

Standing Committee for Earth Observations, Data, and Information Systems

Committee

Stephanie Dockstader

Co-Chair

Stephanie Dockstader is Director of Imagery and Remote Sensing Solutions at Esri, where she leads strategy at the intersection of Earth observation, GIS, and artificial intelligence. Previously, she held a senior leadership role at L3Harris Geospatial Solutions, where she led the commercial Professional Services program focused on adapting existing commercial technology for emerging government applications. There she collaborated on government research programs and served as co-principal investigator on a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Her career includes diverse cross-sector experience in remote sensing applications including roles as a research scientist, systems engineer, product manager, program manager, and educator. She is deeply engaged in community development through leadership roles with the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), frequent invited presentations, and workforce development initiatives. In 2026, she received a Presidential Citation from ASPRS for her work connecting industry and young professionals. Stephanie has a B.S. in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University, and a M.S. in Forest Management (Remote Sensing) from the University of Maine. Her graduate research focused on working closely with Forestry professionals to adapt NASA hyperspectral data for industry applications.

Yuhan Douglas Rao

Co-Chair

Dr. Yuhan “Douglas” Rao is a Senior Research Scholar with North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies at the North State University. He works closely with NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information on Earth observation product development and data management through Cooperative Institute for Satellite Earth System Studies. His research focuses on leveraging long-term Earth observations for climate monitoring and impact studies. Dr. Rao currently serves as the President of the Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) which is a nonprofit organization that foster cross-sector collaboration between federal agencies, industries, and academia to make Earth science data actionable for all. Through ESIP, he is leading a cross-sector collaboration on developing community guidelines for data management to enable AI research and development. Additionally, he co-chairs the Working Group of Observations for Researching Climate, which is part of the World Climate Research Programme Earth System Modeling and Observations core project. He received his doctoral degree in geographical sciences from University of Maryland, College Park in 2019.

Amir AghaKouchak

Member

Amir AghaKouchak is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth System Science at the University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on natural hazards and climate extremes and crosses the boundaries between hydrology, climatology, and remote sensing. One of his main research areas is studying and understanding the interactions between different types of climatic and non-climatic hazards including compound and cascading events. AghaKouchak has published over 260 journal articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has received several honors and awards including the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) James B. Macelwane Medal, Fellow of AGU, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Norman Medal, and Huber Research Prize. AghaKouchak has a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Stuttgart.

Shuyi S. Chen

Member

Dr. Shuyi Chen is Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Science at the University of Washington, where she served as Associate Dean for Research in the College of the Environment (2021-2024). Her research focuses on high-impact weather and climate extremes, air-sea interaction in hurricanes, coastal flooding, the MJO, and ENSO and their global impacts. She integrates observations, modeling, and AI/ML approaches to advance understanding and prediction across weather and climate timescales. Dr. Chen has led numerous national and international research programs involving major field campaigns and the development and application of coupled atmosphere-wave-ocean models. Her research group developed the Unified Wave Interface-Coupled Model (UWIN-CM), which has been used to study wind-wave-current interactions important to offshore renewable energy, oil spills and other hazards. She has participated in 15 major field campaigns, including TOGA COARE, RAINEX, CBLAST, and DYNAMO. Dr. Chen has served as Vice Chair of the National Academies' Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate and was elected to the AMS Council. She currently serves as Chair of the UCAR Board of Trustees. She is an AMS Fellow and recipient of the AMS Sverdrup Gold Medal in 2022 and the AGU Bjerknes Lecture Award in 2024. She holds a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University.

Jack A. Kaye

Member

Dr. Jack Kaye retired on April 30, 2025 after a 41+ year career at NASA as a researcher, program manager, and senior executive. He is currently the Principal for Earth.Space.Chem LLC and is an affiliate member of the Center for Satellite and Earth Science Research at George Mason University. For most of his career (>25 years) Dr. Kaye was the manager of the Research and Analysis program of NASA's Earth Science Division, overseeing research in all areas of Earth System Science and its enabling capabilities in airborne science, scientific computing, space geodesy, and education. He represented NASA in numerous interagency and international activities, most notably the US Global Change Research Program and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, and he chaired The Expert Team on Satellite Systems of the World Meteorological Organization for several years. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has received numerous NASA awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal in 2022 and is a 3-time winner of the Meritorious Senior Executive Award from the US Office of Personnel Management. His education is in chemistry (BA Adelphi University, PhD California Institute of Technology). He did post-doctoral research at the US Naval Research Laboratory before joining NASA. He has served as an ex officio member of the NRC Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability and the Chemical Sciences Roundtable, as well as a member of the Roundtable on Global Science Diplomacy.

