



2010 NSF Minority Faculty Development Workshop Organizer Biographies



**Gilda Barabino,
Georgia Institute of Technology**

Dr. Gilda Barabino is a Professor and Associate Chair for Graduate Studies in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. She recently served as the inaugural Vice Provost for Academic Diversity at Georgia Tech and is credited for establishing an office to promote institutional cohesion in the policies, practice, and promotion of diversity. Previously she rose to the rank of Professor of Chemical Engineering and served as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Northeastern University. Dr. Barabino received her B.S. degree in Chemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana and her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Rice University. Her research interests are in the areas of sickle cell adhesion, cellular and tissue engineering and diversity in science and engineering.

Dr. Barabino has an extensive record of leadership and service in the engineering and medical communities. She is a member of the NIH National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Research Council, former Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Biomedical Engineering Society and member of the Advisory Board of the Committee on the Advancement of Women Chemists. She recently served as a member of the congressionally appointed NIH Sickle Cell Disease Advisory Committee. She is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Dr. Barabino has led numerous educational projects and initiatives designed to enhance faculty development and student success and to increase opportunities in science and engineering for members of underrepresented groups. She serves at the Principal Investigator for the NSF Minority Faculty Development Workshop and the NSF ADVANCE Leadership Award, “Cross-Disciplinary Initiative for Minority Women Faculty,” an initiative designed to enhance the socialization of tenure-track minority women into academic careers in engineering.



**Wesley Harris,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Currently, Charles Stark Draper Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Associate Provost for Faculty Equity, and Director of the Lean Sustainment Initiative, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Served as Head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, MIT, 2003-2008. Prior to that position, served as Associate Administrator for Aeronautics responsible for all programs, facilities, and personnel in Aeronautics at NASA (1993-1995). Performed, from 1990 to 1993, as Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI), Tullahoma, Tennessee. From 1985 to 1990 served as Dean of the School of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. And from 1972 to 1985, held several faculty and administrative positions at MIT, including Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Academic research associated with unsteady aerodynamics, aeroacoustics, rarefied gas dynamics, sustainment of capital assets, and chaos in sickle cell disease having made seminal contributions in each of these research fields. In academe, worked with industry and governments to design and build joint industry - government - university research and development programs, centers, and institutes; transferred technology effectively. Credited with more than 130 technical papers and presentations. Held distinguished, endowed professorships and lectureships.

Developed an outstanding record in advancing cultural diversity in academe and in government.

Served as chair and member of various boards and committees of the National Research Council (NRC), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Army Science Board, and several state governments. Served on committees of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the American Helicopter Society (AHS), and the National Technical Association (NTA). Served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Princeton University, 2001-2005. Served as advisor to several colleges, universities, and institutes.

Earned a Bachelor of Science degree (with Honors) in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia in 1964; a Masters of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Aerospace and Mechanical Sciences from Princeton University in 1966 and 1968 respectively. Elected Fellow of the AIAA, AHS, and of the NTA for personal engineering achievements, engineering education, management, and advancing cultural diversity. Recognized by election to membership in the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), Cosmos Club, Confrerie des Chavaliers du Tastevin, and awarded several honorary doctorate degrees.



**Robbin Chapman,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Dr. Robbin Chapman is currently the Manager of Diversity Recruitment for the School of Architecture and Planning and Assistant Associate Provost for Faculty Equity at MIT. She is responsible for strategic leadership and development of faculty development and graduate student recruitment initiatives. She is principal investigator on a Department of Education research project underway in the Birmingham, Alabama public school system where she is investigating teacher and student learning in high-density computing environments. Dr. Chapman received her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006. She conducted her dissertation research at the MIT Media Laboratory, where she researched and developed computational tools and community pedagogies for promoting critical reflection embedded in design-based learning activities. Her theoretical framework, Cooperative Constructionism, establishes a design-based approach to critical reflection. Dr. Chapman has several publications about her research, including the newly released book, [The Computer Clubhouse: Constructionism and Creativity in Youth Communities](#) and chapters in [Social Capital and Information Technology](#), [Falling for Science: Objects in Mind](#), and [Communities of Practice: Creating Learning Environments for Educators](#). She has presented her research at numerous conferences and invited talks. Dr. Chapman conducts workshops that explore creative ways of leveraging technology to promote deeper forms of learning. She has conducted diversity training workshops for many clients, including Simmons College, Boston University, Berklee College of Music, NAPE (National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity), and NERCOMP (Northeast Regional Computing Program). She earned her S.M. degree at MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory where she developed a novel method for robust sign language identification. She is the recipient of, with a group of colleagues from several universities, a Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies grant to investigate equity issues as they relate to the use of technology in education. She currently serves as Regional Liaison for the Ford Diversity Fellowship program, sponsored by the National Academies of Science. Dr. Chapman has served as Assistant Program Director for NASA's Space Life Sciences Training Program at Kennedy Space Center. A member of the NASA LSSF (Life Sciences Support facility) flight hardware team, she developed technologies to support life science experiments aboard the Space Shuttle. Other NASA projects include work on the Variable Speed Mid-Deck Centrifuge (VSMDC), Algae Liquid Fixation Apparatus (ALFA), and the Microgravity Plant Nutrient Experiment (MPNE).