



National  
Science  
Foundation

University of California at San Diego



UC San Diego  
JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
Structural Engineering

# *Preparing an NSF Proposal to Utilize NHERI@UCSD*

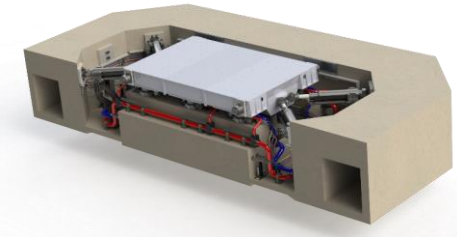
*John W. van de Lindt, Colorado State University*



*NHERI@UC San Diego User Training Workshop*

*December 15-16, 2022*

*University of California, San Diego*





“I skate to where the puck is going to be,  
not where its been.”

....Wayne Gretzky



# A few short stories....



## Story 1: Right place, right time

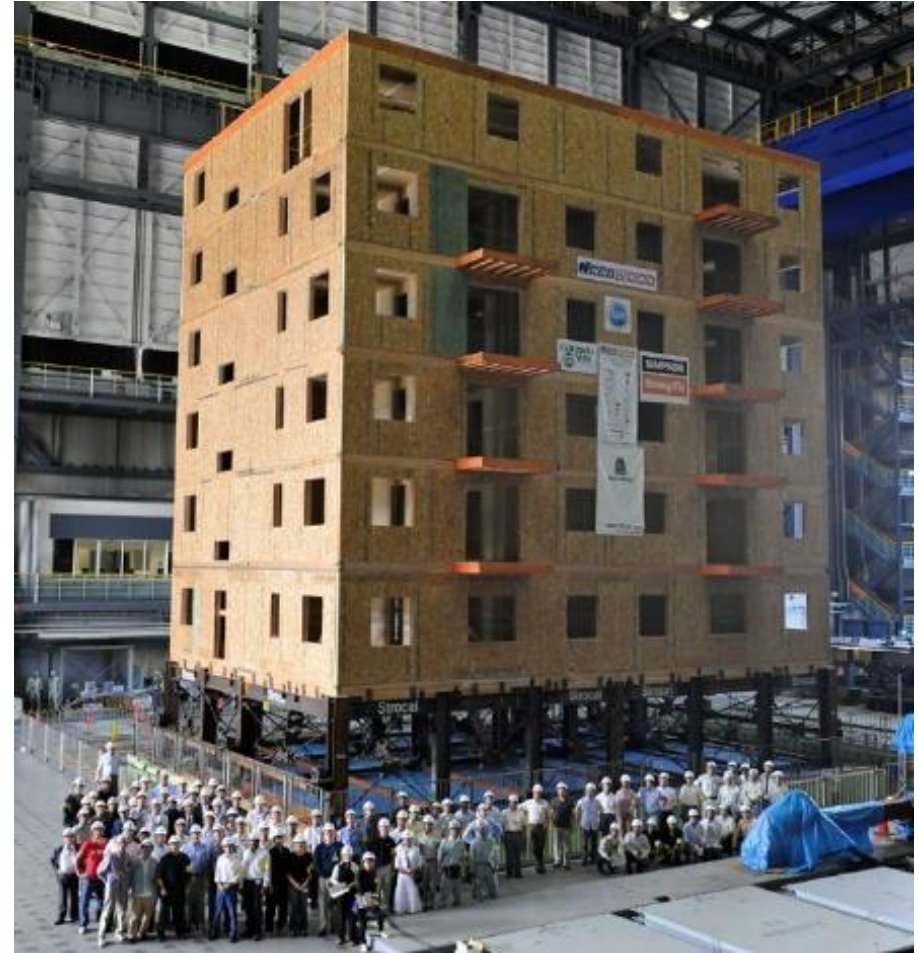
...but put yourself there!

- 2001 NEES Consortium
- 2002 UCSD NSF workshop
- 2003 Elevator Speech
- 2004 Visit to Japan
- 2006 Park City, UT – 1<sup>st</sup> NEES Annual Meeting - Hayama-San (Director General, NIED)
- 2009 Miki City, Japan

# Story 2: Back yourself into a corner

...then fight your way out!

