
The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Research (ER) directs long-term, basic research programs in support of the Department's vital national missions in energy technology, environmental management, and national security. The Office's \$2.5 billion annual budget supports national laboratory, university, and industry research in many key areas, including biological and environmental research.

Through the years, ER and its predecessor organizations have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to pursue leading-edge science and to forge effective partnerships that leverage our investments and connect us more closely with other federal science programs and with direct beneficiaries of ER's basic research. Not surprisingly, ER has enjoyed broad bipartisan support in its quest to deliver more enlightened and capable scientists and engineers, to create and maintain world-class scientific infrastructure, and ultimately, to foster revolutionary technology spin-offs that touch the lives of just about every citizen. The Office has, however, always maintained focus on its most important product, the science and technology knowledge base.

In 1997 our outstanding Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program commemorates fifty years of sponsoring research that has had a dramatic impact on science and society. This booklet describes some of the highlights from these five decades of research. Examples include developing the original prototype for positron emission tomography (PET), providing the primary knowledge base for the nation's and the world's radiation exposure standards, establishing the world's first human genome program, and launching this country's first global climate change research program. I could mention many others, but you can read about them in the pages that follow. I hope this document will allow you at least a glimpse of the breadth and excellence of a half-century of BER-sponsored research—research that has indeed left a vital legacy and that will continue to make indispensable contributions to science and society into the new millennium.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Krebs".

Martha A. Krebs

Director, Office of Energy Research
U.S. Department of Energy