

# The Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security (CFSES)

Mario Martinez, Susan J. Altman

July 13, 2016



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



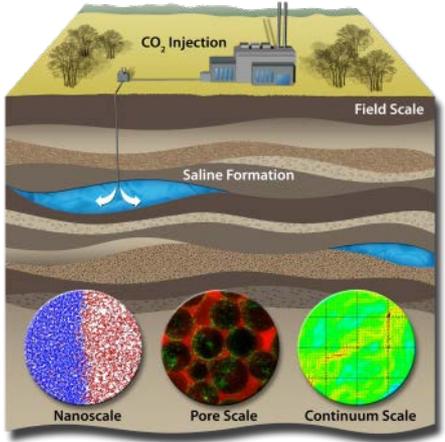
Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
— AT AUSTIN —

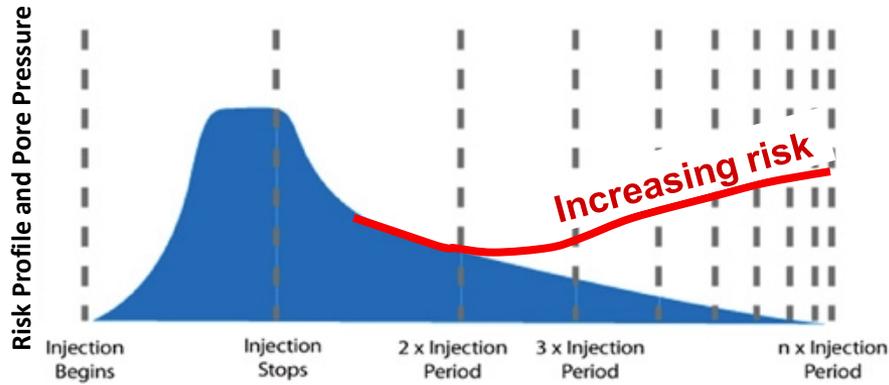


Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

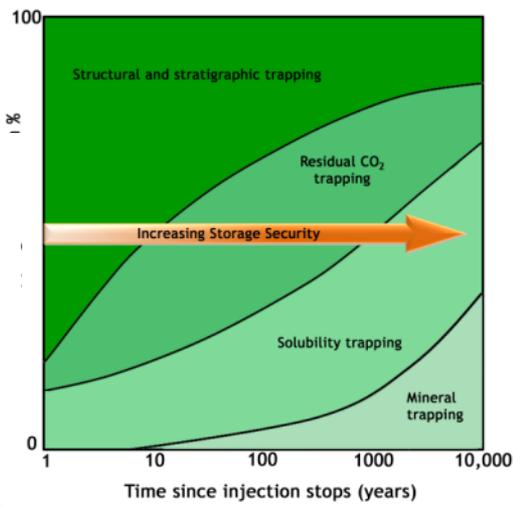
# Science to Inform Geological CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Security



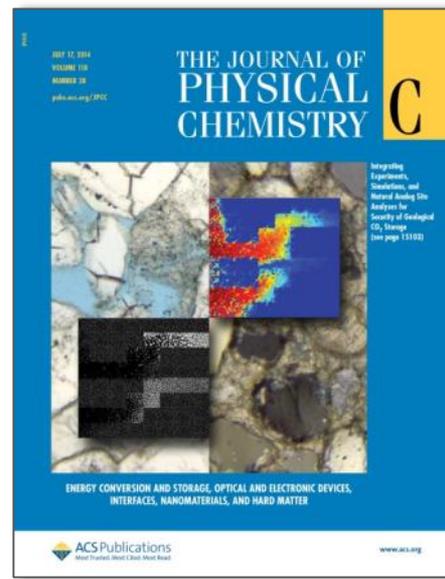
**Mission:** Understand and control emergent behavior arising from coupled physics and chemistry in heterogeneous geomaterials, particularly during the years to decades time scale.



