

Franco Berruti
Dean of the Faculty of Engineering
The University of Western Ontario

Born in Torino, Italy, in 1957, Professor Berruti moved to Canada in 1982, after graduating in Chemical Engineering at the Politecnico of Turin, to join the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Waterloo, where he completed his MASc in 1983 and his PhD in 1986.

He joined the University of Calgary's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering in 1986, becoming a full professor there in 1992. Subsequently, he became Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies) in 1994.

With areas of expertise in particles technologies, gas-solid fluidization, heavy-oil upgrading technologies, biomass conversion into biofuels, he has written over 150 publications in a number of prestigious journals and books; presented at over 200 national and international conferences; been awarded two patents and recently submitted other four patent applications; edited two books; given 80 invited lectures; written dozens of technical reports. Dr. Berruti is the founding Editor of the first fully electronic scholarly journal in Chemical Engineering (The International Journal of Chemical Reactor Engineering). In addition, Dr. Berruti is one of the champions behind Agri-Therm, a successful spin-off company created in partnership between University and private investors with the objective of developing and marketing an innovative technology for the conversion of agricultural wastes into very valuable biofuels, biochemicals and biopharmaceuticals.

In 1996, he joined the University of Saskatchewan as Dean of the College of Engineering. In Saskatchewan, he contributed to a significant expansion of the faculty and students, developed close ties with industry and governments, led to a general enhancement of research and teaching activities in the College.

In 2000, he was recruited as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at The University of Western Ontario. The Faculty of Engineering is one of the most dynamic and research intensive faculties at Western. He has actively pursued a large variety of collaborative projects across the University (particularly with the Faculties of Science, Medicine and Dentistry and Health Science) and with both the private and public sector. He is strongly committed to making the Faculty of Engineering recognized as one of the leading Faculties in Engineering in Canada. Under his leadership, faculty and staff complements doubled in five years, while the graduate student numbers and the research funding quadrupled.

In 2005, he has been reappointed as Dean of Engineering at Western for a second term to lead the expansion of the Engineering graduate programs, of the infrastructure and of the research intensiveness of the Faculty. Dr. Berruti has spearheaded the efforts behind the creation of the first LEED Certified Green Building on the University Campus, the Claudette McKay-Lassonde Pavilion which will house the research activities resulting from a \$ 18.2 M CFI grant to pursue research activities in Green Technologies, Processes and Products.