



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# College of Engineering – Associate Dean RESEARCH SEMINAR

## “Changing field after being established: Example of a mid-career faculty diversifying into other fields”

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**Tuesday, February 10, 2015 – 11:00am-12:15pm**  
**Love Library, Room 430 (4<sup>th</sup> floor)**

An institutions research productivity and academic profile go hand-in-hand. Raising the research stature in an era of declining funding is a challenge. Also due to limited penalty and lack of incentives beyond tenure and promotion, disengagement from research is a serious problem in academia which hurts the research productivity of a unit. I will share some of thoughts on research administration and planning.

My established area of research is in gaseous electronics and non-thermal plasmas. I will briefly discuss my contribution to this field which includes modeling of high voltage breakdown in gases and application of non-thermal plasma for remediation of pollution and surface treatment. Since moving to a new institution, I was forced to diversify into other fields. I will briefly discuss my research interest in solar energy and micro-grids and how I leveraged the opportunities to establish research in this area.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Dhali has over 30 years of experience working with academia. Professor Dhali is currently the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the College of Engineering and Technology, Old Dominion University (ODU) and a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). He also served as the department chair of ECE at ODU for eight years. Prior to his tenure at ODU he was a faculty at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale for over 21 years where he was recognized numerous times for his excellence in teaching. His research interest is in the areas of non-thermal plasmas and photovoltaic power systems. He has nearly 100 publications to his credit that have appeared in conference proceedings and leading scientific journals such as the IEEE transactions, Journal of Applied Physics and Applied Physics Letters. His research has been funded by NSF, DoE, AFSOR, and industry.

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