just a few months after Dr. Wiley unexpectedly passed away. EMSL opened its doors to researchers from around the world on October 1, 1997.



Gus Wiley, wife of former PNNL Director Bill Wiley, holds a plaque given in Dr. Wiley's memory during a September 28 event celebrating EMSL's 10 years of operation. Dr. Wiley, shown at left, envisioned EMSL and passed away just before the facility was dedicated.

In the decade since opening, researchers from all 50 states and nearly 30 countries have used EMSL's expertise and cutting-edge resources, including a suite of mass spectrometers, aerosol characterization instruments, laser spectroscopies, imaging capabilities, magnetic resonance spectrometers, and high-performance computational systems and associated software. Research has addressed challenges important to the Department of Energy (DOE)—EMSL's key supporter—and the nation, including materials research for design and development of biosensors; discovery of a class of gold atom clusters, the first-known metallic equivalent of the buckyball, which has great catalytic potential; and development of a protein map of a mouse brain, the results which have potential to aid in early detection of neurological diseases.

During the celebration, PNNL and DOE leadership addressed the crowd, including EMSL Director Allison Campbell; interim PNNL Director Mike Kluse; DOE Pacific Northwest Site Office Manager Mike Weis; and EMSL pioneer and world-renowned proteomics expert Dick Smith.

"I look forward not only to watching EMSL continue to grow and form scientific partnerships with new users here at the Lab and worldwide, but also to witnessing the new science that will be produced by EMSL collaborations in the years ahead," said Kluse in his address.

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