

JF-PRIZE 2014 – Anita Lloyd Spetz

Professor Anita Lloyd Spetz is the Head of the Division Applied Sensor Science within the scientific area Applied Physics, at IFM. Her widely recognized scientific excellence is illustrated by not only her highly qualified research accomplishments but also her tremendously generous availability and proficiency when supporting junior researchers, with the intention of increasing their independence, reputation, and academic merit, thereby paving the way towards their successful research careers.

In 2011 Anita acquired the prestigious position as Finland Distinguished Professor, FiDiPro, at University of Oulu in Finland where she works 50%. Anita is also the Director of the VINNOVA Excellence Center FunMat, the Deputy-Chair of the COST Action EuNetAir (28 countries), the Team Leader of several EU research projects, often the Organizer, Chair, and Committee member at international conferences, the Ass. Editor or on the Advisory Board of peer-reviewed journals, the Evaluator of proposals (EU, VR, VINNOVA), the Co-founder and Board Member of the spin-off companies AppliedSensor AB and SenSiC AB, an Examiner of many theses and Ph.D. dissertations, an Evaluator for positions as Lecturer, Assistant Professor, and Adjunct Professor, and much more.

Despite all her career achievements, it seems to those of us working for her that what she finds most rewarding is the development and advancement of young researchers, be they Ph.D. students, post-docs or other. Anita bases the relationship with all categories of her coworkers on freedom; she motivates and encourages us, and trusts our sense of responsibility. She possesses a rare generosity in giving the possibility for younger researchers to grow in her research group and build their own careers. To reach this goal, she is always ready, willing, and able to share previous research experience, networks, funding advice, and economic support. Anita supports and promotes junior researchers' strategic career planning in several ways: by giving them opportunities to obtain meriting tasks such as supervisorship, teaching, and course responsibility, by representing her in national and international workshops and project meetings, by writing grant applications, and by acting as project leader in funded projects. Within FunMat and other networks, and through her FiDiPro and grants, she strongly promotes the active collaboration, knowledge transfer, and exchange with industry and other universities.

During her long and illustrious career she has always promoted equal opportunity in compliance with the LiU gender policy. She has fervently strived to rectify the gender balance gap at LiU, being aware of the importance of recruiting women as young researchers. Applied Sensor Science successfully reaches the critical 40-60% level in gender representation with two post-docs, one thesis student, and the head herself out of 10 group members being female. With Anita the qualities, capabilities, values, ambitions, and even personal needs of all are taken into account in order to assist everyone in attaining their full potential while at the same time respecting individual personalities and attitudes.

Anita is relentless in her efforts to provide employees with sufficient resources and proper infrastructure for building their own research careers through laboratory work, attending conferences and courses, acquiring licenses, software/hardware equipment, or publishing high-quality papers. She is always available for listening, sharing scientific knowledge, general information, and discussions on science or other timely issues. Such intellectual exchange is fueled by an open and creative forum that is not limited to the research environment (group meetings, lunch meetings, fika,...), but extends also during free time, sometimes even at her place. Anita's door is always open, literally and metaphorically!