- Great recession of 2008
- Ten round trips to Japan in 2009 for NEESWood
- Every time I boarded to go back to Colorado I needed to find \$\$\$ within a week
- Left computers in the office and picked up nail guns for the last month



# Let Societal Need Drive Research

- Don't solve a problem because you can; solve it because society needs you to....
- Academic solutions alone are going away for large projects
- Community (or private entity) partnerships to enable positive change; engagement
- Broader impact isn't just education – which is important – it's making your research impactful in society
- No matter how technical your work is – find a way to explain it to anyone; and do – make a case for it before it is proposed

# How I write a proposal – especially when they include big tests

- Convince reviewers there's a problem and the world needs this solution
- Convince them you or your team are the researchers to solve it
- Convince them your workplan can do it; time, money, process
- Pay attention to details
- Think of a novel
  - You have less than a page to get reviewers attention
  - Foreshadowing; reminders of importance;
  - Organization and structure

An example from 2013 @UCSD...



But first – the most important component

Team, team, team....!!!

# The Capstone Team



John  
van de Lindt



Steven  
Pryor



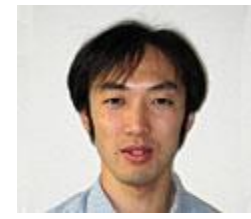
Shiling  
Pei



David  
Clyne



Hidemaru  
Shimizu



Hiroshi  
Isoda



Izumi  
Nakamura



Tim  
Ellis



Doug  
Allen



Kate  
Pfretzschner



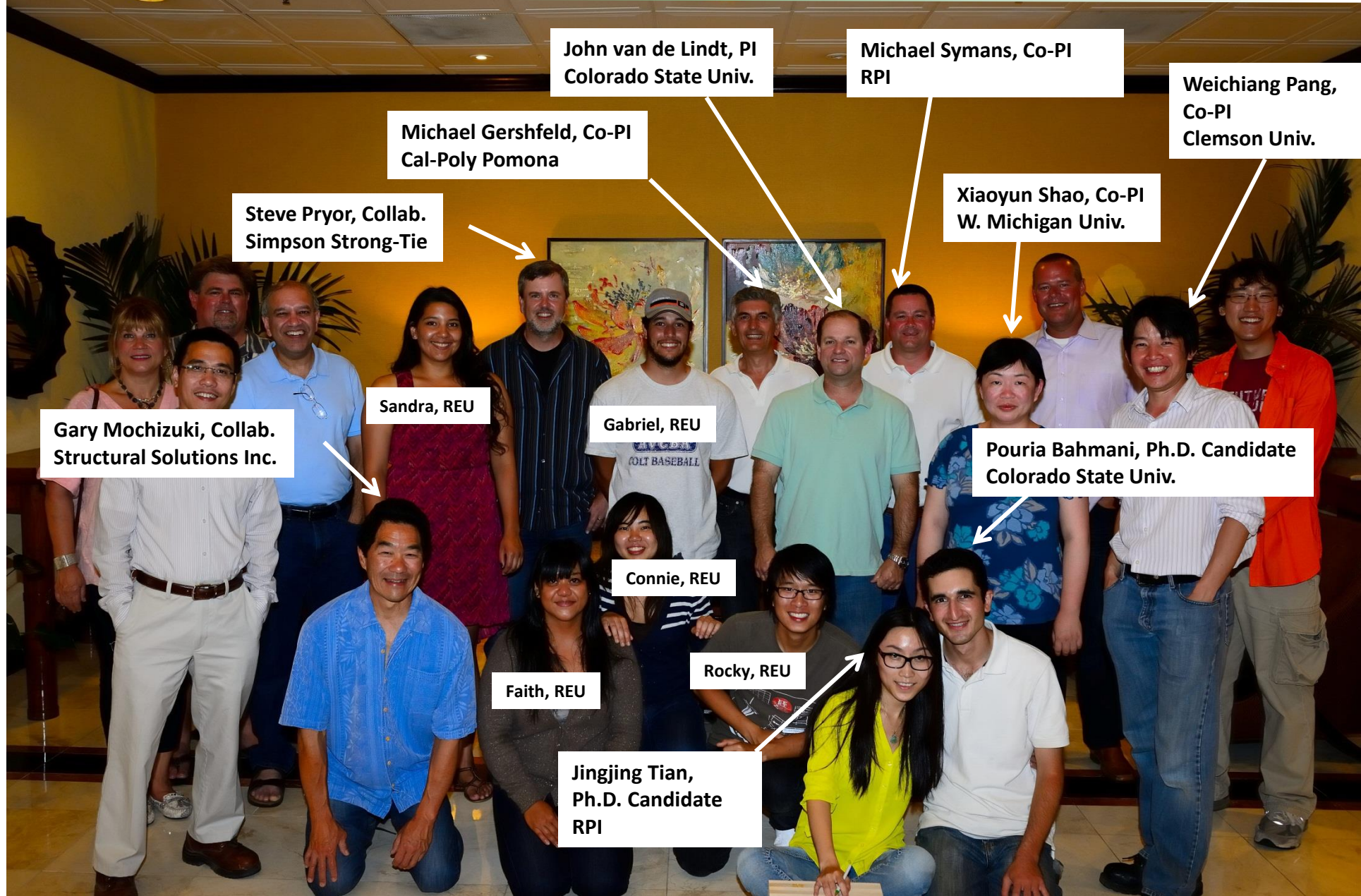
Kazuki  
Tachibana



Tomoya  
Okazaki



# The NEES-Soft Site Team





# NIST CoE Executive Team



**John van de Lindt**  
Co-Director



**Bruce Ellingwood**  
Co-Director



**Jamie Kruse**  
Co-Director



**Jong Lee**  
Task 1: Development of IN-CORE Platform  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



**Dan Cox**  
Task 1: Development of IN-CORE Platform  
Oregon State University



**Shannon Van Zandt**  
Task 2: IN-CORE Outreach and Sustainability  
Texas A & M University



**Harvey Cutler**  
Task 3: Mitigation and Recovery  
Colorado State University



**Andre Barbosa**  
Task 4: Verification and Validation (V&V) of IN-CORE  
Oregon State University



**Jamie Padgett**  
Task 5: Modeling of Complex Systems  
Rice University



**Paolo Gardoni**  
Task 6: Modeling of Interdependencies and Propagation of Uncertainty  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