Benson, IPCC, 2007



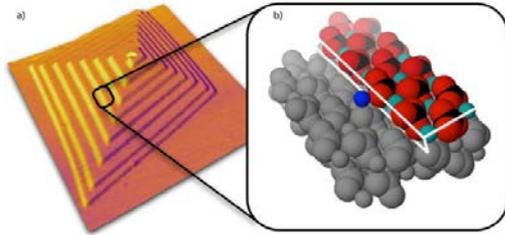
Modified after Benson et al., 2005



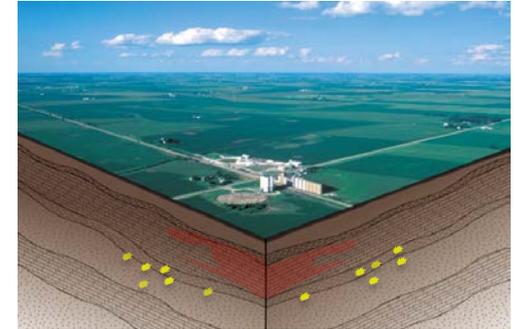
**Basic Science** → **Risk Assessment** → **Mitigation and Management**

# Three GCS EFRCs Complement Each Other

## Center for Nanoscale Control of Geologic CO<sub>2</sub> (NCGC)



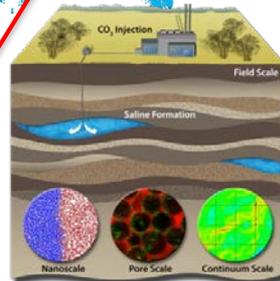
## Center for Geologic Storage of CO<sub>2</sub> (GSCO<sub>2</sub>)



32 EFRCs in 32 States + D.C.



## Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security (CFSES)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
— AT AUSTIN —



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

# Collaborations of Institutions within Institutions



Cockrell School of Engineering

The University of Texas at Austin  
**Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering**

The University of Texas at Austin  
**McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering**

