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Dr. Buttlar holds the Glen Barton Chair in Flexible Pavements at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he oversees the Mizzou Asphalt Pavement and Innovation Lab (MAPIL), funded by members of the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association. Dr. Buttlar is also the Founding Director of the Missouri Center for Transportation Innovation (a collaboration between the four University of Missouri System campuses, MoDOT, FHWA, and other agency and industry stakeholders). He also serves as Editor-In-Chief of Road Materials and Pavement Design, an international journal.

Dr. Buttlar has authored over 300 technical publications and has delivered over 100 invited presentations and keynote lectures. He is a renowned expert in pavement engineering, fracture mechanics, data science, and sustainable and resilient infrastructure materials. He has conducted research on the use of roofing shingles in asphalt pavements for the Illinois Tollway, the Missouri Department of Transportation and for industry.