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Laura Smoliar is a Program Manager for Lightwave Electronics in Mountain View, CA where she manages a team of physicists and engineers. She has been working in Silicon Valley since 1996, with experience in data storage, display, and laser technology development, both at large and small companies. Her latest work has been in the development of fiber lasers and new solid-state ultraviolet lasers. In 2002, she was profiled on the Physics Central website (<http://www.physicscentral.com/people/people-02-7.html>). Laura has a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley and an A.B. Summa Cum Laude from Columbia College, Columbia University. Laura was Chair of FIAP in 2002 and is currently a General Councillor of APS. She is the mother of a two-year old daughter.