



MEMORANDUM

To: Department Chairs and Section Heads in the Viterbi School of Engineering and the departments of Biological Sciences, Quantitative and Computational Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, and Physics & Astronomy in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Faculty in the Viterbi School of Engineering and the departments of Biological Sciences, Quantitative and Computational Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, and Physics & Astronomy in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences (via Department Chairs)

From: Leana Golubchik, WiSE Program Director

Mallory Redel, WiSE Program Manager

Date: June 12, 2023

Subject: Appointments of Sami Assaf and Greta Panova as holders of Gabilan Distinguished Professorship in Science and Engineering

The Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Program is pleased to announce the appointments of Professors Sami Assaf and Greta Panova as holders of the Gabilan Distinguished Professorship in Science and Engineering. This distinction recognizes their academic excellence as well as contributions to the WiSE community. The appointments were approved by the Provost based on recommendations of a committee of senior faculty from the Viterbi School of Engineering, the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and the WiSE Advisory Board.

Professor **Sami Assaf** received her Ph.D. in Mathematics in 2007 from the University of California Berkeley. Her dissertation on Schur positivity of Macdonald polynomials earned her the Herb Alexander Prize for an outstanding dissertation in pure mathematics. She then held a National Science Foundation postdoctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania and a CLE Moore Instructorship at MIT. After spending a year in finance, Professor Assaf joined the faculty at USC in 2012, where she is now a full professor. Professor Assaf's research in combinatorics, geometry and representation theory has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Simons Foundation. At USC, she has mentored 3 postdoctoral scholars, graduated 6 doctoral students and 1 masters student, and mentored 4 undergraduates who went on to pursue graduate work. She received the USC Mentoring Award for Faculty Mentoring Undergraduates in 2017, and continues to run a Math Circle for elementary school students. Within USC, Professor Assaf serves on the WiSE Dornsife Committee and as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of

Mathematics. Her service outside USC includes elected positions in the American Mathematics Society, where she is a vocal advocate for inclusivity and removing barriers for women.

Greta Panova is a professor in the Department of Mathematics. She received her B.S. in mathematics and electrical engineering from MIT in 2005, MA from Berkeley in 2006, and PhD from Harvard in 2011. She was a Simons postdoctoral fellow at UCLA until 2014 when she became an Assistant and then Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania until she joined USC in 2018. Her main research is in Algebraic Combinatorics with connections to Computational Complexity Theory within Theoretical Computer Science on one side and with Probability and Statistical Mechanics on another. Separately she works with a team of Molecular Biologists on modeling DNA repair dynamics. She has received numerous prizes and awards ranging from gold and silver medals at the International Mathematics Olympiad in 1999-2001, through Simons and von Neumann (IAS Princeton) fellowships to the IMI Award of the Bulgarian Academy of Science in 2020 for best Bulgarian mathematician under the age of 40. Her work has been internationally recognized by invited talks at major venues including the Current Developments in Mathematics conferences and has been supported by the NSF (Mathematics and Computer Science) continuously. She has served on the organizing committee of several conferences and long research programs and since 2019 has been an Editor-in-Chief of the Electronic Journal of Combinatorics. She has been actively involved with training for the Putnam Mathematics Competition and is now responsible for its content as one of its three editors.

Please extend your warmest congratulations to Professors Assaf and Panova on the receipt of this notable honor.

Cc: Elizabeth Graddy
Kelvin Davies
Amber Miller
Jan Amend
Moh El-Naggar
Judith Hirsch