# NIST CoE Senior Research Team







2013/08/17 AM11:09:20  
CAM4 C1GRGSE





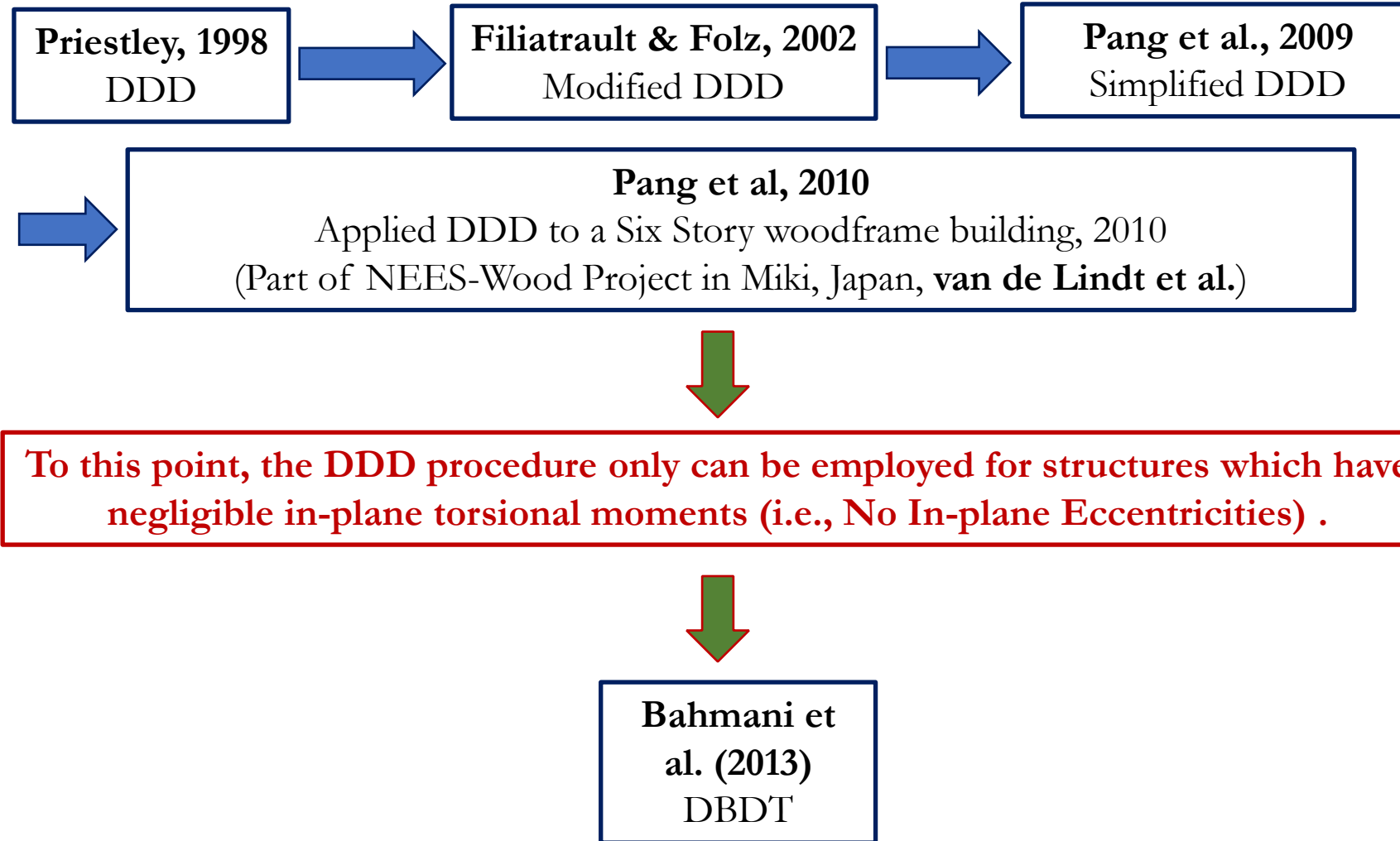




# Uniqueness of Proposals that Include a Large Test

- NSF cannot fund the entire test program typically, so don't ask
- Thread at least two concepts through the proposal/proposed work
  - Fundamental research – NSF
  - Industry research – fundraising/collaboration
- Put the “A” team together even if its expensive
  - Choose people based on skill set & their ability to collaborate

# Fundamental Research Component 1 – NEES-Soft



# Fundamental Research Component 2 – NEES-Soft

- Develop better models of woodframe collapse mechanisms
- Model needed for better P695 and other analysis (ATC project – Pang et al)

Corotational Model for Cyclic Analysis of Light-Frame Wood Shear Walls and Diaphragms

•February 2012

•[Journal of Structural Engineering](#) 129(8):1303-1317

DOI:[10.1061/\(ASCE\)ST.1943-541X.0000595](https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)ST.1943-541X.0000595)

# Example: City of San Francisco

## The San Francisco Soft-Story Ordinance

Mar, 2019 by John Dal Pino, S.E. and James Enright, P.E., LEED AP Lessons Learned Comments: 0

In 2013, the City of San Francisco embarked on an ambitious and groundbreaking endeavor: the mandatory seismic retrofit of its wood-framed soft-story apartment buildings. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake caused considerable damage to such buildings in the Marina District (Figure 1) and exposed the vulnerability of buildings with soft and weak first stories. Yes, even wood-framed buildings, thought by most engineers to be the most naturally earthquake resistant type of structure due to their lightweight nature and reserve strength, can collapse under the right (or perhaps wrong) circumstances. According to a 2016 report by the Association of Bay Area Governments, San Francisco had 6,700 soft-story buildings, far more than the rest of the region combined.



