

**Institute for Materials**  
**2021 Call for Initiative Leads**

The Georgia Tech Institute for Materials (IMat) intends to have a group of Initiative Leaders that that will champion a topic of their choice. The topics are expected to cross all areas of materials research from fundamental science to applications, and in a broad cross-section of domains.

IMat is seeking diverse, interdisciplinary and active academic and research faculty, including from GTRI, with a range of experience levels, who have interest in leadership and community building. The Initiative Leaders will:

- Assist IMat in identifying GT strengths and gaps in a given materials research domain.
- Identify emerging research directions, opportunities for new large-scale research centers and partnerships, and new infrastructure needs in a given materials research domain.
- Help build an inclusive and active community of interdisciplinary researchers across and beyond GT in a given materials research domain using activities such as technical workshops.
- Enable GT to create and respond to large-scale, multi-investigator extramural funding opportunities including large-scale research centers (e.g. NSF MRSEC, NSF ERC/STC, DOE EFRC), and industry partnerships and consortia.
- Broadly communicate IMat's vision and activities both within and outside of GT.
- Regularly meet as a group with the IMat Executive Director, Innovation Director, and Science Advisor to identify overlaps between the initiatives and plan activities.

While the final choice of materials research domains will depend on applications received, examples include: Materials in Extreme Environments, Lightweight Structural Materials, Materials for Energy Storage, Materials Upcycling, Soft and Polymeric Materials, Quantum Materials, Biologically Inspired Materials, Materials for Biomedical Applications, Materials for Electronic and Optical Systems, Materials Simulation and Data Science. Where appropriate, Initiative Leaders will also collaborate with other IRIs. In recognition of their service, IMat Initiative Leaders will receive discretionary funds. IMat intends to issue a call for Initiative Leaders on an annual basis. In this process, existing Initiative Leaders will be considered for renewal based on their progress in achieving the aforementioned goals and their impact on IMat and the GT materials innovation ecosystem.

To apply, please submit a CV and a one-page position statement to Cecelia Jones ([cecelia.jones@me.gatech.edu](mailto:cecelia.jones@me.gatech.edu)) by 5 PM on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The position statement should include (1) A description of the materials research domain(s) in which you are interested. This can be one of the above materials research domains or any other suggested area related to materials. A brief technical/scientific description of the area and why this is an important materials area for GT in the future should be provided. Include any potential collaborations with existing IRIs or research centers at GT. Also include a brief description of your research background and how it overlaps with the research domain of interest. (2) A description of your experience and/or interests in leadership and community building. This should include your thoughts on how to build community as an Initiative Leader for the proposed research domain.

IMat will hold a virtual town hall on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM via <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/qyfzksst> to describe its current vision, priorities and activities, as well as a description of the Initiative Leader positions. For any questions regarding these positions, you may contact Eric Vogel ([eric.vogel@mse.gatech.edu](mailto:eric.vogel@mse.gatech.edu)).

**About IMat**

Materials discovery is the foundation of many new technologies and is vital to economic growth as well as to the development of solutions to 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges in energy, mobility, infrastructure, computing, communications, security, and health. As one of Georgia Tech's 11 Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (IRIs), the Institute for Materials (IMat) seeks to enable and support Georgia Tech's internationally recognized materials research and innovation ecosystem; establishing and supporting large-scale industry- and government-funded partnerships and research centers, developing opportunities for GT researchers to catalyze new teams and ideas, and establishing GT as an internationally recognized hub for core materials research facilities and infrastructure.