

Dear members of the DMSE community,

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you today, the appointment of Professor Polina Anikeeva as the next head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, effective July 1, 2024. In the upcoming academic year, Polina, as incoming department head, will work closely with interim department head Professor Caroline Ross on strategic directions and decisions for the department, including key hiring decisions.

A member of MIT's faculty since 2011, Polina serves as the Matoula S. Salapatas Professor in Materials Science and Engineering, a Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, director of the K. Lisa Yang Brain-Body Center, a member of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, and associate director of MIT's Research Laboratory of Electronics. She and her team at the MIT Bioelectronics Group conduct groundbreaking research that advances our ability to understand and treat neurological diseases. Using a combination of materials science, electronics, and neuroscience, she has developed both optoelectronic and magnetic devices that can record neural activity and enable minimally invasive neural stimulation during behavior.

Polina received her bachelor's degree from St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University. She is an alumna of DMSE, having received her PhD in materials science and engineering under the mentorship of Vladimir Bulović, the Fariborz Maseeh Professor in Emerging Technology. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University, working on devices for optical stimulation and recording of neural activity, before returning to MIT as a faculty member in 2011.

A pioneer in her field, Polina has been honored with many awards and recognition throughout her career. She is the recipient of an NSF CAREER Award, DARPA Young Faculty Award, Dresselhaus Foundation Inaugural Award, Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science, and was named one of the 35 Innovators Under 35 by *MIT Technology Review*. In 2021, she received the Pioneer Award from the NIH's High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program. Polina has also been celebrated for her commitment to teaching, having received a Junior Bose Teaching Award, MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, and an MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs. She was a recipient of a \$100k prize from the first-ever MIT Faculty Founders Initiative Prize Competition for her work in neuroprosthetics.

Polina is a valued member of the DMSE community. Her passion and dedication as both a researcher and educator, as well as her impressive network of connections across the wider Institute, will undoubtedly make her an excellent leader for the department.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Caroline Ross for serving as interim department head during this period of transition before Polina assumes her new role next summer. I would also like to thank the search advisory committee for their efforts, particularly Yet-Ming Chiang, who served as chair, as well as Antoine Allanore, Rafael Gomez-Bombarelli, James Lebeau, Robert Macfarlane, Frances Ross, Rebecca Shepardson, Carl Thompson, and Angela Belcher.

Please join me in warmly congratulating Polina on her upcoming role as the next department head of DMSE.

Sincerely,
Anantha P. Chandrakasan
Dean, MIT School of Engineering
Vannevar Bush Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science