Figure 1. Soft-story building collapse in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

FILE NO. 130119 AMENDED IN COMMITTEE 3/25/2013 ORDINANCE NO. 66-13

1 [Building Code - Mandatory Seismic Retrofit Program - Wood-Frame Buildings; Optional  
2 Evaluation Form Fee]

3 **Ordinance amending the Building Code to establish a Mandatory Seismic Retrofit**  
4 **Program for wood-frame buildings of three or more stories or two stories over a**  
5 **basement or underfloor area that has any portion extending above grade, and**  
6 **containing five or more dwelling units where the permit to construct was applied for**  
7 **prior to January 1, 1978, and the building has not been seismically strengthened;**  
8 **establishing a fee for administering the program; adopting environmental findings and**  
9 **findings of local conditions under California Health and Safety Code, Section 17958.7;**  
10 **establishing an operative date; and directing the Clerk of the Board to forward the**  
11 **legislation to specified State agencies.**

12 NOTE: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman;  
13 deletions are ~~strike-through italics Times New Roman~~.  
14 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;  
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

15 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

16 Section 1. General Findings.

17 (a) At a duly noticed public hearing held on February 20, 2013, the Building Inspection  
18 Commission considered this ordinance.

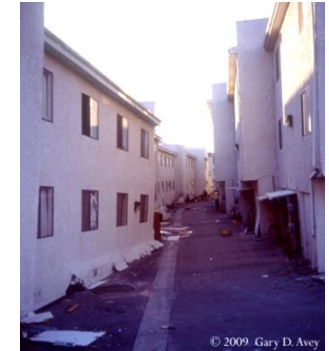
19 (b) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
20 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
21 Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of



# 2013: Motivation for NEES-Soft

“Seismic Risk Reduction for Soft-Story Woodframe Buildings”

- Many buildings built prior to the 1970s are prone to collapse during major earthquake event due to insufficient lateral resistance of their first story.
- Community Action Plan for Seismic Safety (CAPSS)
- FEMA P807
- NEES-Soft: Seismic Risk Reduction for Soft-Story Woodframe Buildings
  - Five-university-industry NSF-funded collaboration
  - Develop better understanding of soft-story woodframe behavior through numerical analyses and experimental testing
  - Experimental validation of FEMA P807
  - Performance-based retrofit methodology and techniques
  - Develop better models of woodframe collapse mechanisms



Bahmani, P., J.W. van de Lindt, S.E. Pryor, G. Mochizuki. (2020). “Performance-Based Seismic retrofit Procedure with Shake table Validation.”, *Engineering Structures*, 205 (2020) 110012.

Jennings (Sutley), E.N., J.W. van de Lindt, E. Ziaei, P. Bahmani, S. Park, X. Shao, W. Pang, D. Rammer, G. Mochizuki, M. Gershfeld. (2015). “Full-Scale Experimental Verification of the Soft-Story-Only Woodframe Building Retrofits using Hybrid Testing.”, *Journal of Earthquake Engineering*, 19 (3).

# Industry Research Collaboration/Components – NEES-Soft

- Collapse Testing
  - Better understand collapse mechanisms of soft-story woodframe buildings
  - Politically, provide visual for retrofit communication/motivation
- Integration of industry products for use in both FEMA P807 & PBSR
  - Partnered with Simpson Strong Tie Co – SSMF & ATS
- FEMA P807 Experimental Validation
  - All work numerical during development of approach
  - Prevented collapse at 60% MCE target



























# The lifecycle of the test building



# Takeaways

- Solve something of broad interest; narrow won't cut it for this size program
  - Industry must have something to gain, e.g. information, data, publicity
- Be sure there are (at least) two major components
  - Fundamental research - \$\$
  - Industry/mainstream - \$\$\$\$
- Engage collaborations at the writing stage if possible; engage UCSD; otherwise early
- Form an industry or project advisory committee and use them (when funded)
- If these four are there, then don't worry about having all the \$\$\$ when it starts
  - Interest develops quickly, but can be nerve racking
  - Everybody must contribute; no free rides (be equitable!)
- The professional reward outweighs the negatives, so write-write-write



