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Natacha DePaola is 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's research investigates the role of physical mechanisms on cellular behavior, stressing its importance in the understanding of human disease, the development of new therapies, and the engineering of functional tissues. In her role as Engineering Dean, Dr. 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 co-inventor of a few biotechnologies, and co-founder, of TermoMechanica, Inc., which within the health science area focuses in the development of instrumentation for biomedical research and diagnostics. Dr. DePaola has received various awards and recognitions, is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), a member of nine other professional societies, and serves/has served in various public and private advisory committees. Dr. DePaola currently serves as the chair of the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC).