

**AGU Precipitation Committee Meeting  
2004 Spring Meeting, Montreal  
20 May 2004**

**Participants**

Ana Barros, Tom Bell, Allen Bradley, Rick Lawford, Shaun Lovejoy, John Schaake, Matthias Steiner

**AGU Meetings Planning**

2004 Fall Meeting (San Francisco)

The committee approved (with minor suggested modifications) the following special sessions:

- Ensemble Methods for Prediction of Precipitation  
Conveners: Raymond Arritt and Allen Bradley  
Sponsors: Atmospheric Sciences (A) and Hydrology (H)
- Implications of Hydrologic Variability for Prediction in Ungaged Basins  
Conveners: Praveen Kumar and Venkat Lakshmi  
Sponsors: Hydrology (H) — joint with Surface Water Committee
- Incorporating Observational Uncertainties into the Evaluation of Hydrologic Models  
Convener: Jim Freer  
Sponsors: Hydrology (H) — joint with Surface Water Committee
- Shaun Lovejoy mentioned a possibility for a scaling-related special session, which would be co-sponsored with Nonlinear Geophysics

The formal deadline for submitting special session proposals has passed. Late proposals should be directed to Jay Famiglietti (email: jfamigli@uci.edu, phone: 949-824-9434), the Fall Meeting Hydrology Program Chair.

2005 Spring Meeting (New Orleans)

The following topics were discussed as potential special sessions:

- Remote Sensing of Precipitation (maybe including the effects of urbanization and pollution on precipitation)
- Ensemble Quantitative Estimation and Prediction of Precipitation and Related Hydrologic Land Surface Processes (including model intercomparison and verification)
- Coordinated Enhanced Observing Period (CEOP)
- A Union Frontier Lecture on “Opportunities, Challenges, and Benefits of Spaceborne Precipitation Estimation” should be considered

Potential conveners need to be identified and contacted. The deadline for submitting special session proposals is in the fall.

2005 Fall Meeting (San Francisco)

The following topics were discussed as potential special sessions:

- Precipitation and Related Hydrologic Land Surface Processes in Mountainous Regions (processes, observations, modeling, and uncertainty estimation)
- A Union Frontier Lecture along this theme should be considered as well

The committee felt that this topic could be used as a central theme for a variety of special sessions to be proposed. It should be made sure that at least 1-2 oral sessions can be assigned to this priority theme.

## **General Discussion Topics**

### *Ratio of Oral vs. Poster Sessions*

The committee expressed serious concerns and frustration about the ratio of oral vs. poster presentations, especially for the Fall Meetings in San Francisco, where that ratio is deemed inappropriately low (<30%)! It was suggested that the committee should go on record by officially complaining to the Hydrology Section President about this.

### *Membership Drive*

New members, especially younger colleagues, are sought to rejuvenate the committee and provide opportunities for people to get actively involved in the AGU meetings organization. Suggestions should be forwarded to the committee chair.

### *Interaction with Atmospheric Section Precipitation and Cloud Committee*

A closer interaction between the two precipitation-related committees of the Atmospheric Sciences (A) and Hydrology (H) sections will be facilitated by means of including the other committee's chair on the email distribution list (and vice versa).

### *Update on TRMM*

An update on the TRMM satellite was provided. The satellite and instruments are in excellent shape. Without the controlled re-entry the fuel would likely last to around 2011. However, the benefits of keeping TRMM alive vs. the orbital debris injury probabilities are still debated. Financial issues are also important. At this point, the satellite is cleared for at least another 18 months or so, but there are still budget issues to be resolved.