Muhunthan Balasingham

Balasingam Muhunthan, Ph.D., P.E., F. ASCE, is Professor of Geotechnical Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Washington State University in Pullman, WA, USA. He is also the Founder and Director of the Washington Center for X-ray Computed Tomography established using grant funds from the US National Science Foundation and Murdock Trust Foundation. He has held visiting professorships at Cambridge University, the University of Auckland, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Muhunthan received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and his MS and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. Dr. Muhunthan's expertise is in the areas of computational and experimental geomechanics, critical state soil mechanics, unsaturated soil mechanics, multi-scale modeling of materials, thermomechanics, bifurcations and instabilities in geomechanics, microstructure characterization and simulation of geomaterials and micromechanics of soils. He has also worked on a wide range of field problems in geotechnical engineering including landslides, dam failures, micropiles, horizontal drains for slopes, and rock fall protection measures. Dr. Muhunthan has received several national and international awards for his scholarly accomplishments. He is a recipient of all of the three top CEE Departmental awards at WSU; Outstanding Teaching, Excellence in Research, and the Leon Luck Most Effective Professor Awards. He also received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the College of Engineering and Architecture at WSU, the Crampton Prize by the Institution of Civil Engineers, UK, an International Fellowship Award from the National Science Foundation, Fellowships from Churchill College Cambridge, Purdue University, and Merit Scholarship from Peradeniya University. Dr. Muhunthan is a member of the Soil Properties and Modeling Committee of ASCE and serves on the editorial advisory board of the International Journal of Geomechanics. He was an editor of the Geotechnical News Magazine, has chaired many national and international conferences, and has presented a number of invited lectures in constitutive modeling of geomaterials.