

Bissell, Selkowitz Recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards

May 29, 2012



In October 2011, Berkeley Lab launched a new annual awards program to honor exceptional achievements by laboratory employees advancing the Lab's mission and strategic goals. The Berkeley Lab Prize – Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to up to two individuals to honor career-spanning exceptional achievements and contributions in one or more of the following three areas:

- Scientific: Significant scientific or technical contribution leading to important progress in an area of research or toward completion of a project
- Operations: Achievement, collaboration, leadership
- Societal Impact: Solving important challenges for society, research that furthers solutions to large social problems, or scientific breakthroughs that have improved the world

The following individuals will receive awards:

Mina Bissell (Scientific)

Nominated by Drs. Irene Kuhn, Joni Mott, Negest Williams, Richard I. Schwartz, Mark LaBarge, Cathy Park, Hidetoshi Mori, and William Curtis Hines, an excerpt from the nomination reads:

“Dr. Mina Bissell is recognized world-wide for her fundamental discoveries in the role of extracellular matrix (ECM) and microenvironment in initiation, promotion and progression of breast cancer. Her pathbreaking ideas and pioneering research have fundamentally changed how we think about regulation of gene expression, the role of cellular context and architecture....The mission statement of LBNL is to ‘Bring science solutions to the world.’ There is no question that that is exactly what Mina Bissell has been achieving through her almost four decades of research, during which she has been elucidating the biology that goes awry in

cancer, and thus she has been enabling the development of effective cancer therapeutics – a much sought-after science solution for the world. Around the world, through her publications as well as her exhaustive international lecture presentations and conference organizing she has been bringing the “biological face” of LBNL to the work for many years, drawing attention to this wonderful institution and the many aspects of its contributions to understanding, and positively impacting, our world.”

Stephen Selkowitz (Societal Impact)

Nominated by Rick Diamond and Mary Ann Piete, an excerpt from the nomination reads:

“Few people in the world have had as big an impact on reducing energy use in buildings as Steve Selkowitz. Buildings account for 40% of the U.S. energy use, and more than 70% of the electricity used in this country – major contributors to global carbon dioxide emissions. As Head of the Building Technologies Department for the past 35 years, Steve has created the leading program in the world in Energy Efficient Building Technologies. Steve has provided the overall scientific vision, coordination, management and leadership of a department with a diverse staff of more than 80 researchers in six major RDD&D activities related to energy use in buildings: commercial building systems, building simulation research, windows and daylighting, lighting systems, demand response research, and applications team... While Steve modestly credits his department with the numerous accomplishments, the truth is he has been the visionary and driving spirit behind much of the work his talented team has produced. Steve Selkowitz is the ‘Steve Jobs’ in the world of energy-efficient buildings – he has literally changed how we design, build, and inhabit buildings the world over.”

Honorees, along with the recipients of the Director’s Awards for Exceptional Achievement (announced on May 21st) will be acknowledged at a future Lab awards ceremony and reception.