

# **Burns named Deputy Director for Research at Berkeley Lab**

(Article approved for External Release by LANL Classification Office)

Executive Officer to the Deputy Laboratory Director for Science, Technology and Engineering **Carol J. Burns** will serve as Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Deputy Director and Chief Research Officer beginning **Aug. 1**.

Burns has been a scientific leader at the Laboratory for more than 25 years. After receiving her B.A. in chemistry from Rice University and her doctorate in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley as a Hertz Foundation Fellow, she joined the Lab as a J. Robert Oppenheimer Postdoctoral Fellow.

Among her roles at the Lab, she managed organizations conducting work from very early-stage research to operational programs. In ST&E, she helped oversee research and programmatic efforts in chemistry, earth and life sciences, global security, physical sciences and simulation and computation.

## **Actinide expert**

At the Lab, Burns maintained a research program in actinide coordination and organometallic chemistry roles. She pioneered the development of a new class of high-valent uranium compounds containing metal-ligand multiple bonds, contributing substantially to the understanding of the electronic structure of the early actinides. The work continues to inspire current work in the field.

## **Emphasis in diversity and engagement**

Burns stewarded the Laboratory's educational and pipeline efforts, research integrity office, technology transfer work, and the Laboratory-Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program.

She also championed workforce development and gender diversity issues, working with senior women leaders in the DOE complex to formulate recommendations to the National Laboratory Directors Council for enhancing diversity and engagement. She also helped initiate a postdoc entrepreneurial fellowship at the Lab.

## **Award winner**

Burns is a Los Alamos National Laboratory Fellow, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has received numerous awards for scientific achievement and leadership. Most recently, she received the the American Chemical Society's 2020 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal, which recognizes distinguished service in chemistry by women chemists.