The University of Texas at Austin

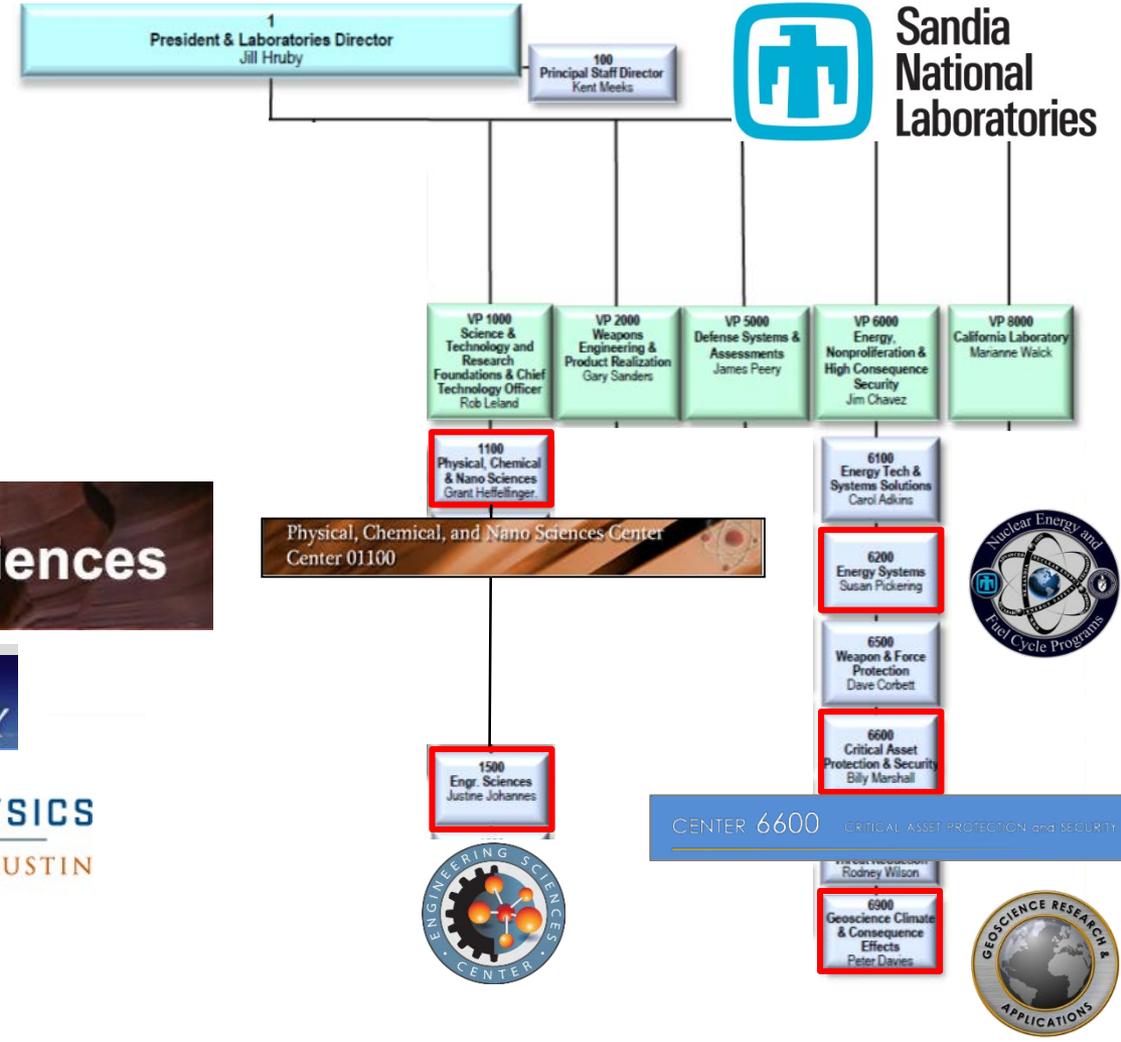
Jackson School of Geosciences

**DGS** The Department of **Geological Sciences**

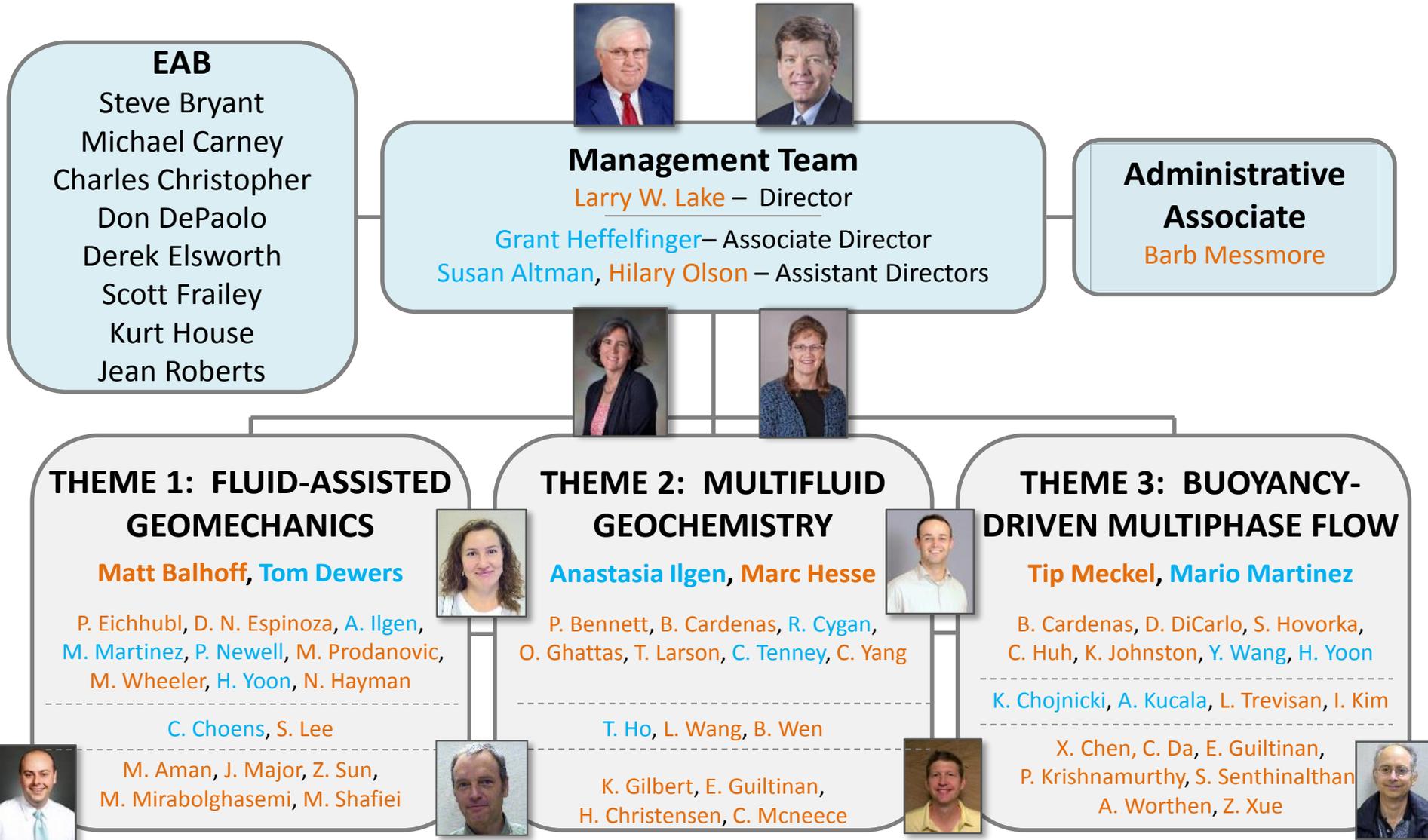
**BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY**

