

Biography of Dr. Usha Varshney

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Dr. Usha Varshney is currently the Director of the Division of Electrical and Communications Systems (ECS), at the National Science Foundation. She joined the National Science Foundation in December 1997, as an ECS Program Director of Electronics, Photonics and Device Technologies, and of Integrative Systems.

From October 2003 to June 2004, Dr. Varshney was a ComSci Fellow sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce Science and Technology Fellowship program, during which time she worked on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Fellow in the office of Senator George Allen of Virginia, where she was involved with processing and management of Senate legislative actions relating to Science, Nanotechnology and Space. As a Program Director in the Division of Electrical and Communications Systems from 1997-2003, Dr. Varshney managed interdisciplinary science and engineering research programs relating to next-generation microelectronics and nanoelectronics devices and components.

Prior to joining the National Science Foundation, Dr. Varshney was Director of Research at American Research Corporation of Virginia from 1995-1997, where she directed the overall research program of the Corporation. From 1987-1995 as Senior Research Scientist and Research Scientist, she was involved in a broad range of science and technology programs of national interest. She has also held professional appointments at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Merrimac Magnetics Incorporated and Chronar Corporation.

Dr. Varshney received her Ph.D. degree in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, in 1983. She has authored over 70 refereed papers, trade journal articles, conference papers, technical reports and books and is an inventor on seven patents. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Life Member of IEEE Electron Devices Society, and Member of IEEE Magnetics Society, Materials Research Society, and American Ceramic Society. Dr. Varshney is an Associate Editor and Member of the Editorial Board of IEEE Sensors Journal. She is also a member of the Virginia Joint Commission on Technology and Science Advisory Committee on Nanotechnology. Dr. Varshney has participated in forums and seminars on science and technology policy issues, and also has been the recipient of several recognitions, honors and awards while in industry and at the National Science Foundation.