

IMS Seminar

Friday, April 25, 2025

11:45 AM, Science 1 - Room G01

**Coffee, tea and snacks will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m.*

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OUR

60TH
ANNIVERSARY

1965 - 2025

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Dr. Weina Li

Technical Fellow, Non-metallic Materials and Chemistry
Carrier Global Corporation
Ph.D. Materials Science ('07)
UConn IMS Materials Science Program
(Advisor: Dr. Steven L. Suib)
Current Member of the IMS External Advisory Board

Materials Science Journey: From Foundation to Innovation and Career Insights

Abstract: In this presentation, I will take you through my journey as a materials scientist, illustrating how my scientific training laid the foundation for tackling real-world challenges. I began my career working on complex aerospace problems, where the core principles of materials science allowed me to contribute to solving some of the industry's toughest technical issues. Later, I transitioned into the Fire & Security and HVAC industry, where I applied my expertise to address climate change and develop sustainable solutions for the future. I will share how my academic background has equipped me to approach daily challenges with creativity, resilience, and technical precision. Additionally, I'll offer valuable career insights and advice to inspire the next generation of materials scientists, encouraging them to pursue impactful technical careers in industries that make a difference.

Biography: Dr. Weina Li is currently a Technical Fellow in Materials and Chemistry at Carrier. In this role, Weina leads essential efforts to elevate engineering capabilities, drive technological advancements, and cultivate the next generation of engineers within the company. Weina's engineering journey began with her Ph.D. research from the University of Connecticut, where she specialized in nanomaterials synthesis, characterization, and applications. Driven by her passion for translating scientific expertise into impactful products, she pursued a career that would place her at the forefront of technology development for aerospace and renewable energy applications. After 11 years at United Technologies Research Center (UTRC), Weina joined Carrier in 2019. Before her current role, Weina held key leadership positions at Carrier, including serving as the suppression chemistry lead, overseeing a diverse, global team comprising business units, academic collaborators, and vendors. Her leadership and impact have earned her recognition within her organizations and across the industry, including Outstanding Achievement awards at UTRC, Carrier CTO award and the prestigious "R&D 100 Award" in 2013. Throughout her career, Weina has demonstrated a consistent ability to drive innovation and lead cross-functional teams to deliver breakthrough solutions in materials science and engineering. Outside of her professional pursuits, Weina finds joy in family life, being married with two children. She also indulges in hobbies such as dancing, swimming, and traveling around the world, further enriching her life experiences.

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