

Randy D. Cortright, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Advisor  
Strategic Lead for Electrons to Molecules Initiative  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory



Senior Research Advisor within the BioEconomy and Sustainable Transportation (BEST) Directorate at The National Renewable Energy Laboratory providing strategic leadership for NREL's Electrons to Molecules initiative that is investigating storing low cost renewable electrons in chemical bonds. This initiative includes the generation of fuels and chemicals using electricity as an energy source. Before joining NREL, Dr. Cortright was the CTO of **Virent Inc.**, a company he founded in 2002. Dr. Cortright has over 40 years of experience in research and development of chemical technologies in both industry and academia. Dr. Cortright's background includes R&D, process design, start-up, and operations of large scale industrial catalytic processes at **UOP (now Honeywell UOP)**, a provider of petroleum and petrochemical process technologies. After leaving UOP, Dr. Cortright earned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While working at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Cortright co-invented Aqueous Phase Reforming, the innovative pathway to biofuels and bioproducts used by Virent's BioForming® technology platform. During his time period at Virent, Dr. Cortright led the development of numerous technology platforms resulting in over 265 domestic and foreign issued and pending applications in its portfolio representing more than 33 technology families.