

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VI Higher Education Collaborative**

### **Mr. Bob Currey**

Office of Research and Sponsored Projects  
Assistant Vice President  
University of Texas at El Paso



Bob Currey has served as Assistant VP for Research at The University of Texas at El Paso since the summer of 2009. His expertise and responsibilities include: congressional and federal relations; promoting and facilitating research in the defense and security and energy/environment/sustainability sectors; management and governance of organized research units and consortia; liaison with area military installations; establishment of the physical and administrative infrastructure to support sensitive and classified research activities at UTEP; and special, time-sensitive projects. He is a member of the UT System National Security Advisory Group. He is a proven director/manager of large, grant-funded, multi-institution, multi-discipline research programs and organizations. Prior to becoming AVPR he was a program manager, assistant director, associate director and director of UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management. He has served on university committees to develop research strategic plans, and on binational (US-Mexico) committees and task forces addressing the environmental problems of the border region shared by the two countries, especially in the areas of air quality and its impact on health.

### **Dr. Ponmile Oloniua**

Associate Professor  
Texas Southern University



Ponmile Oloniua is an associate professor in the Political Science Department at Texas Southern University where she was the first doctoral candidate to receive a PhD in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy in 2006. Oloniua was a Mary Fran Myers Scholarship award winner in 2009; which allowed her to attend her first Natural Hazards Workshop that year. She has been a regular attendee every year since. She is now the Continuing Education Credit Coordinator for the Natural Hazards Workshop, a Board Member of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association, and a member of the Texas Floodplain Managers Association. Oloniua teaches emergency management and homeland security at Texas Southern University and is a certified floodplain manager. Oloniua is also a hazard mitigation/floodplain management plan reviewer for Community Rating System credits with the Insurance Services Office (ISO). She has published her research in several journals including the Journal of Emergency Management, Journal of Risks, Hazards, Crisis, and Public Policy, and World Health and Medical Policy.

**Mr. Kevin Clement**  
University of Houston



Kevin Clement is an accomplished Homeland Security and Emergency Management professional with in-depth program management and interagency coordination experience. A retired Army Infantry officer with over 23 years of active service, he has had consistent success in leading and directing homeland security, emergency management, and public safety activities with specific expertise in critical infrastructure security and resiliency, continuity of operations planning, public safety, anti-terrorism, and border security operations. A respected planner, he is the author of the Texas Border Security Operations Plan (Operation Border Star 2010), the Texas Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Plan (2014), and the Texas Cross-Border Mass Migration Plan. Most recently, he led the Texas State Agency Continuity of Operations (COOP) initiative and the development of a state-wide Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection (PRND) Strategy and CONOPS. Kevin has served as Texas' representative to the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC) and co-chair of its Regional Initiatives Working Group. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy, and Master of Arts degrees from the U.S. Naval War College (National Security and Strategic Studies) and Salve Regina University (International Relations).

**Dr. Manos Papadakis**  
Associate Professor  
University of Houston



Manos Papadakis is an associate professor in the University of Houston's Department of Mathematics. He works on developing tools for harnessing latent information in 3D image data sets using wavelets and other multiscale representations combined with sophisticated classification algorithms.

His methods have applications in cardiovascular imaging and neuroscience, where complicated structures such as the walls of coronary arteries or tiny neuronal structures need to be imaged.

Visualizing the walls of coronary arteries in CT-Angiography will help clinicians to pinpoint suspect regions -- those likely to cause infarctions or those developing atherosclerotic plaque -- without the use of invasive diagnostic methods. Rapid structural reconstructions of neurons will enable the 3D-visualization of the neuronal function and lead to a better understanding of how single neurons or small groups of similar neurons work, which is a crucial first step for understanding the most complicated structure, the human brain.

Papadakis is a member of the Center for Mathematical Biosciences, which is poised to become the world's leading center for integrating advanced mathematics with medical research. He collaborates with several bioscience mathematicians in the UH Mathematics Department and with other UH faculty members from the Department of Computer Science and from the Texas Learning and Computation Center at the University of Houston.

**Dr. Soheil Nazarian**

Professor

University of Texas at El Paso



Professor Nazarian is the Director of the Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems. He has more than 35 years of experience in the areas of materials and nondestructive testing as related to transportation infrastructure and lifeline. He has been the PI and co-PI of more than 100 research projects funded by federal and state agencies such as Texas Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, National Science Foundation, Army Research Office, and Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The focus of his research has been in developing tools and methods for evaluation, quality management and monitoring of infrastructure. Dr. Nazarian has been the author or coauthor of more than 200 technical articles in journals and conference proceedings. Dr. Nazarian is the Chair of the Geotechnical Instrumentation and Modeling of the Transportation Research Board, the past Chair of the Geophysical Engineering Committee of ASCE Geo-Institute, and served on the Board of Directors of the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society.

**Dr. Bill Tseng**

Professor

University of Texas at El Paso



Dr. Tseng is a Professor and Chair of Department of Industrial, Manufacturing and Systems Engineering at the UTEP. He is also a Director of Research Institute for Manufacturing & Engineering Systems, the host institute of Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center at UTEP. He received his two MSIE degrees (MFG & DS/OR) from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Iowa. Dr. Tseng is also a Certified Manufacturing Engineer from Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Dr. Tseng's research area cover emergency management, systems engineering, computational intelligence/data analytics and cyber engineering technology. Over the years, he has served more than 12 million dollars as principle investigators sponsored by NSF, NIST, USDT, DoEd, KSEF and industry like LMCO, GM and Tyco Inc. Dr. Tseng delivered research results to many refereed journals such as IEEE Transactions, IIE

Transactions, International Journal of Production Research, Journal of Manufacturing Systems, Expert Systems with Applications and other conferences (over 200 refereed publications). He is currently serving as an editor of Journal of Computer Standards & Interfaces (CSI) and editor boards of International Journal of Data Mining, Modeling and Management (JDMMM) and American Journal of Industrial and Business Management (AJIBM). He is currently a Senior Member of Institute of Industrial Engineers, Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Division Chair of Manufacturing Division of American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE). He is also actively involved in several consortia activities.