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Dr. Bates is Principal Scientist for Remote Sensing at the National Climatic Data Center of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS). Dr. Bates research interests are in the areas of using operational and research satellite data to study the global water cycle and studying interactions of the ocean and atmosphere. Dr. Bates received a M.S. (1982) and Ph. D. (1986) in Meteorology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.S. in Meteorology from Florida State University in 1976. He is the author/coauthor of 50 refereed publications. He is currently Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites-Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites Joint Working Group on Climate and Director 1 on the American Geophysical Union's Board of Directors.