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Gholamreza Mesri, a world authority on the behavior of soils and a leader in the study of the compressibility and consolidation of soils, is the Ralph B. Peck Professor Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Together with Karl Terzaghi and Ralph B. Peck, he co-authored the Third Edition of *Soil Mechanics in Engineering Practice*.

Professor Mesri has served as consultant to government and private organizations in relation to construction projects in North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, including airports, offshore facilities, tunnels, hydroelectric developments, building foundations, and landslides. He is a member of the International Commission on Restoration of Metropolitan Cathedral of Mexico City, a member of the International Commission on Swelling Rocks, ISSMGE Technical Committee on Soft Soils Foundation Engineering, and a founding member of the International Committee on Coastal Geotechnical Engineering.

Professor Mesri is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Canadian Geotechnical Society, and International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering. Among his honors Mesri includes the 1988 and 2004 Norman Medal and 1992 Thomas A. Middlebrook Award, of the American Society of Civil Engineers.