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Jeanne Small joined the CMDITR in August 2006 after a two-year rotation at NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Division of Undergraduate Education, where she worked on undergraduate course, curriculum and laboratory improvement, K-12 teacher preparation, and technologist preparation through the Advanced Technological Education program. Jeanne came to NSF as a Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA, where her passion was teaching chemistry to non-science majors. Her research activities were in the arena of biophotonics and biophysics, using optical and acoustic techniques for understanding biological molecules and structures. She is a recipient of the Margaret Oakley Dayhoff award of the Biophysical Society.

Jeanne completed her B.S. in Chemistry at Trinity University, Texas in 1980, and received her Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Harvard University in 1985. She did postdoctoral work at Johns Hopkins University. Outside of academia, Jeanne is an officer and co-owner of Quantum Northwest, Inc., a scientific optical equipment company based in Spokane, WA that was founded in 1993 by her husband and fellow biophysicist, Enoch Small.