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Michael R. Ladisch, PhD is Director of the Laboratory of Renewable Resources Engineering, and Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering with a joint appointment in Biomedical Engineering and a courtesy appointment in Food Science. He earned his BS (1973) from Drexel University and MS (1974) and PhD (1977) from Purdue University, all in chemical engineering. He has a broad background in bioscience and bioengineering, and leads an interdisciplinary consortium in bioenergy for the utilization of renewable resources and the production of biofuels.

Dr. Ladisch's research addresses fundamental topics in bioprocess engineering as it applies to bio-energy, bioproducts, biorecovery, and bionanotechnology. The research is multidisciplinary and multi-institutional and addresses transformation of renewable resources into bioproducts, properties of proteins and living organisms at surfaces, rapid prototyping of microfluidic biosensors, and bioseparations. He carries out this work with teams of researchers consisting of colleagues, graduate students, and staff. This work pursues discovery and learning of fundamental science and engineering as well as its translation into industrial practice.

He has authored 150 journal and proceedings papers, 14 patents (issued and applied for), and a textbook in Bioseparations Engineering (Wiley, 2001). He is an inaugural recipient of Paul Dana Biofuels Award (2006) of the Indianapolis Racing League. He is a leader of the biochip team that received the Agricultural Team Award (Biosensor Detection Team (2006)), and was named Outstanding Chemical Engineer by the Forney School of Chemical Engineering in 2006. He was awarded the Marvin J. Johnson Award in Biochemical Technology of the American Chemical Society in 2002 and the Food, Pharmaceutical and Bioengineering Division Award of the American Institute of Chemical engineers in 2001. He is a co-founder of Biovitesse, and on the scientific Advisory Board of Agrivida. Dr. Ladisch was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1999.