**INSTITUTE FOR GEOPHYSICS**  
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
**Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences**  
**ICES**

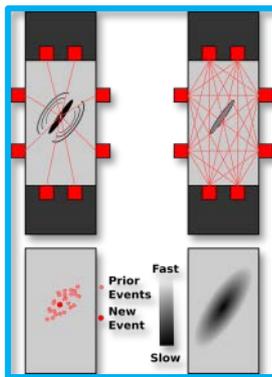


# CFSES Organizational Structure



# Partnership Enables a Unique Combination of Laboratory Facilities

Micro Computed Tomography for imaging of contact angles and fracture geometry



Computed tomography for imaging multi-phase fluid flow through cores

Computed tomography for imaging multi-phase fluid flow through cores with or without nanoparticles



High pressure and multiphase fluid delivery system for pore-scale flow experiments



Laser scanning confocal microscopy for imaging reactive transport at the pore scale



Geomechanical testing for acoustic and ultrasonic imaging of rock deformation



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
— AT AUSTIN —

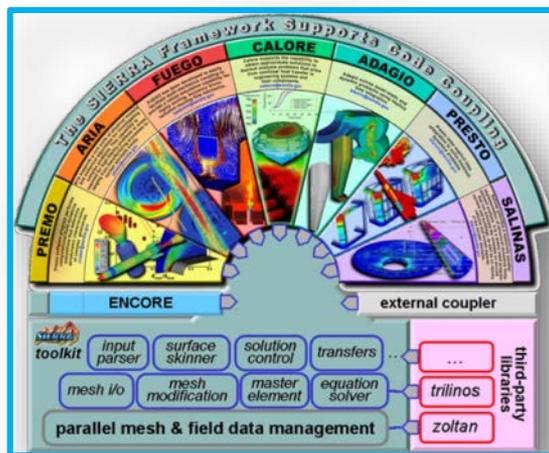


Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

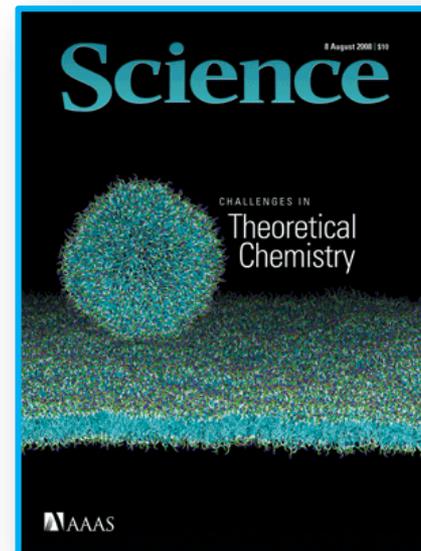
# World-Class Computational Facilities and Software



