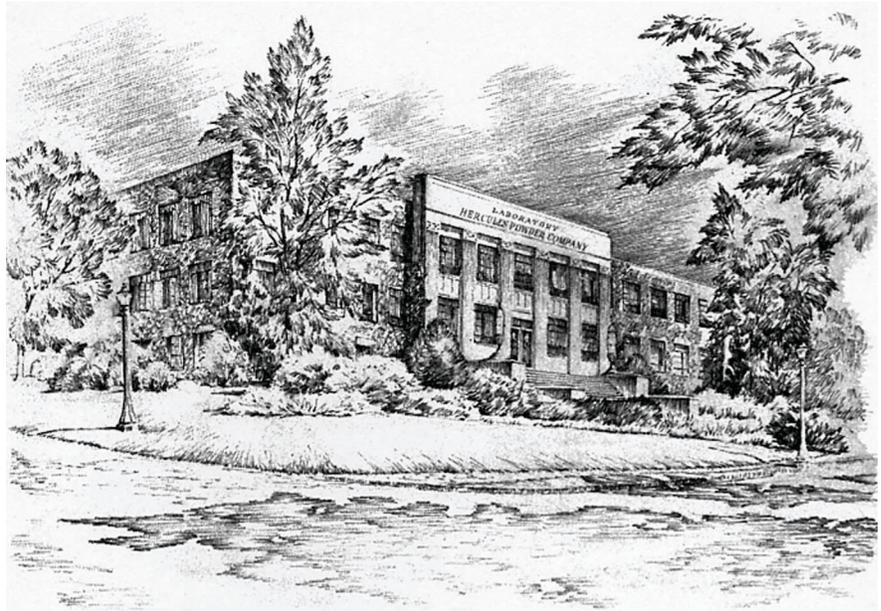


Today Hercules celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Hercules Research Center. Until 1929, all research for the company, then known as Hercules Powder Company, was conducted at the Hercules Experimental Station in Kenil, New Jersey, site of the company's largest plant at the time. The idea for the Wilmington Research Center was conceived in 1929 as Hercules' interests were growing far beyond its original explosives and powder business. It was clear that if Hercules was to expand and thrive it would have to enter new fields—and the path to success lay in research.



Hercules Research Center Main Building, Wilmington, Delaware

A committee was formed to determine the best location for a major research center. After careful deliberation, the recommendation was to move the company's research closer to its headquarters in Wilmington. This approach would facilitate communication between those doing the research and the company senior decision makers. Hercules leadership at the time felt that the investment would pay dividends for the future. This vision has proved correct as indicated by the broad research program Hercules has today and the large number of products which have originated from the Research Center.

The first building, Building 8100, designed and constructed in a classical revival style in 1930, stands not only as a working laboratory, but as a monument to Hercules research. The main entrance to the building features brass doors containing etched glass panels depicting the company's original logo, the mythical hero Hercules.

The cornerstone for Building 8100 was laid at a ceremony on July 30, 1930 by then President Russell H. Dunham. A plaque in the building's lobby pays tribute to its designers, George M. Norman, Technical Director, (Norman discovered the site while horseback riding); Harry E. Kaiser, Station Director; George E. Ramer, Chief Engineer; and A. Burton Stanhope, Consulting Architect.

At the dedication, Dunham commented, "I lay this cornerstone with the thought that in the pleasant surroundings of these woods and streams Hercules men and women in the years to come may find a common rallying place where useful things can be done for the benefit of our company and the world at large."

The research staff at Kenil relocated to Wilmington and occupied the new research facility at this campus-like location in April, 1931. It was then called the Hercules Experiment Station. In 1956, the Hercules Experiment Station was renamed the Hercules Research Center. It was felt the new name more accurately portrayed the nature and breadth of the research programs at this location. In the words of Dr. Robert Cairns, then Director of Research: "The basic concept, however, is still the same—the extension of man's useful knowledge concerning chemical materials for industry... Our work covers all phases of the research process,

(over)

from the search for new chemical ideas to the commercial development of new manufacturing processes and product applications.”

Through the years, many new facilities were added. The original building was enlarged by the addition of a north wing in 1951 and has undergone numerous updates over the years. In 1953, another facility was added which currently houses laboratories for the Paper Technologies and Ventures Group. A new home for the Research Library was constructed in 1957, soon followed by an applications building, completed in 1961, containing laboratories and a controlled-temperature room for testing. An additional laboratory space was added to this facility in 1970. In 1975, the Computer Systems Building was constructed and in 1981, an office building for engineering personnel was completed. In 1994, the Regulated Products Building to serve Aqualon was added, with specially designed laboratories for food and personal care products. This building was designed to echo the architectural features of the original facility.

For almost a century, Hercules individuals have been developing and improving products through systematic research. It is always difficult to recognize a few outstanding individuals without eclipsing the efforts of hundreds of Hercules scientists who also contributed their knowledge and skills to development efforts. However, some highlights should be mentioned. Edwin Vandenberg is best known for his independent discovery of isotactic polypropylene and the discovery and development of catalysts for its manufacture. Hercules was the first company to commercialize polypropylene. In 2002, Vandenberg received the Priestly Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Eugene Klug was the moving force behind the development of the first of a line of water-soluble polymers, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), a versatile additive to foods and fluids. He also developed Klucel[®] hydroxypropylcellulose, used in prescription and non-prescription drugs, that enables tablets to stay intact and make them easier to swallow.

In the area of paper chemistry, Dr. Gerald Keim was responsible for developing the Kymene[®] resins used to wet strengthen paper—a chemistry Hercules continues to improve upon today.

Today, as Hercules marks the 75th anniversary of the Research Center, it also dedicates its new Paper Applications Laboratory, the latest addition to the site. This state-of-the-art customer applications facility houses pilot papermaking and paper testing functions. It is part of a significant investment to revitalize the Hercules Research Center, the hub of the company’s global research activities. Modernization of the research facility also includes investing capital in laboratory renovations, relocating the power house, and removing antiquated buildings and structures from the site.

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