



**Veerle Keppens** earned her bachelor's degree (1989) and Ph.D. (1995) in Physics from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). From 1995 to 1998, Dr. Keppens was a Fulbright fellow in the novel materials group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she became interested in the elastic properties of new materials. In 1999, she joined the faculty in the Physics Department at The University of Mississippi. In 2003, she moved back to Tennessee and joined the faculty in the materials science and engineering department at the University of Tennessee, where she continues to study the elastic properties and lattice dynamics of novel materials. At UT, she has received multiple awards at the departmental, college, and campus level, and in 2011 she became a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America for the application of ultrasonics to materials physics. She served as the associate dean for faculty affairs from August 2012 till October 2016. In 2015, she became the department head for the department of Materials Science and Engineering and in June of 2016, she was appointed as the director of the Joint Institute for Advanced Materials (JIAM), a position she combines with that of MSE department head.