
Virginia G. DeGiorgi, Ph.D.



Superintendent, Materials Science and Technology Division U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

Dr. Virginia G. DeGiorgi is the Superintendent of the Materials Science and Technology Division at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. She entered the Senior Executive Service in March 2020.

The Materials Science and Technology Division performs multidisciplinary basic and applied research leading to new and improved materials, new synthesis or fabrication processes, and novel applications for materials. The division focuses on scientific discovery and technological exploitation of fundamental materials physics, new devices and system concepts, power and energy, materials in extreme environments, materials and biology, and materials imaging and simulation to provide transformational capabilities to the warfighter. The division consists of approximately 130 federal employees and contractors.

DeGiorgi joined the civilian federal service in 1986 as a research engineer and progressed into roles with expanding responsibilities. She served as the head of the System Design and Integration Section from 2000-2014 and head of the Multifunctional Materials Branch from 2014-2020. From 2001-2011, she worked part time for the Tech Solutions, Swampworks, Warfighter Experimentation and Future Naval Capability programs at the Office of Naval Research. During that period, she worked with the other program officers to define the direction of research, review existing projects, and fund new projects across multiple technical areas.

Her own research has included computational modeling to further understanding of the three dimensional aspects of material fracture and integrated computational materials engineering (ICME) approaches addressing corrosion. She developed enhanced understanding of electrochemical corrosion and system performance, including insight into design of corrosion prevention systems and future Naval electrochemical corrosion issues. Additionally, DeGiorgi has been an active researcher in other areas of study including structural performance, nonlinear materials in extreme environments, and multifunctional materials.

DeGiorgi received bachelor's degrees and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Louisville in Kentucky. While an employee of Westinghouse Electric Corporation she became the first woman and youngest employee to be awarded the prestigious corporate B.G. Lamme Scholarship which

enabled her earning her doctorate. She received her Ph.D. in engineering mechanics from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

She is a member of numerous professional societies including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society of Naval Engineers, the American Society of Testing and Materials, and the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). DeGiorgi led The Technical Cooperative Program's 2003 study on the Prediction of Cathodic Protection System Performance. She was a member of the planning committee for the 2015 Persh Conference on Corrosion Policy Guiding Science and Technology. DeGiorgi is a fellow of the ASME, a recipient of ABWA's WaMarVa Regional Council "Living Your Legacy Award" in 2016 and is an ABWA Top Ten Business Woman.