United States Department of Energy

The Secretary of Energy Achievement Award

Presented to the

National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory Team

In recognition of the accomplishments of the National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory (NVBL) Team, which harnessed and mobilized the formidable scientific facility and research capabilities of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratories to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the leadership of the NVBL Executive Leadership Team—comprised of both senior DOE and laboratory officials—DOE's 17 National Laboratories achieved an unprecedented level of coordination, operating as a unified entity, with a single "front door" for facility access and research. This ensured projects were efficiently selected, optimally prioritized, and systematically reviewed for quality, and the full capabilities of the National Laboratory complex were brought to bear on the crisis. As a result of the establishment of the NVBL, Congress provided nearly $100 million in support under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to the Department's Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration. Harnessing the National Laboratories' world-leading supercomputers, x-ray light and neutron sources, nanoscience research centers, and advanced genomics and biology facilities, NVBL enabled major advances in characterizing COVID-19 to aid in drug and vaccine development, screening of candidate drugs, expanding epidemiological understanding of disease spread, facilitating the manufacture of vitally needed personal protective and other equipment, and rating and improving testing methods, among many other advancements.

For their contributions to the Department of Energy and the Nation, the National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory Team is awarded the Secretary of Energy's Achievement Award.

Members:

Rebecca J. Abergel
Paul D. Adams
Adam P. Arkin
Ilke Arslan
Budhendra L. Bhaduri
Charles T. Black
Jim Brase
Adam Bratis
Steve Brice
Michelle V. Buchanan
Supriya Chinthavali
Michael Dunne
Michael Fazio
J. Patrick Fitch
Lorie Fox
Randall Gentry
Martha (Marti) S. Head
Barbara J. Helland
John P. Hill
Linda L. Horton
Srinivas Iyer
Ralph James
Andrzej Joachimiak
Stephen D. Kevan
Jack Kotovsky
Harriet Kung
Paul Langan
Thomas Lograsso
Lonnie J. Love
Charles M. Macal
Douglas Mans
Paul C. McIntyre
Benjamin H. McMahon
Jonathan Menard
Karren L. More
Nigel J. Mouncey
Jeffrey Neaton
Jeffrey S. Nelson
Sarah K. Nelson
Robert C. O'Brien
Ashley P. Predith
David G. Prendergast
Dave Rakestraw
Mark (Danny) Rintoul
Adam J. Rondinone
Katie J. Runkles
Joseph S. Schoeniger
Blake A. Simmons
Anup K. Singh
Chris M. Spadaccini
Rick L. Stevens
Paul N. Stewart
Stephen K. Streiffer
Kerstin Kleese van Dam
Soichi Wakatsuki
Marianne C. Walck
Geoffrey S. Waldo
Katrina Waters
Sharlene Weatherwax
Bobbie-Joe J. Webb-Robertson
Drew Weisenberger

Dan Brouillette
Secretary

January 2021

Secretary's Honor Awards

Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

February 3, 2021

Dear Dr. Zhuozhao Li,

When the National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory (NVBL) launched in February last year, the nation and the globe were just beginning to grapple with the reality of responding to a pandemic. An unknown virus, a new disease, and alarming reports from public health officials generated fear and catalyzed action within the research community.

With nearly a year of effort by NVBL, we now better understand the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus, how to test for it, and what might stop it; we have tools to model and forecast the way it spreads across the country; and we are starting to address national supply chain and manufacturing challenges. But we also know now what it means for members of our Department of Energy (DOE) community to come together, organize, and do the incredibly hard work of rapid research response in the middle of a crisis.

On behalf of the DOE, I thank you sincerely for your efforts for NVBL. For those of us who were aware of the formidable capabilities and resources of the national laboratory system, the burning question in late February and early March was how these capabilities might best be harnessed, urgently, to address the multiple challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. You and our superb staff with responsibilities across our organizations and researchers with expertise in a huge array of subjects acted rapidly in all 17 DOE National Laboratories. While living through the effects of the pandemic yourself, you coalesced into a highly efficient, integral virtual entity to mobilize capabilities across the laboratory system to tackle the challenges of the pandemic.

I am incredibly proud of the actions and leadership of everyone across the DOE National Laboratory complex and headquarters for making this effort come together. It is not often that we are given an opportunity to serve our nation in such vitally important ways, and the manner in which you and the members of our community have risen to this occasion is a testimony not only to their unmatched competence and expertise, but also to their spirit of national service.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Binkley
Acting Director
Office of Science

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Zhuozhao Li

acknowledging your scientific contribution to the U.S. Department of Energy National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory Project

MOLECULAR DESIGN AND ANALYSIS TO INFORM THERAPEUTICS RELATED TO COVID-19

part of the DOE COVID-19 Pandemic Response in 2020

Argonne NATIONAL LABORATORY
BERKELEY LAB
BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY
OAK RIDGE National Laboratory
Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY
Sandia National Laboratories
SLAC