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Mehmet Fatih Taşar

Mehmet Fatih Taşar is a Professor of Physics Education at Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey. He is a physicist by training (B.Sc. from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul and M.Sc. from Erciyes University, Kayseri) and earned his Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction with emphasis on Science Education from The Pennsylvania State University, USA. He joined the Mathematics and Science Education Department at Gazi University in 2001 as a faculty member. His research focuses on the cognitive aspects of learning (mechanics) and the history and philosophy of science in science teaching. More recently Dr. Taşar is redirecting his research efforts on PCK and TPACK coupled with teacher professional development. Upon returning to Europe, Dr. Taşar has become an active member of ESERA and GIREP. He has served on ESERA Executive Board for 8 consecutive years between 2007 and 2015, served as the chair of the 2009 conference organization committee and 2014 ESERA doctoral summer school (DSS), contributed to ESERA DSSs as a coach and workshop presenter on a regular basis since 2008. In addition, he was the chair of the organization committee of the first World Conference on Physics Education (WCPE) that was held in Istanbul in 2012. Currently, Dr. Taşar is the president of iSER, The International Society of Educational Research, and serves as a co-editor-in-chief for 3 journals: International Journal of Physics and Chemistry Education (IJPCE), Action Research and Innovation in Science Education (ARISE), Hellenic Journal of STEM Education (HJSTEM). So far, Dr. Taşar has supervised 14 doctoral dissertations and 12 master's theses to successful completion. He has published numerous articles in peer reviewed national and international scholarly journals, and delivered keynote speeches, invited talks, and conference oral presentations around the globe. He has obtained national and international (EU Commission) research grants and worked as coordinator/partner for such research projects.

Paula R. L. Heron

Paula R.L. Heron is a Professor of Physics at the University of Washington, WA, USA. She holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in physics from the University of Ottawa and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Western Ontario. She joined the Physics Department at the University of Washington in 1995. Dr. Heron's research focuses on the development of conceptual understanding in topics including mechanics, electricity and magnetism, and thermal physics and on the development of formal reasoning skills. She has given numerous invited talks on her research at national and international meetings and in university science departments. Dr. Heron is co-Founder and co-Chair of the biannual "Foundations and Frontiers in Physics Education Research" conference series, the premier venue for physics education researchers in North America. She has served on the Executive Committee of the Forum on Education of the American Physical Society (APS), the Committee on Research in Physics Education of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and on the ad hoc National Research Council committee on the status and outlook for undergraduate physics education. She is Past Chair of the Executive Committee of the Topical Group on Physics Education Research of the APS. Dr. Heron co-chaired a joint task force of the APS and AAPT that produced the report Phys21: Preparing Physics Students for 21st Century Careers. She also serves as Associate Editor of Physical Review – PER. She was elected Fellow of the APS In 2007 and in 2008 she shared the APS Education award with colleagues Peter Shaffer and Lillian McDermott. Dr. Heron is a co- author on the upcoming 2nd Edition of Tutorials in Introductory Physics, a set of instructional materials that has been used in over 200 institutions in the US and that has been translated into German and Spanish.

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