

Hesham El-Askary, Ph.D.

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Prof. of Remote Sensing and Earth Systems Science
Director Earth Systems Sciences and Data Solutions Lab
(EssDs), Schmid College of Science and Technology,
Chapman University, USA
Vice President Egyptian Space Agency for Projects and
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Prof. El-Askary is the 2015 recipient of the Chapman University's elite Senior Wang-Fradkin Professorship award. He served as the regional coordinator on a \$3 million Euro grant from the European Union's (EU) Horizon 2020. He is an Earth System Scientist with a major interest in studying natural hazards using different remote sensing technologies and data sciences. He is involved in studying extreme events, air pollution problems over mega cities, climate change and its impacts on sea level rise and coral reefs for coastal areas. He also employs earth observations in studying impact of sever dust storms causing anomalous chlorophyll outbreaks in the marine environment, hurricanes intensification as well as transport of microbes' causing Kawasaki disease outbreaks. Recently Prof. El-Askary has been focusing on using earth observations for water resources management, precision agriculture along the sustainable development goals. He has published over a 150 refereed research publications, conferences full paper and book chapters in these research areas. Dr. El-Askary's research has been supported by National Science Foundation, NASA, United States Department of Agriculture and European Union. Dr. El-Askary has received the Saudi Arabia award hosted by the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) affiliated with the League of Arab states for the best published article in Environmental Management among 150 articles in 2006. He is also member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), AGU, EGU, COSPAR, and Phi Beta Delta Honor Society. He is currently serving as the vice president of the Egyptian Space Agency.



Yana Gevorgyan

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https://www.earthobservations.org/secretariat_staff.php

Group on Earth Observations Secretariat Director

Ms. Gevorgyan is an international relations expert whose career spans humanitarian relief and development, international think tanks, and government organizations. Formerly, GEO Program Manager at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA), Ms. Gevorgyan managed the participation of the United States government in GEO and provided thought leadership to shape forward-looking strategies and policies that enable multisectoral partnerships, broad stakeholder engagement and the deserved recognition of GEO's most valuable asset – its community.



Ms. Gevorgyan is an experienced cross-cultural communicator known for building bridges between diverse communities on a global and regional scale. Her vision for the advancement of GEO is to introduce agile and innovative approaches to promote broader use of Earth observation data, technologies and knowledge for social impact. Accelerating engagement with GEO members at the national level, strategic communication for policy, economic and human impact, and collaboration across sectors and stakeholders will be key vectors in Yana's strategy to shape the work of the GEO Secretariat and the GEO community.

Ms. Gevorgyan was born and raised in Armenia, where she studied foreign languages and became involved in international development and working with underprivileged communities as a young adult. She credits this time of her life with developing a keen understanding of the power of human interaction; of authenticity, empathy and trust as the basis for enduring relationships; of the importance of commitment to a cause and the long road to get there. "Any outcome worth achieving takes commitment and perseverance. I'm at GEO with my GEO family, for the long haul – to see communities benefit from the enormous public and private investments made into science and technology."

Anya Waite, Ph.D.

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CEO & Scientific Director, Dalhousie University
Associate Vice-President Research (Ocean)

Dr. Waite is Associate Vice-President Research (Ocean) of Dalhousie University and Scientific Director and CEO of the Ocean Frontier Institute. Previously, she served as Section Head of Polar Biological Oceanography at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven and as Professor of Oceanography in the Department of Biology at the University of Bremen.



After completing a BSc in biology in 1985 at Dalhousie University, she obtained her PhD in 1992 in biological oceanography at the University of British Columbia. She then held postdoctoral positions at WHOI (USA) and the Victoria University (New Zealand).

In 1997 Dr. Waite took a professorship at the University of Western Australia in Perth, and was there for 17 years as a biological oceanographer. She was a research group leader in the Oceans Institute in addition to teaching students in the Environmental Engineering program. Dr. Waite's early work included participation in the first Southern Ocean iron fertilization experiment, SOIREE. After this, Dr. Waite's work in the East Indian Ocean explored the dynamics of mesoscale eddies, the nitrogen cycle in oligotrophic systems and the biology of the spiny lobster larvae in Australian waters. Her current interests include nitrogen fluxes in polar oceans and particle dynamics in mesoscale eddies.

Dr. Waite is co-chair of the prestigious Global Ocean Observation System steering committee - the first woman at the head of this body since its creation in 2011. She also sits on the boards of Canada's Ocean Supercluster and The Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR). She is on the Editorial Board of the international journal *Limnology and Oceanography*, co-chair of the SCOR Working Group on biological observation systems, "P-OBS" and was on the Steering Committee of the Southern Ocean Observation System (SOOS) from 2017-2020.

Earlier commitments included the Board of Directors of the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre ACE CRC in Hobart, Australia, the Norwegian Research Council Advisory Board, the Programme Advisory Group for the NERC Changing Arctic Ocean Research Programme, and the Board of Directors for the Association for the Sciences of *Limnology and Oceanography*.

Bretar Frederic, Ph.D.

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Dr. Frédéric Bretar is a French Engineer and a scientist. He was a researcher in computer vision and applied mathematics at the French National Survey (IGN) specialized in the processing of lidar data and photogrammetry for 3D reconstruction and classification. He then led a research laboratory in Earth Sciences in Normandy, France. He served as a diplomat from 2012 to 2019 in China (Shanghai and Hong Kong) where he led the France-China scientific cooperation. In 2019, he joined the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) to develop and manage the Space for Climate Observatory (SCO). The SCO is an international initiative, which aims to gather public and private entities involved in the Earth Observation (EO) sector. In order to make the best use of satellite data and digital technologies for climate action, the SCO aims at coordinating international efforts to support the emergence of operational tools for climate monitoring, mitigation and adaptation addressed to decision-makers and the wide public.