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This booklet was prepared at the request of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, to commemorate the legacy and to explore the promise of the Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program on the fiftieth anniversary of its formation, September 24, 1947, within the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. The boundaries of the BER program are, however, sometimes indistinct. The goals of separate offices or agencies frequently converge, and the facilities of one are commonly used by scientists supported by another. In some cases, therefore, credit for the achievements we cite is properly shared with other offices within the DOE and with other federal agencies. We have sought to identify these instances of confluent research effort by mentioning other sponsoring agencies in the text. For our oversights, we apologize.

Though this account was edited and produced at the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, it aims to provide the general reader with a broad but brief overview of the entire BER program: its role, its contributions to science and society during five decades of research, and its exciting prospects for the future. For their help in this effort, many deserve our thanks for elucidating historical highlights, tracking down illustrations, and offering their advice and criticism: At DOE, David Bader, James Beall, Michelle Broido, Pat Crowley, Roger Dahلمان, Jerry Elwood, Ludwig Feinendegen, Marvin Frazier, Roland Hirsch, Peter Lunn, Curtis Olsen, Rick Petty, Michael Riches, Susan Rose, Prem Srivastava, Marvin Stodolsky, David Thomassen, Matesh Varma, and Frank Wobber, and former staffers Gerald Goldstein, Joshua Holland, Helen McCammon, William Osburn, Charles Osterberg, David Slade, Joop Thiessen, Robert Thomas, and Robert Wood; at Argonne National Laboratory, Jeff Gaffney, Douglas Grahn (retired), Karen Haugen, Eliezer Huberman, David Nadziejka, Chris Reilly, and Marv Wesley; at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Paul Falkowski, Kathy Folkers, Joanna Fowler, A. J. Francis, Dawn Mosoff, Richard Setlow, Suresh Srivastava, Jack Van't Hof, Nora Volkow, and Alfred Wolf; at Columbia University, Eric Hall; at the Environmental Measurements Laboratory, Phillip Krey (retired); at the Hanford Site, Michele Gerber; at the Harvard Medical School, James Adelstein; at Johns Hopkins University, Henry Wagner, Jr.; at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, David Gilbert and Sylvia Spengler; at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Linda Ashworth, Anthony Carrano, Kenneth Sperber, and Gordon Yano; at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Scott Cram and James Jett; at the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Charles Hobbs and Joe Mauderly; at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Murray Browne, Donald Hunsaker, Jr., Sheryl Martin, David Reichle, and Barbara Walton; at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Nancy Burleigh, Ted Cress, Jake Hales (retired), Ray Stults, and Ray Wildung; at Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Marie Fulmer; at Savannah River Technology Center, Robert Addis; at Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory, Peter Kuhn; at the University of California, Berkeley, Bruce Ames; at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine, Michael Phelps; at the University of California, San Francisco, Sheldon Wolff; at the University of Florida, Howard Odum; and at the University of Michigan Hospital, David Kuhl.

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