**Paula T. Hammond**

Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

David H. Koch Chair Professor in Engineering at MIT

Member of MIT’s Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research and MIT Energy Initiative

Founding Member of MIT’s Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology

B.S., Chemical Engineering – MIT, 1984

M.S., Chemical Engineering – Georgia Tech, 1988

Ph.D., Polymer Science and Technology – MIT, 1993

***Biography***

Paula Hammond was born in 1963 in Detroit, Michigan to parents that encouraged creativity and scientific thinking. Her father was a biochemist and her mother was a nurse that provided Paula and her brothers with a multitude of books and chemistry kits. Hammond’s favorite place growing up was the library and she dreamed of being a writer. She attended a small girl’s high school and as a junior her chemistry teacher encouraged Hammond to pursue a career in chemical engineering because of her interest in chemistry, physics and engineering. After graduating, she visited MIT and fell in love with the city of Boston and the variety of eclectic people that enjoyed learning as much as she did.

Hammond earned her bachelor’s degree in 1984 from MIT and went to work for Motorola in Florida as a process engineer. After working for a few years in the industry she decided to return to school as a graduate student at Georgia Tech, but she longed to be back at MIT so once she earned her master’s degree she went back to Boston and MIT to get her Ph.D. in polymer science and technology. While working on her Ph.D. she raised a child on her own that is now studying psychology at North Eastern University.

***Research***

Paula Hammond’s research largely lies in the development of polymers (long chains of molecules strung together in repeating patterns) for drug delivery systems in cancer treatments. Essentially these macromolecules will target cancer cells and deploy medication upon arrival to those cells that destroy them, while avoiding healthy body cells. She refers to these polymers as “stealth particles.” In 2002 she was leading founder of MIT’s Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology and helped develop collagen bandages that allow for wounded soldiers to not lose too much blood before proper medical attention can be delivered. Hammond has also contributed polymer research to the fields of study in energy and fuel cells.

***Awards, Honors, & Special Recognition***

* Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2013
* US Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program Teal Innovator Award
* Multiple American Institute of Chemical Engineer awards, including the Charles M.A. Stine Award
* Distinguished Scientist Award, Harvard Foundation, Harvard University
* Top 100 Materials Scientists and named one of the Top 100 Science Stories of 2008 by Discover magazine
* Named Lecturer and Fellowships at multiple universities across the country

*Information for this biography taken from The History Makers website, Chemical Heritage Foundation and Wikipedia*