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Dr. George C. Lee is a SUNY Distinguished Professor at the University at Buffalo. Previously, he served as Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering (1974-77) and Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (1978-95). Since 1995, Dr. Lee is Samuel P. Capen Professor of Engineering. From 1992 to 2003 he served as Director of MCEER, and since 2003, as MCEER Special Task Director. He earned both his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees at Lehigh University, and his undergraduate degree from the National Taiwan University. During his 46 years at the University at Buffalo, Dr. Lee has mentored 20 post doctoral fellows, supported over 30 international visiting scholars, and guided 45 Ph.D. and 75 MS students. He co-authored four books and published more than 250 papers on structural engineering and mechanics, steel structures and earthquake engineering. In his earlier career, he also made contributions in cold regions structural engineering and biomechanics and living systems. His currently funded research projects (NSF and FHWA) include the development of: (1.) Seismic Design of Structures with Added Response Modification and Isolation Systems; (2) Decision-Support Systems for Managing Utility Systems for Critical Facilities; (3) Seismic Design of Segmental Piers for Accelerated Bridge Construction; (4) Multi-hazard Design Principles for Highway Bridges; and (5) Bridge Damage Monitoring Systems.

Dr. Lee has held leadership positions in numerous professional organizations including: ASCE, Welding Research Council, Structural Stability Research Council, U.S. National Committee on Biomechanics, and Committee on Hazard Mitigation Engineering of the National Research Council. He has served as the editor or as a member of editorial boards of several ASCE and international journals. He is currently the US editor-in-chief of Journal of Earthquake Engineering and Earthquake Vibration. He has received numerous awards and citations including the ASCE Newmark Medal for his research contributions and his leadership role to successfully pioneer the center approach in earthquake engineering research engaging multi-institution, multi-disciplinary team efforts. Dr. Lee received the 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.