

Randy Cortright, Ph.D.



Senior Research Advisor
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Randy Cortright, Ph.D. is a Senior Research Advisor within the Bioenergy Science & Technology (BEST) Directorate at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), where he provides strategic leadership for the *Electrons to Molecules* initiative. This effort focuses on storing low-cost renewable electrons in chemical bonds to produce sustainable fuels and chemicals using electricity as the primary energy source.

Before joining NREL, Dr. Cortright was the Chief Technology Officer of Virent Inc., a company he founded in 2002. He brings more than 40 years of experience in chemical technology research, development, and commercialization across both industry and academia. His early career at UOP (now Honeywell UOP) included R&D, process design, plant startup, and operations of large-scale industrial catalytic processes. Following this, he earned a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he co-invented *Aqueous Phase Reforming*, the innovative pathway to biofuels and bioproducts that underpins Virent’s BioForming® technology platform.

At Virent, Dr. Cortright led the development of multiple technology platforms, building a portfolio of more than 265 domestic and foreign patents and applications spanning over 33 technology families.

