



## **Natacha DePaola,**

**Dean, Armour College of Engineering, Illinois Institute of  
Technology, USA**

Dr. Natacha DePaola serves as the Carol and Ed Kaplan Armour Dean of Engineering and Professor of biomedical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. DePaola received her Ph.D. in medical engineering/medical physics from the Division of Health Science and Technology at Harvard Medical School – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1991). She completed postdoctoral work at Columbia University in the Artificial Organs Research Laboratory (1992). In 1993, she joined Northwestern University as an Assistant Professor of biomedical engineering and moved to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1994, where she served as Chair of the Biomedical Engineering Department from 2004–2009.

Her research investigates the role of physical mechanisms on cellular behavior, emphasizing its importance in the understanding of human disease, the development of new therapies, and the engineering of functional tissues. A major emphasis of her research is on hemodynamic regulation of vascular cell function in early atherosclerosis, gap junctional intercellular communication, and biophysical regulation of mammalian cell function with applications to vascular, bone, and neural tissue engineering. In her role as Engineering Dean, DePaola is committed to excellence in technology-focused education with a renewed emphasis on entrepreneurial and ethical practice of engineering. She is leading distinctive education initiatives emphasized by the opportunity to apply ongoing learning and technical knowledge to the solution of current problems of global impact.

Dr. DePaola is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and a Member of the Biomedical Engineering Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Society for Engineering Education. She was named one of Chicago's Women of Achievements in 2009 and received the 2012 IEEE Woman in Engineering Award.