

**Adrian Simmons** carried out academic research in atmospheric dynamics and modelling at the Universities of Cambridge and Reading before joining the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in 1978. He subsequently participated in many aspects of the Centre's research work on both modelling and data assimilation, and in the establishment of the ERA series of reanalyses of past atmospheric data. His final full-time position was to coordinate MACC, the project that developed pilot services related to atmospheric composition for Europe's Copernicus initiative. He recently completed a term as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). He is currently a part-time consultant at ECMWF and is leading the latest assessment by GCOS of the progress and adequacy of the systematic observation of climate.