

## A New Era in Ames Laboratory Leadership

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The Ames Laboratory is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory seeking solutions to energy-related problems through the exploration of chemical, engineering, materials and mathematical sciences, and physics. Established in the 1940s with the successful development of the most efficient process to produce high-purity uranium metal for atomic energy, Ames Lab now pursues much broader priorities than the materials research that has given the Lab international credibility. Responding to issues of national concern, Ames Laboratory scientists are actively involved in innovative research, science education programs, the development of applied technologies and the quick transfer of such technologies to industry. Uniquely integrated within a university environment, the Lab stimulates creative thought and encourages scientific discovery, providing solutions to complex problems and educating and training tomorrow's scientific talent.

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## From the Director

### Laboratory Teamwork

**M**OST GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN LIFE AREN'T singular events. There's a foundation that's laid through basic work with involvement of many different and talented people. The success of a basketball team requires dedicated teamwork and countless hours spent practicing jump shots or ball-handling skills. Before a race car driver takes the checkered flag, his dedicated crew spends hours tweaking the car to eke out every last ounce of horsepower and makes sure the pit stops come off like clockwork.

Science is no different. For every discovery, big or small, there are countless hours spent in the lab developing experiments, analyzing data and then trying to replicate the results. It takes experimentalists, characterization experts, and theorists all working together.

Research at the Ames Laboratory exemplifies just this type of teamwork, as you'll see in the stories presented in this issue. While projects must have designated principal investigators, or PIs as we call them, our work is very much a team effort. Experimental work by Vitalij Pecharsky in hydrogen storage media (story on page 8) and Aaron Sadow in methane catalysis (story on page 14) relies heavily on solid-state NMR characterization work by Marek Pruski (story on page 16). Read about these and other projects and find out who and what is "Behind the Science" at Ames Lab.

We also broke ground in June for the Sensitive Instrument Facility. This state-of-the-art building will provide some much needed space for the next generation of electron microscopy equipment that's integral to our characterization capabilities.

Its unique isolation features will allow an unimpeded view of materials at the atomic scale.

This Director's Message is also my last as I'm handing the Director reigns over to the very capable hands of Adam Schwartz. Adam brings to the laboratory a great deal of experience and a deep well of infectious enthusiasm for materials sciences and materials discovery, and I look forward to continued successes and growth of the

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Laboratory under his leadership. I've enjoyed my time as interim director and appreciate all the support I've received from the staff here and at the DOE. I'm excited about our collective future and wish Adam all the best as he prepares to lead us in the months and years to come.



*Thomas A. Lograsso*  
Tom Lograsso, Interim Director