

The Fourth AMS Symposium on the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA): The Symposium, chaired by Dr. James (Jim) G. Yoe of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction was held as part of the 96th Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The Symposium was organized into 5 topical sessions featuring a total of 19 oral presentations, as well as over two dozen posters. All of the sessions were well-attended, with audiences of 50 to 100 persons. The first session, chaired by Dr. Sid Boukabara, Deputy Director of the JCSDA, was devoted to advances in radiative transfer modeling to support assimilation of multiple research and operational satellite sensors in national operational environmental modeling systems. The second session, chaired by Dr. Lidia Cucurull of NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research, featured impact assessments for satellite data in numerical weather prediction systems (NWP). This was followed by a session comprised of papers addressing preparations to assimilate observations from next-generation operational and research satellites in NWP systems, chaired by Jim Yoe. JCSDA Director Dr. Thomas Auligne presided over the fourth session, which was devoted to the assimilation of satellite data to improve land surface, ocean, and air quality analyses and models. The fifth and final session featured observation system simulation experiments and other studies to assess the impact of future satellite sensors, chaired by Dr. Will McCarty of NASA's Global Modeling and Assimilation Office. The Symposium provided a forum to discuss both current and planned advancements in satellite sensors and data products as well as the means to exploit them optimally – quickly and effectively – in operational environmental prediction systems. The Symposium co-hosted the 2016 Student Reception in Satellite Meteorology on the evening of Monday, January 11, and provided several mid-career and senior level scientists and professionals who took part in a very successful and popular Speed Mentoring exercise that allowed students to meet and question a variety of professionals in an hour.