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Fulvia is an accelerator physicist, graduated in physics at the University of Trieste in Italy in 1986 with a thesis on accelerator nonlinear dynamics sponsored by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). After a fellowship at CERN, she worked at the Superconducting Super Collider project in Texas before joining Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1994. Fulvia led commissioning activities and the program for beam experiments at RHIC, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider. In 2005 she became the Head of Operations for RHIC and its injectors and eventually joined JLab in 2010 in her current role.

Fulvia has served as the Chair of the APS Division of Particle Beams, the main organization promoting the interest of accelerator physics in the physics community, and was elected Chair of the IEEE PAST Committee, which promotes accelerators in the engineering community. She has served as a Chair and reviewer in many Department of Energy (DOE), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Laboratory Management Review Committees.