



Ilene Busch-Vishniac started her career as a pianist but switched into the study of acoustics when realizing she had neither the talent nor the ambition to succeed as a musician. After obtaining bachelor's degrees in Physics and Math at the University of Rochester, Ilene went on to pursue graduate study in acoustics at MIT's Mechanical Engineering Department, working with Dick Lyon. Next she went to Bell Labs as a postdoc in the acoustics research department, where she established her endless collaboration with James West, working on electret sensors and actuators. Upon completion of her postdoc, Ilene joined The University of Texas Mechanical Engineering Department, where she climbed the ranks from Assistant Professor to Endowed Chair and extended her work on modeling of electroacoustic sensors and actuators. She left UT Austin to become the Dean of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, then the Provost and Vice President, Academic at McMaster University, and then the President of the University of Saskatchewan. During this time she also performed research on hospital noise, work that continues in collaboration with Erica Ryherd at the University of Nebraska. Ilene is now the Chief Innovation Officer and Acting Chief Operating Officer of Sonavi Labs, a startup company headquartered in Baltimore, MD and producing a smart digital stethoscope. She is the recipient of a number of research, teaching and administrative awards including the Silver Medal of the Acoustical Society of America and the Achievement Award of the Society of Women Engineers.