Sandia National Laboratories' Super Computer Red Sky



Sierra Mechanics engineering analysis codes



Molecular Dynamics Code LAMMPS



**IPARS**

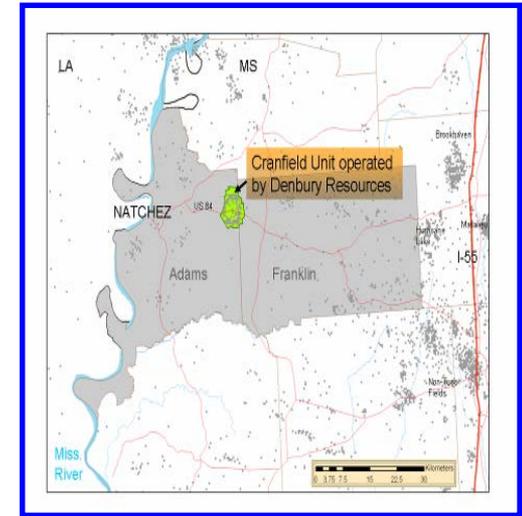


# Connection to Field Sites

## Little Grand Wash Fault Zone



## Bravo Dome Natural CO<sub>2</sub> Field



## Core from Cranfield Pilot Test



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
— AT AUSTIN —



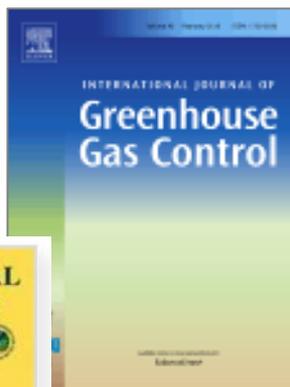
# Publications

- 110 Publications
- 1209 Citations
- 42 Journals

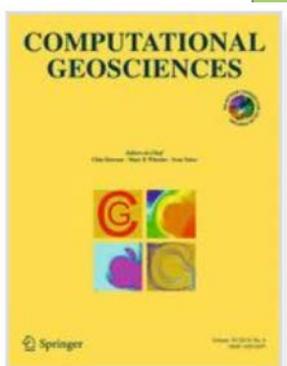
## Geophysical Research Letters

AN AGU JOURNAL

4.5 Impact Factor 6 publications



5 publications



6 publications

5.5 Impact Factor



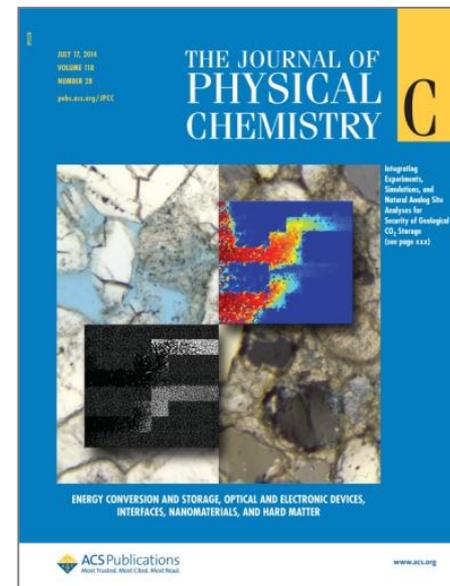
4 publications

## Water Resources Research

AN AGU JOURNAL

3.7 Impact Factor 11 publications

Cover Article



9.8 Impact Factor

## Constraints on the magnitude and rate of CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution at Bravo Dome natural gas field

Kiran J. Sathaye<sup>a</sup>, Marc A. Hesse<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Martin Cassidy<sup>c</sup>, and Daniel F. Stockli<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Geological Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712; <sup>b</sup>Institute of Computational Engineering and Sciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712; and <sup>c</sup>Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204

Edited by Susan L. Brantley, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, and approved September 12, 2014 (received for review April 4, 2014)

The injection of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) captured at large point sources into deep saline aquifers can significantly reduce anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels. Dissolution of the injected (11). Determining the rates of CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution is therefore an important aspect of geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage and it has been the focus of extensive research. In this study, we use a combination of



