

Dr. Whittaker is Professor and Chair in the Department of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering at the University at Buffalo (UB) and the Director of MCEER. He is a licensed Civil Engineer and Structural Engineer in the State of California. He served for 7 years as President of the Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering (CUREE), which is a not-for-profit corporation in the United States. In 2010-2011 he served on a National Research Council committee to develop a 20-year research agenda for earthquake engineering research in the United States as the only academic structural/geotechnical engineer on the committee. Dr. Whittaker served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) from 2008-2010, as a member of the Board of Directors for the World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) from 2008-2010, and currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Southern California Earthquake Center. He contributes to the development and revision of codes and standards for the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Concrete Institute, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials on topics related to earthquake and blast engineering of buildings, bridges and nuclear energy structures.

Dr. Whittaker's research interests include seismic behavior of low aspect ratio walls of conventional and composite (SC) construction; blast engineering of buildings and infrastructure; modular SC construction for nuclear energy structures; seismic protective systems; advanced seismic probabilistic risk assessment; performance-based earthquake engineering; and seismic hazard analysis.

Dr. Whittaker provides consulting, peer-review and expert-witness services to private companies, local, state, and federal government agencies in the United States, South America, Europe, United Kingdom, Australia, and Asia. A focus of his consulting work is the application of performance-based seismic design and advanced blast engineering to tall and ultra-tall buildings, long-span bridges, and power-related and mission-critical infrastructure.