Rebecca Kuntz Willits, chairperson of Northeastern’s Chemical Engineering Department, is proud to recognize our most recent faculty’s accomplishments.
Srirupa Chakraborty  
**Assistant Professor**  
**PhD:** University of Buffalo, 2017  
**Postdoctoral Fellow:** Los Alamos National Laboratory, 2018-21  
**Joining Northeastern:** January 2022  
**Scholarship Focus:** Theoretical biology and biophysics  
**Awards and Recent Projects:**  
- Wiley Computers in Chemistry Outstanding Postdoctoral Award – American Chemical Society, Division of Computers in Chemistry, 2020  
- Los Alamos National Laboratory Spot Award “in recognition of significant dedication and contribution to COVID-19 response,” 2020

Sara M. Hashmi  
**Assistant Professor**  
**PhD:** Yale University, 2008  
** Joined Northeastern:** August 2019  
**Scholarship Focus:** Complex fluids, biomaterials & soft materials: manipulation of nanoscale and single-particle properties to control macroscale transport & assembly; microfluidics for biomedical, pharmaceutical & energy applications

Hannah Sayre  
**Assistant Professor**  
**PhD:** The Ohio State University, 2018  
**Postdoctoral Fellow:** Princeton University, 2018-21  
**Joined Northeastern:** August 2021  
**Scholarship Focus:** Design photocatalysts to improve efficiency and reactivity. Understand light-activated chemical reactions with time-resolved spectroscopy
Rebecca Kuntz Willits  
Professor and Chairperson  
PhD: Cornell University, 1999  
Joined Northeastern: July 2020  
Scholarship Focus: Neural regenerative strategies, neural mechanosensing, diversity and inclusion in engineering  
Awards and Recent Projects:  
• Fellow, BMES, 2020  
• Fellow, AIMBE, 2017  
• “Toward a Mechanotransduction Mimic of the Neural Stem Cell Niche,” NSF (PI), 2019  
• “Collaborative Research: Professional Preparation of Underrepresented Minority PhD’s and Post-Docs for a Career in Engineering Academia,” NSF (Co-PI), 2017

Benjamin Woolston  
Assistant Professor  
PhD: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2017  
Joined Northeastern: January 2020  
Scholarship Focus: Metabolic engineering and synthetic biology for sustainable biochemical production and human health  
Awards and Recent Projects:  
• “A Co-Culture Method for Enhanced Biofuel and Biochemical Production from Untreated Waste Gases,” MassVentures (PI), 2021  
• “Zero-Carbon Biofuels: An Optimized Two-Stage System for High Productivity Conversion of CO2 to Liquid Fuel,” DOE ARPA-E (Co-PI), 2021

Qing Zhao  
Assistant Professor  
PhD: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019  
Postdoctoral Fellow: Princeton University, 2018-21  
Joining Northeastern: January 2022  
Scholarship Focus: Computational catalyst and material design for sustainable energy applications  
Awards and Recent Projects:  
• ACS Chemical Computing Group Excellence Award in Computational Chemistry, 2020  
• Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation ACS Editors’ Choice, 2018
About Northeastern Chemical Engineering

The department has 34 tenured/tenure-track and affiliated faculty who have received over $14M in external research awards between 2019 and 2021. Our downtown Boston campus facilitates collaborations with major medical centers, other universities, research laboratories, national laboratories, and industry. Our faculty actively contribute to scholarship to solve problems related to health, sustainability, and energy.