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science



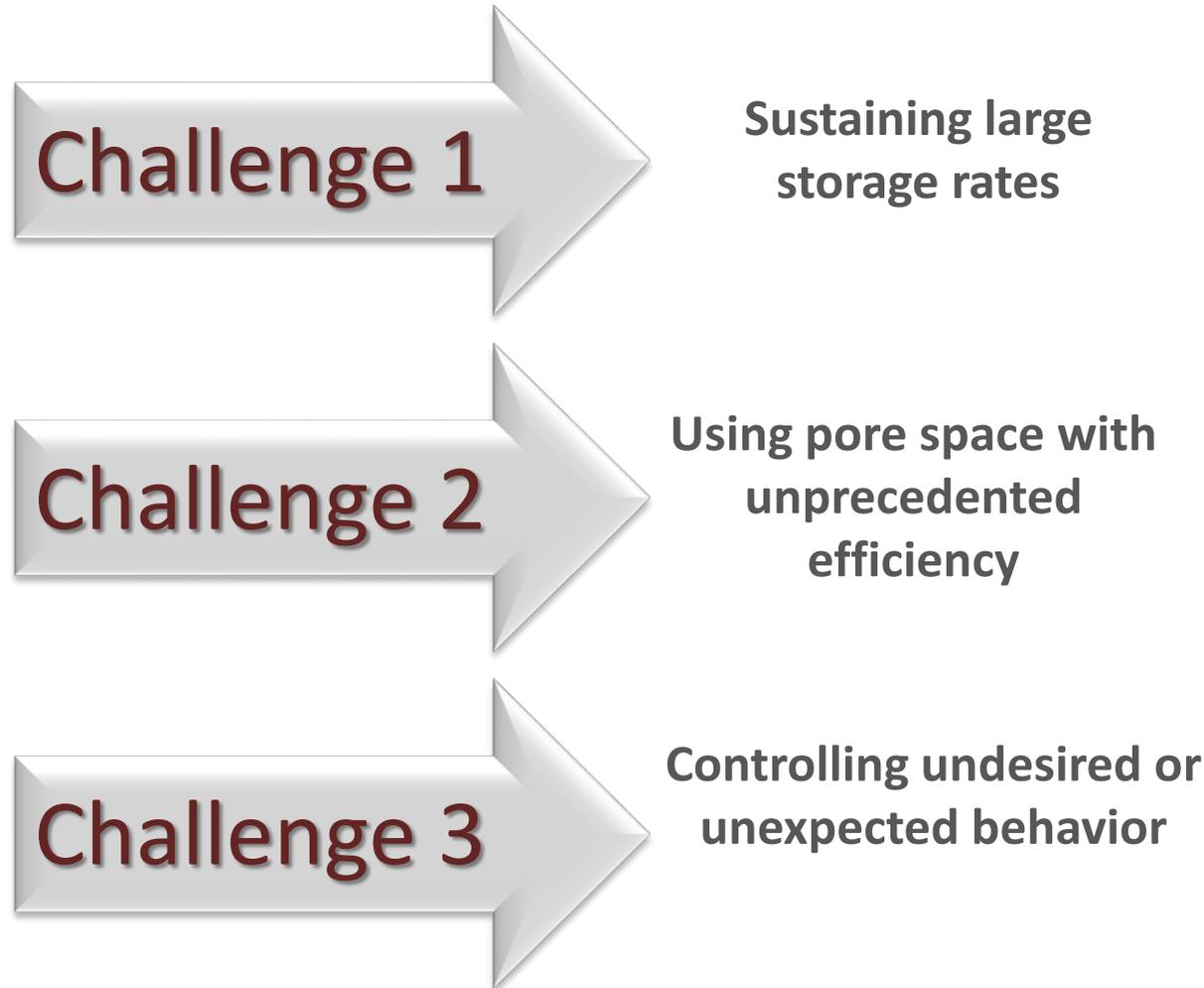
Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



Sandia National Laboratories

# Challenges



## CHALLENGES

### Sustaining Injectivity

Control wellbore failure

Enhance permeability/avoid precipitation during injection

Guide injection limits

### Storage Efficiency

Improve sweep efficiency

Predict solubility trapping

Predict mineral trapping

Enhance capillary (ganglion) trapping

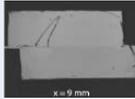
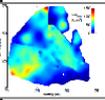
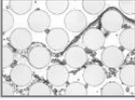
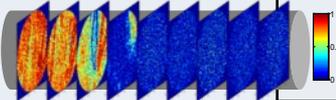
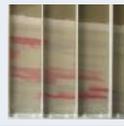
### Controlling Emergence