Danie Kinkade

Member

Danie Kinkade is Information Systems Specialist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where she serves as Principal Investigator and Director of the Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO), and Principal Data Strategist at Cerulean Open Science, LLC. Her previous positions include leadership roles at NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's CLIVAR and Carbon Hydrographic Data Office. Kinkade is an internationally recognized leader in Earth and ocean science data management, open science, and research data infrastructure. Her expertise spans the stewardship, integration, and dissemination of environmental and observational data; development of FAIR data practices; repository governance; and community-driven approaches to advancing interdisciplinary geoscience research. She has led numerous grant-sponsored data infrastructure initiatives and has played prominent roles in organizations including the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the U.S. Council of Data Facilities, the Research Data Alliance (RDA), the Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) and the NSF's EarthCube Program. Her honors include the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Allyn Vine Senior Technical Staff Award, the ESIP President's Award, and the ESIP Catalyst Award. She served as President of the AGU Informatics Section (2022-2024); currently serving as Past President through 2026. Kinkade earned an M.S. in Marine Science from the University of South Florida and a B.S. in Biology and Marine Science, cum laude, from East Stroudsburg University.

Benjamin Poulter

Member

Dr. Benjamin Poulter is a Program Director and Lead Scientist at Spark Climate Solutions, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, where he leads their Warming Induced Emissions Program. Prior to joining Spark, Ben was a Research Scientist in the Earth Sciences Division at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Deputy Director for Greenhouse Gas Measurements, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) during the Biden Administration. His research is focused on understanding how human activities and climate change are affecting greenhouse gas emissions and removals by combining data from inventories, Earth system models, and satellites. His team use a combination of high-performance and cloud computing infrastructures, with open-source science principles, to provide low-latency and actionable climate information. He recently co-led the Global Carbon Project's Second REgional Carbon Cycle Assessment and Processes study (RECCAP2) and serves on the Advisory Group for the World Meteorological Organization's Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W). In recognition of his research and coordination of international teams he received the 2026 Copernicus Medal from Copernicus Gesellschaft e.V and the 2024 NASA Robert H. Goddard Award for Science. Dr. Poulter received his B.S. from the University of Idaho in 1997 and a Ph.D. from Duke University in 2005.

Timothy Schilling Stryker

Member

Timothy Stryker is the Principal of Hudson Passage, LLC, a consultancy advising clients on science and technology policy and partnerships for a more secure and sustainable world. Mr. Stryker's career spans more than three decades in leadership roles in multiple federal agencies, White House offices, and international coordination groups. His primary areas of expertise are science and technology policy, Earth observations, and international collaboration. Strykers' awards include the Presidential Management Fellow; Senior Fellow, Council of Excellence in Government; OSTP Superior Service Award; and numerous performance awards at multiple federal civil and defense agencies. He previously served on the NASEM Experts Group on Earth Observation and Data Stewardship (2025).

Compton J. Tucker, III

Member

Tucker was a physical scientist with NASA for 48 years and is now with the University of Maryland at NASA/GSFC. He is known for studying land vegetation with satellites. He has also used large volumes of 50 cm commercial satellite data to map billions of individual trees using machine learning & high-performance computing. He attended Colorado State University with a BA degree in biology in 1969, a MS degree in 1973, and a PhD in 1975: For his graduate degrees Tucker studied grassland vegetation spectroscopy with NSF's Grassland Biome. His graduate spectroscopy work resulted in modifications to 18 NASA & NOAA satellites which he used from 1977 to 2025. He is a Fellow of the AGU, the AAAS, and a member of the NAS. Awards include NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal, the Henry Shaw Medal from the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Collins Current Achievement Award from the National Air and Space Museum, the Galathea Medal from the Royal Danish Geographical Society, the Pecora Award from the US Geological Survey, and the Vega Medal from the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography. He was a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer in 2019-2020. He served on the 2016 Decadal Survey and on the Continuity of NASA-Sustained Remote Sensing Observations of the Earth from Space.

Kate Wing

Member

Kate Wing is the founder and Executive Director of Intertidal Agency, a nonprofit making ocean data more FAIR, useful, and used. She has more than 25 years of experience working on ocean issues as a consultant, foundation program officer, and advocate. She co-chaired the UN Ocean Decade Data Coordination Group, led a project under the NSF Convergence Accelerator for a Networked Blue Economy, and served as a Knauss Sea Grant fellow in the U.S. Senate.