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Dr. Hughes began his career as a mechanical design engineer at Grumman Aerospace, subsequently joining General Dynamics as a research and development engineer. After receiving his Ph.D., he joined the Berkeley faculty; eventually moving to California Institute of Technology and then Stanford University before joining the University of Texas at Austin. At Stanford, he served as Chairman of the Division of Applied Mechanics, Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Chairman of the Division of Mechanics and Computation, and occupied the Mary and Gordon Crary Chair of Engineering.

Dr. Hughes is a fellow of the American Academy of Mechanics, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the U.S. Association for Computational Mechanics (USACM), the International Association for Computational Mechanics (IACM) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is co-editor of the international journal *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, a founder and past President of USACM and IACM, and past Chairman of the Applied Mechanics Division of ASME. He has received the Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize from ASCE, the Melville Medal from ASME, the Computational Mechanics Award from the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, the von Neumann Medal from USACM, the Gauss-Newton Medal from IACM, the Worcester Reed Warner Medal from ASME, and the Timoshenko Medal from ASME. Dr. Hughes is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.