

## Leila Hamdan

Secretary

Associate Vice President for Research and Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi



Leila Hamdan is Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), supporting the university's coastal and ocean research portfolio, and research centers, including the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, and the Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise. She previously served as Director and Associate Director of USM's School of Ocean Science and Engineering, and research scientist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC.

Dr. Hamdan's research centers on ocean exploration, and applied studies of microorganisms in coastal and ocean environments. She is a recipient of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program's Excellence in Partnering Award for leadership of a study of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, was a member of the National Academies' 2025-2035 Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences committee, and served as President of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation.

As Secretary of the Research and Education Coalition for Ocean Sciences (RECOS), Dr. Hamdan works to engage interest holders across public and private sectors to collaborate on national ocean research priorities.

She earned a Ph.D. from George Mason University in Environmental Science and Policy, a M.S. from George Mason University in Biology, and a B.S. from Rowan University of New Jersey. \