

Dear members of the DMSE community,

I'm writing to share an important update regarding the search for the next department head of MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Based on ongoing discussions with the search advisory committee, I will update the DMSE community on the department head search early in the fall. In the meantime, I'm pleased to share that Professor Caroline Ross has agreed to serve as interim department head for DMSE effective August 1, 2023.

Caroline is the Ford Professor of Engineering and has served as associate head of DMSE since 2011. She has been a member of DMSE's faculty since 1997. Caroline is a world renowned expert in magnetic materials, particularly thin films. Her work has applications in devices, data storage, and nanostructures built using self-assembly. She and her team manage the Thin Film Laboratory, which includes a pulsed laser deposition system, a sputter system, and various magnetic equipment.

Caroline received both her bachelor's degree and PhD from Cambridge University in her native UK. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the "other" Cambridge at Harvard University. Prior to joining the DMSE faculty, she spent six years as a research engineer manufacturing hard disks at Komag, Inc. in Silicon Valley.

Over the years, Caroline has received numerous awards and accolades for her substantial research contributions. She is a fellow of the American Physical Society, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Materials Research Society, and UK Institute of Physics. A dedicated educator in the structure of materials and magnetism, Caroline was honored with the Joseph Lane Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2000 and the Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Significant Improvement in MIT Education in 2004.

Caroline is extremely well suited to navigate DMSE during this period of transition, and I'm grateful to her for her dedication and commitment to the community. I'd like to also thank outgoing department head, Professor Jeffrey Grossman, for his years of service and for kindly agreeing to extend his tenure as department head several weeks. Finally, I want to thank every member of the search advisory committee for their ongoing work and guidance.

Sincerely,

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