

The Postdoctoral Experience at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

“A postdoctoral associateship is rapidly becoming recognized and accepted by NSF and other funding agencies as a necessary part of secondary education. It is important that PNNL share in the education of our Nation’s brightest young scientists by providing postdoctoral opportunities and ensuring that their experience is fruitful and productive. EMSL’s set of capabilities provides an ideal environment to achieve this goal. To see the caliber of work being done by these young scientists, as recognized by the M. T. Thomas Award, makes us all proud to be part of such a terrific organization.”

Dr. J. W. Rogers, Jr.
EMSL Director

“Postdoctoral Associates are among our most important assets at the Laboratory—certainly more important than the impressive instruments they use to probe fundamental scientific questions. They bring new perspectives, know better than we do the important fundamental issues of the day, and challenge our thinking in constructive ways.”

Dr. Jean Futrell
Battelle Fellow,
BML Council Chair

“The postdoctoral associate in the EMSL constitutes the productivity engine of its research enterprise, benefiting the EMSL, PNNL, DOE, and ultimately our society as a whole. The benefits to the postdoctoral associate are equally substantial, and include working with the EMSL’s unparalleled research capabilities, a fantastic infrastructure, and support staff. It is magical to observe a gifted associate making the most of an opportunity to conduct research in the EMSL.”

Dr. Richard D. Smith
Battelle Fellow, EMSL

Purpose

This distinguished award acknowledges outstanding accomplishments by a postdoctorate associate who conducts their research in the William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory.

History

The award is named in honor of Dr. M. (Tom) Thomas, who was an integral part of the leadership and progression of the EMSL project team, beginning in 1987. Serving in a variety of leadership roles, Dr. Thomas retired as the EMSL Operations Manager in 1995.

Nature

The awards consist of a commemorative plaque, a \$1000 cash award, and a reception to honor the recipient. The recipients are requested to deliver a seminar describing their research and the accomplishment leading to the award. A plaque that lists all recipients is displayed in the EMSL.

Eligibility

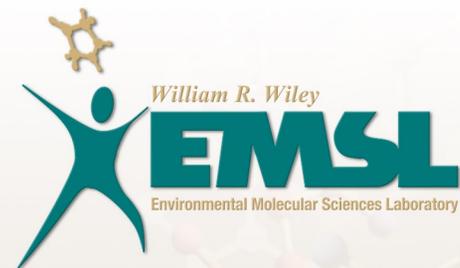
This award is made to one postdoctoral associate who has significantly utilized the EMSL capabilities and made significant contributions to work in the EMSL on projects relevant to the EMSL mission. Postdoctorate associates from organizations outside the EMSL, who have participated in research on an EMSL project, are also eligible for the award. A past recipient may not be nominated.

Nominations

Nominations are made by the appropriate Technical Group Manager, Technical Group Leader, or advisor with the concurrence of the Division Director.

Program Logistics

Additional information on award logistics can be found on the EMSL website at www.emsl.pnl.gov or contact Marty Peterson (marty.peterson@pnl.gov).



M.T. Thomas AWARD

for
**Outstanding
Postdoctoral
Achievement**

2002 Recipient



Dr. Julia Laskin
Research Scientist
Chemical Structure & Dynamics

Congratulations to **Dr. Julia Laskin**, who has been selected as the 2002 recipient of the M. T. Thomas Award for Outstanding Postdoctoral Achievement. She was awarded this recognition for her pivotal experimental and theoretical contributions to the essential understanding of collision and surface-induced activation and fragmentation of large molecules and peptides.

Dr. Laskin earned her M.S. degree in physics from Leningrad Polytechnical Institute (Russia) in 1990, and her Ph.D. in Chemistry from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) in 1998. She was working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Delaware when she began her postdoc assignment at PNNL in 2000.

Recent Recipients

Six postdoctoral associates have been awarded this honor since 1996. Recent recipients include:



2001

Dr. Michael B. Goshe for his landmark discovery known as the phosphoprotein isotope coded affinity tag (PhIAT) methodology, which enables researchers to rapidly isolate and characterize essentially any protein modified with a phosphate group.

Dr. Goshe was a member of the EMSL Macromolecular Structure and Dynamics (MS&D) section from June 2000 when he began a postdoctoral research appointment in the Laboratory of Dr. Richard D. Smith. He received his B.S. degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from Walsh University in 1992, and in 1999 he received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Case Western Reserve University. During his postdoctoral appointment, he has worked with Dr. Smith and with Dr. Tim Veenstra, who currently is affiliated with the NCI Frederick Cancer Center. He is now at the University of South Carolina.



2000

Dr. Zdenek Dohnálek for his experimental and theoretical contributions to understanding the crystallization, morphology, and properties of amorphous solid water, and to the molecular-beam synthesis of chemically tailored nanoporous films.

Dr. Dohnálek obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Institute of Chemical Engineering, Prague (1989 and 1991, respectively). In 1997, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, where his work was performed under the supervision of Prof. John T. Yates. In December 1997, Dr. Dohnálek joined EMSL's Chemical Structure and Dynamics program as a postdoctoral fellow, working with Dr. Bruce Kay. He joined the PNNL as a full time staff member in July 2000.

Past Recipients



1999

Dr. Xuebin Wang for his phenomenal scientific accomplishments and productivity, and specifically for his major contributions to the design and construction of a new experimental apparatus to investigate multiply charged anions, his outstanding discoveries using this apparatus, and his penetrating insight in interpreting and understanding the experimental results.



1998

Dr. Matthew T. Sieger for his research on electron-stimulated desorption from environmentally important interfaces, and for the theoretical and experimental development of new surface probe techniques based on electron standing waves.



1997

Dr. Lukas Novotny for his contributions to the theoretical understanding of near-field optical microscopy, especially in demonstrating the feasibility of optical trapping and manipulation at a nanometer scale.



1996

Dr. Ramona S. Taylor for her contributions to developing a molecular-level understanding of important heterogeneous atmospheric processes.



For more information about the Postdoctoral Program at PNNL, visit the Science Education Programs website at <http://science-ed.pnl.gov/>