

UCR professor granted \$4.6M for quake study

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Thanks to a five-year \$4.6 million taxpayer-funded grant, a UC Riverside geophysics professor will lead a project focused on earthquake dynamics to determine when and where the next big one might hit.

Professor James Dieterich in the UCR Department of Earth Sciences and a team of researchers from Brown University, USC, San Diego State University, UCSD and the U.S. Geological Survey will study tectonic shifts worldwide, looking for commonalities that could help with forecasting.

“Observations of earthquakes go back only about 100 years,” he said. “If we get the physics right, our simulations of plate boundary fault systems ... will span more than 10,000 years of plate motion and consist of up to a million discrete earthquake events, giving us abundant data to analyze.”

The National Science Foundation grant will support efforts to create enhanced fault system models that graphically represent the ground shaking associated with damaging quakes.