



## **Ann Blechl**

Dr. Ann Blechl received her Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where she was part of the team that first isolated human hemoglobin genes. She completed two postdoctoral terms, one in plant molecular biology at the ARCO Plant Cell Research Institute in Dublin, CA, and one in yeast genetics at the University of California - Berkeley. In 1986, she joined the USDA's Agricultural Research Service as a Research Geneticist stationed at the Western Regional Research Center in Albany, California. In 2014, she became Research Leader of the Crop Improvement & Genetics Unit and currently supervises nine scientists and their support staffs. Dr. Blechl is a leading international expert on wheat transformation and its applications in defining the contributions of flour proteins to bread dough properties and in validating candidate genes of wheat that increase grain protein content or confer resistance to fungal pathogens. Another goal of her research is to refine genetic engineering technologies to make them more useful for crop improvement and more acceptable to the general public. She is author or co-author of 83 publications cited more than 3800 times. She was a member of the organizing committee that launched the Biotechnology Division of the American Association of Cereal Chemists International and chaired that division in 1998.