Prevent unwanted fracturing

Control pathway development

Prevent unexpected migration of CO<sub>2</sub>

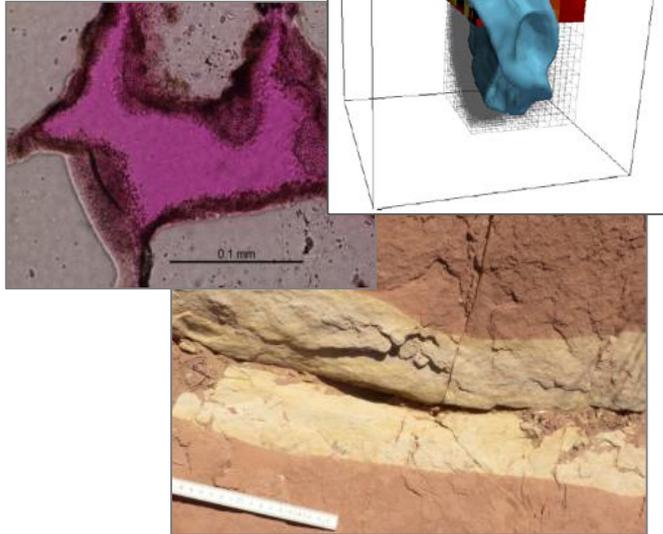
# Research Activities

	<b>Challenge 1: Sustaining Large Storage Rates</b>	<b>Challenge 2: Using pore space with unprecedented efficiency</b>	<b>Challenge 3: Controlling undesired or unexpected behavior</b>
<b>Theme 1 Fluid-Assisted Geomechanics</b>	Chemo-mechanical coupling during fracture propagation  		
		Chemo-mechanical effects on reservoir rock weakening	
	---		Coupled chemo-mechanical processes in shale caprock
<b>Theme 2: Multifluid Geochemistry</b>	---		Geochemistry at the fluid-fluid interface
	---	 Reservoir dynamics of Bravo Dome natural CO <sub>2</sub> reservoir	Reactions of CO <sub>2</sub> with clay minerals
<b>Theme 3: Buoyancy-Driven Multiphase Flow</b>	 Multiphase flow and reactive transport at the pore scale		
		CT high pressure CO <sub>2</sub> core flood experiments with and without nanoparticles	
---		Experimentally tested invasion percolation modeling of buoyancy driven flow	

# Challenge 1 – Sustaining Large Storage Rates

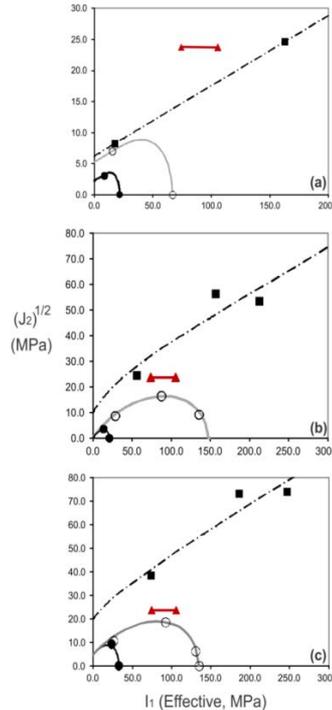
## Control wellbore failure

- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated constitutive models
- Experimentally validated models of fracture propagation



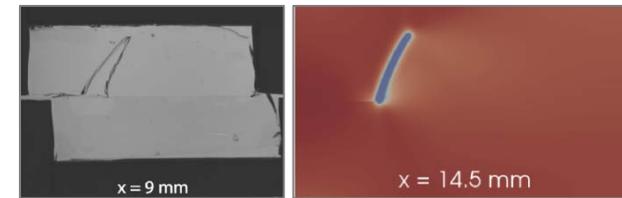
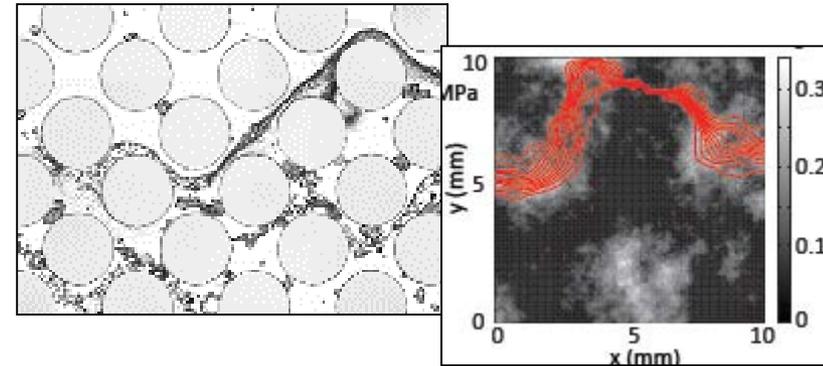
## Enhance permeability/avoid precipitation during injection

- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models



## Guide injection limits

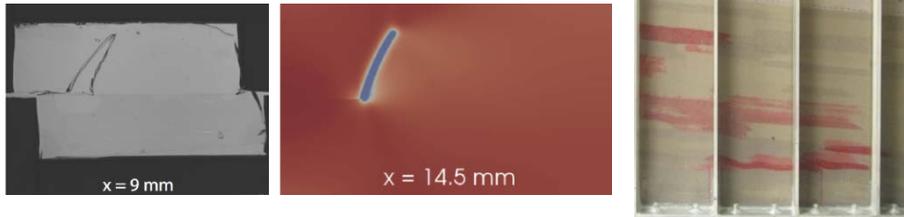
- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated constitutive models
- Injection pressure coupled fracture closure model



# Challenge 2 – Using Pore Space with Unprecedented Efficiency

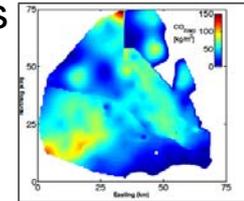
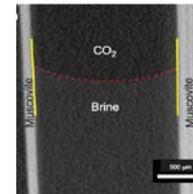
## Improve sweep efficiency

- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations



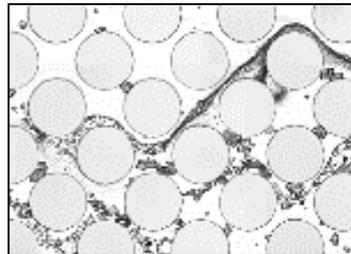
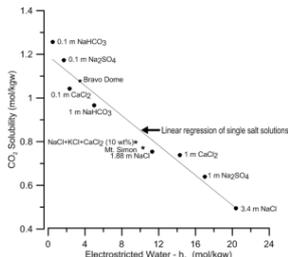
## Predict solubility trapping

- CO<sub>2</sub> solubility model
- Molecular level understanding of solvation of ions and CO<sub>2</sub> in brines
- Bravo Dome studies
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations



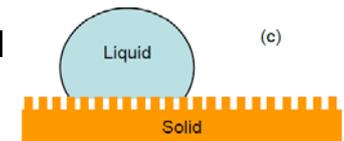
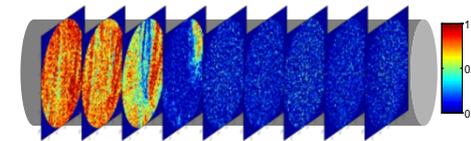
## Predict mineral trapping

- CO<sub>2</sub> solubility model
- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models



## Enhance capillary (ganglion) trapping

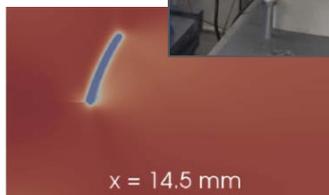
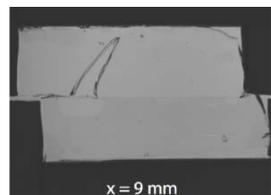
- Modeling of impact of roughness on wettability
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations
- Surface-treated nanoparticle synthesis and testing
- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models



# Challenge 3 – Controlling Undesired and Unexpected Behavior

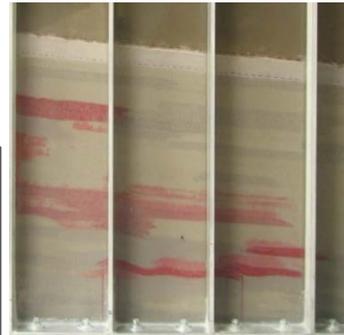
## Prevent unwanted fracturing

- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated constitutive models
- Experimentally validated of fracture propagation
- Caprock alteration experiments



## Control pathway development

- Caprock alteration experiments
- Surface-treated nanoparticle synthesis and testing



## Prevent unexpected migration of CO<sub>2</sub>

- Wettability measurements and simulations on shales
- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations
- Surface-treated nanoparticle synthesis and testing

