Dr. Diane L. Evans, Director

Earth Science and Technology Directorate, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Dr. Diane L. Evans is the Director for Earth Science and Technology at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Evans received the A.B. degree in Geology from Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, in 1976 and the M.S. and Ph.D degrees in 1978 and 1981, respectively in Geological Sciences from the University of Washington, Seattle. Her graduate work included glaciological research and studies of Mars surface geology. She joined JPL in 1981 to develop remote sensing techniques for Earth surface geology using combined data sets from visible, infrared, and radar satellites, and initiated some of the first multisensor field campaigns.

Evans has been a Principal Investigator on a number of research activities sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and has been a member of many international science teams. Her field areas have included Northwest China, Australia, Spain, Hawaii, Wyoming, and the Mojave Desert of California. She was detailed to NASA Headquarters as the Geology Program Manager in 1985. Upon returning to JPL, she became the Supervisor of the Radar Sciences Group until 1989, Project Scientist for the Spaceborne Imaging Radar Projects from 1989-1998, and Chief Scientist for the JPL Earth Science Program from 1996-2001. She was appointed Director for Earth Science and Technology in May, 2001.

JPL's Earth Science and Technology Directorate is responsible for JPL's Earth Science missions and flight experiments, of which there are currently 12 in operations phase, 3 in implementation phase, and 4 in formulation phase. These represent a mix of Principal Investigator- led and assigned missions and include both interagency and international partnerships. In most cases, they are preceded by suborbital precursor instruments which are also managed by the Directorate. JPL's suborbital, in situ and satellite measurements are used synergistically with a focus on increasing understanding and predictive capabilities for ocean, atmosphere, and cryosphere systems and applying this integrated knowledge to global change and natural hazards. The Directorate also has programmatic responsibility for Earth Science basic research and advanced technology development, as well as JPL’s non-NASA research and technology activities which focus on mutually beneficial collaborations with the four national space sectors.

Evans has chaired or co-chaired a number of planning committees for NASA as well as a variety of academic institutions. The most recent example, resulted in the 2005 NASA document, "Exploring our planet for the benefit of society strategic roadmap", which laid the foundation for the first National Research Council Earth Science Decadal Survey. She has also served on a number of advisory panels, the most recent of which was the Defense Science Board Task Force on Trends and Implications of Climate Change for National and International Security in 2011.

Evans has been the recipient of several NASA awards including the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. She is the author of over 100 research publications, book chapters and conference presentations in the fields of geologic and radar remote sensing, and has given over a dozen short courses on these topics internationally. She was an Associate Editor of the IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Earth Observations and Remote Sensing (JSTARS) from its inception until 2010 and is an IEEE Fellow.