



School of Engineering

Dear Engineering Council,

I'm pleased to share the email below that John Hart sent to MechE faculty, announcing Ellen Roche and John Leonard as Associate Department Heads in MechE. Ellen, who will serve as Associate Department Head for Research, will join Engineering Council as part of her new role.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Ellen to Engineering Council, and congratulating her on this new leadership role.

Best,
Anantha

From: Anastasios John Hart <ajhart@mit.edu>

Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 6:20 AM

To: me-fac-staff <me-fac-staff@mit.edu>

Cc: Ellen Roche <etr@mit.edu>, John Joseph Leonard <jleonard@mit.edu>

Subject: Announcing Prof. Ellen Roche and Prof. John Leonard as MechE Associate Department Heads

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to announce the appointments of Prof. Ellen Roche and Prof. John Leonard as Associate Heads of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, effective today.

Ellen Roche is the Latham Family Career Development Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering and the Institute for Medical Engineering and Science (IMES). Her research focuses on the development of disruptive approaches to enable the repair of damage to the heart or improve its function. She has made significant contributions to the fields of biomechanics, medical device design, soft robotics, and other areas of biomedical engineering. Ellen has co-taught design classes (2.009 and 2.75) in MechE, and she recently received the 2023 MIT Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award.

John Leonard is the Samuel C. Collins Professor of Mechanical and Ocean Engineering. He has provided extensive service to MechE in various roles including Associate Department Head for Research (2013-2016), Area Head (2007-2014), and Associate Director of the MIT Woods Hole Joint Program (2018-present). His research addresses the problems of navigation and mapping for autonomous mobile robots and underwater vehicles. He is an IEEE Fellow, an AAAS Fellow, and a Technical Advisor at Toyota Research Institute.

Ellen and John bring experience and expertise across several areas of the department, and spanning from impactful research to successful translation of new technologies. I'm very excited by their ideas and vision as members of the leadership team, along with their dedication to education, mentorship, and growth of our community.

Ellen will serve as Associate Head for Research and will join the School of Engineering Council* along with me. John will serve as Associate Head for Education. We will share other key responsibilities, including space and resource development, in close collaboration with the department staff.

Ellen and John have agreed to serve in these roles for one year, as we plan to evaluate the structure of the leadership team (which may expand to include a third Associate Head), and seek to provide new opportunities for leadership development within MechE.

I take this opportunity to once again thank Pierre and Rohit for their exemplary and dedicated service as Associate Department Heads since 2018, and as Interim Heads during the leadership transition. We will gather as a department for an event this fall to express our gratitude for their contributions.

Please join me in congratulating Ellen and John, and thanking them for making this important commitment to MechE. On behalf of our team, we look forward to working with all of you!

With best regards,

John

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*As an Associate Professor on Engineering Council, Ellen will not take part in Full Professor promotion cases, and John will manage those with me.

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