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Dr. Michele Rienecker has served as Head of the Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO) at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center since its formation in June 2003. She is also currently NASA's Associate Director for the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation. Her primary interests lie in modeling of the ocean circulation, ocean data assimilation, and coupled climate modeling and prediction. She helped lead development of practical ocean data assimilation for ocean mesoscale applications in the California Current System. From 1997 she led the NASA Seasonal to Interannual Prediction Project (NSIPP). There she developed methods to assimilate satellite altimetry into ocean circulation models, eventually to initialize the ocean model as part of NSIPP's seasonal forecast system. She served on the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE) Steering Team, and was co-chair of the U.S. GODAE Steering Team. She was awarded NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal.