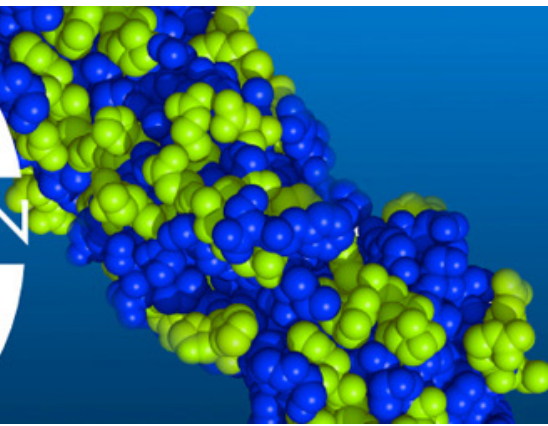


100 YEARS OF INNOVATION



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Surita R. Bhatia '95 has spent her career in academia and currently holds joint appointments as associate professor of chemistry at Stony Brook University in New York, and scientist in the Center for Functional Nanomaterials at the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Within those positions, Surita and her research students investigate the structure, rheology and transport characteristics of soft materials and complex fluids. She has co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed articles based on their findings and spoken at numerous national and international conferences and seminars.

In addition to research, she is involved in K-12 outreach, diversity enhancement, and improvement of chemical engineering pedagogy and curriculum in higher education.

While teaching chemical engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Surita was instrumental in professional development and diversity in engineering careers curricula at the institution.

The improved course raises student awareness about the current challenges facing increased diversity in the engineering workplace, and educates students about the institutional policies and personal skills needed to facilitate diversity and personal success.

For her work on this project, Surita was invited to participate in the 2009 Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium hosted by the National Academy of Engineering. She is also the founding member of UMass Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Diversity Institute.

Surita also received several awards while at UMass, including the NSF CAREER Award, a 3M Faculty Award, the DuPont Young Professor Award, the UMass Program Outreach Innovation Award and the Mentorship Excellence Award from the AIChE Women's Initiatives Committee.

She received her doctoral degree from Princeton University in 2000 and completed postdoctoral work at the Rhodia/CNRS Complex Fluids Lab in 2001.