

Vita

María Cristina Sánchez was born on the 4th day of February 1972, in Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia. She moved to Neiva (Huila) where she spent her formative years. She graduated from *Colegio Cooperativo Campestre* high school in 1988 and was accepted to *La Universidad de los Andes* in Santa Fé de Bogotá where she received her bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1996. She then moved to the United States to enroll in the master's program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where she works as a research assistant in the Thermal Radiation Group. After finishing her Masters, she took part in a doctoral exchange program with the Universidad Politécnica de Puerto Rico and obtained her Ph. D. in November 2002.

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