# NEES-Soft Acknowledgements

Some of the material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. CMMI-1041631 (NEES Research) and NEES Operations. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the investigators and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

The presenter kindly acknowledges the Co-Principal Investigators of the NEES-Soft project: Michael D. Symans at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, WeiChiang Pang at Clemson University, Xiaoyun Shao at Western Michigan University, Mikhail Gershfeld at Cal Poly – Pomona, and senior personnel David V. Rosowsky at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Andre Filiatrault at University of Buffalo, Gary Mochizuki at Structural Solutions Inc., Shiling Pei at South Dakota State University, Douglas Rammer at U.S. Forest Products Lab., David Mar at Tipping Mar, and Charles Chadwell at Cal Poly – SLO, and the graduate students working on the project, Pouria Bahmani, Jingjing Tian, and Ershad Ziaei. A special thank you to Asif Iqbal (BRANZ) for his collaboration and Steve Pryor for his collaboration through Simpson Strong-Tie on the SSMF design, installation, and testing.

Thank you to Simpson Strong-Tie, SEAOSC, U.S. Forest Products Lab, NEES@UCSD, NEES@UB and all respective personnel.

A special thank you to all of the REU students Sandra Gutierrez, Faith Silva, Gabriel Banuelos, Rocky Chen, Connie Tsui. Others that have helped include Asif Iqbal, Vaishak Gopi, Steve Yang, Ed Santos, Tim Ellis, Omar Amini, and Russell Ek. Finally, our sincere thank you to NEES and all site staff and site PI's at NEES@UCSD for their help getting the tests ready.



# NEESWood Acknowledgements

Some of the material presented in this presentation is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. CMMI-0529903 (NEES Research) and CMMI-0402490 (NEES Operations). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. The presenter is grateful to the overall NEESWood project team made up of David V. Rosowsky, Andre Filiatrault, Rachel A. Davidson, and Michael D. Symans. Thank you also to Weichang Pang of Clemson University for his participation in the design portion of the Capstone test specimen. Thank you to NSF REU's Doug Allen and Kathryn Pfrezschner, researchers Chun Ni, Hidemaru Shimizu, Professor H. Isoda, Izumi Nakamura, Chikahiro Minowa, N Kawai, and Mikio Koshihara . Two graduate students, Kazaki Tachibana and Tomoya Okazaki, contributed to the construction and instrumentation of the test specimen. Thank you also to Steve Pryor and Tim Ellis of Simpson Strong Tie Co. and David Clyne of Maui Homes USA. Edward Matsuyama and colleagues at AF&PA, APA, and Canadawood. Technical collaborators beyond the authors affiliation included the Simpson Strong Tie, U.S. Forest Product Laboratory, FP Innovations-Forintek Division, Maui Homes U.S.A, and Structural Solutions Inc. Financial and in-kind product and personal donations were provided by Simpson Strong Tie, Maui Homes, B.C. Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Stanley Bostitch, Strocal Inc., Structural Solutions Inc., Louisiana Pacific Corp., Natural Resources Canada, Forestry Innovation Investment, APA-The Engineered Wood Association, American Forest and Paper Association, Howdy, Ainsworth, and Calvert Glulam.

## Thank you

My contacts:

Email: [jwv@colostate.edu](mailto:jwv@colostate.edu)

Twitter: [@commresilience](https://twitter.com/commresilience)

LinkedIn: John van de Lindt

Web 1: <https://www.engr.colostate.edu/~jwv/>

Web 2: <http://resilience.colostate.edu>

Acknowledgments: to my many students and collaborators over the decades, NSF, and other funding agencies.

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
DEADLINE January 13, 2023



[inspire.asce.org](https://inspire.asce.org)

\*Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities available

