

Waleed Abdalati
University of Colorado

Dr. Abdalati is Director of the Earth Science and Observation Center and Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Colorado. His research focuses on the development and application of remote sensing techniques to understand changes in high-latitude glaciers and ice sheets. From 1996 to 2008 he held various positions at NASA that included working as a research scientist, managing NASA's Cryospheric Sciences Program at NASA Headquarters, and serving as head of the Cryospheric Sciences Branch at Goddard Space Flight Center. In these positions he conducted and oversaw NASA-funded research efforts on glaciers, ice sheets, sea ice, and polar climate. He has also been heavily involved in the scientific development of NASA's Ice Cloud and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) and its planned successor, ICESat-2, which have as their primary objective understanding changes in the Earth's polar ice cover. His research has taken him to remote regions of the Greenland ice sheet and the ice caps in the Canadian Arctic nine times to conduct field work. Dr. Abdalati received his Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1991 and 1996 respectively, and from 1986 to 1990 he worked as a mechanical engineer in the aerospace industry. He has received various honors and awards for his research and service to NASA including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the White House.