

Biosketch

Sunčica Čanić earned her Ph.D. in 1992 in nonlinear hyperbolic conservation laws from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, under the supervision of James Glimm and Bradley Plohr. In 1999, she joined the University of Houston, where she began collaborating with medical specialists at the Texas Medical Center on problems related to cardiovascular treatment and diagnosis.

Her research achievements have earned numerous accolades, including the National Science Foundation Distinguished MPS (Mathematical and Physical Sciences) Lecturer Award in 2007, the U.S. Congressional Recognition for Top Women in Technology in 2006, and the Esther Farfel Award, the University of Houston's highest honor, in 2018. In 2011, she was invited to present a Congressional Briefing on Applied Mathematics on Capitol Hill. Čanić was elected a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in 2014 for her “contributions to the modeling and analysis of partial differential equations motivated by applications in the life sciences” and became a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) in 2020 for her “distinguished contributions to mathematics.”

In 2018, Čanić joined the Mathematics Department at the University of California, Berkeley, where she is currently a Full Professor. In 2024, she was awarded the AWM-SIAM Sonia Kovalevsky Lecture Prize and elected as a Corresponding Member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Her research focuses on the analysis and numerical simulation of partial differential equations with applications in medicine, active materials, and mathematical physics. Her work has influenced the design of a stent for bioartificial aortic valve placement, developed by a private consortium in Houston, and a second-generation bioartificial pancreas, currently under development at the Biodesign Laboratory at UC San Francisco.