

Professional Biography

Christine Ortiz

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Christine Ortiz is an Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Ortiz obtained her B.S. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY (1992) and her M.S. (1994) and Ph.D. from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, (1997) all in the field of materials science and engineering. After graduation, she was granted a NSF-NATO post-doctoral fellowship which she used to carry out research in the Department of Polymer Chemistry, University of Groningen, in the Netherlands (1997-1999). Dr. Ortiz's research program focuses on the ultrastructure and nanomechanics of structural biological materials (musculoskeletal and exoskeletal) with the primary goal being to quantify and understand new nanoscale mechanisms, phenomena, and design principles and how they determine function, quality, and pathology. Dr. Ortiz has 100+ scientific publications in 20+ different academic journals including, most recently; *Science*, *Nature Materials (Cover)*, *Nano Letters*, *Physical Review Letters*, *Biophysical Journal*, *Tissue Engineering*, and the *Journal of Biomechanics*. She has given 100+ invited lectures including 20+ international in 12 countries and 8 different Gordon Research Conferences. Dr Ortiz has supervised a total of 60 students from 8 different academic departments. In 2006, Dr. Ortiz assembled an interdisciplinary research team (IRG) of 7 faculty on the topic of “*Mechanomodifiable Heteronanomaterials*,” which went on to gain 5 years of funding starting in 2008 within the MIT NSF-MRSEC. Dr. Ortiz has received 25+ national and international honors including, most recently, the National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellow (NSSEFF) Award, the Defense Science Study Group (DSSG), Lady Davis Fellow, Visiting Professor, and Hadassah Appreciation Medal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), the MIT Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award, Recognition Award for “Outstanding Alumni,” by the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, and the National Science Foundation Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (NSF-PECASE) which was presented to her by President George W. Bush at the White House. Dr. Ortiz has served as a review panelist for NSF (SBIR, NSEC, CAREER, MDSE), NIH, and NASA (NBEI). Dr. Ortiz currently serves on the editorial boards of the “*International Journal of Surface Science and Engineering*,” “*Advanced Biomaterials*,” and “*Biointerphases*.” Dr. Ortiz has served as a review panelist for NSF (SBIR, NSEC, CAREER, MDSE), NIH, and NASA (NBEI). Dr. Ortiz is the founding faculty director of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)-Israel international exchange program. Dr. Ortiz has served on 25+ Institute and Departmental Committees including those that focus on faculty and administration searches, diversity, undergraduate and graduate education, international strategy, and commencement. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the DMSE Departmental Committee for Graduate Students, is a member of the MIT Institute Committee on Graduate Policies, the School of Engineering Committee on International Programs, The MIT Middle Eastern Studies Working Group, and the MIT Diversity Initiative. Professor Ortiz has a strong commitment to teaching, mentoring, and increasing diversity at all educational levels. She has developed and taught a popular new undergraduate course annually each spring semester “*Nanomechanics of Materials and Biomaterials*” and is a frequent participant in MITES (MIT Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science), MSRP (MIT Minority Summer Research Program), SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science), Institute Diversity Committees, and SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers). Professor Ortiz' full curriculum vitae is located [here](#).