

**Shalini Prasad Ph.D.** is Professor and Department Head of Bioengineering, Cecil H. and Ida A. Green Professor of Systems Biology Science at University of Texas at Dallas. She was one of the founding faculty in the department of Bioengineering at UT Dallas in 2010-11. She has undertaken many administrative roles that has shaped the growth of the nascent department. She has been department head since 2018 and under her leadership the department has achieved its highest ranking in USNWR to date and has diversified the student body. She was 21-22 ELATES Fellow, which is a national leadership development program designed to advance senior women faculty in academic engineering, computer science, and other STEM fields into effective institutional leadership roles within their schools and universities. As a bioengineer trained in multiple aspects of engineering and basic science, her research is focused on developing pioneering sensor technologies that transform the human experience.

Statement: The CoC is a wonderful platform to discuss strategies and approaches that would have impact on BME programs across various scales. As secretary of the COC this would be my opportunity to contribute to making the voices of all members heard within the BME community. I would like to offer up my experiences in growing and scaling a BME program and associated challenges and opportunities. I hope to be able to bring to focus topics such as leadership development and building connectivity across programs of diverse scales I am also hoping to leverage my learning from ELATES (Executive Leadership in Academic Technology Engineering and Science) to enable conversations and discussions in an equitable and inclusive manner.