Venkataraman Lakshmi

Dr. Venkataraman Lakshmi is currently the John L Newcomb Professor of Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Virginia and is serving as editor for Vadose Zone Journal and the founding editor-in-chief of Remote Sensing in Earth System Science (Springer Journals). He has served as Cox Visiting Professor at Stanford University 2006-2007 and 2015-2016 and Program Director for Hydrologic Sciences at the National Science Foundation (2017-2018). Venkat is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Geological Society of America (GSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and he has over 180 peer-reviewed articles and around 600 presentations and thesis supervisor for 25 graduate students. He is also the President-Elect of the Hydrology Section of the American Geophysical Union. His areas of research interest are catchment hydrology, satellite data validation and assimilation, field experiments, land-atmosphere interactions, satellite data downscaling, vadose zone and water resources. Venkat graduated from University of Roorkee in 1987 with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a Doctorate in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1996 from Princeton. He is currently serving as a member of the Water Science and Technology Board, National Academy of Sciences and Vice-Chair of the Earth Science Advisory Committee for NASA and previously served as chair of the planning committee for Groundwater Recharge and Flow: Approaches and Challenges for Monitoring and Modeling Using Remotely Sensed Data (NGA).

Casi Callaway

Ms. Casi Callaway joined the City of Mobile in 2021 as the first Chief Resilience Officer in Alabama where she creates place-based, inclusive, risk-aware, and forward-focused solutions to current and future challenges. Previously, she led Mobile Baykeeper and built it into the largest environmental advocacy organization on the Gulf Coast with significant environmental wins. Callaway is a certified floodplain manager and presents to a variety of audiences on climate, resilience, and environmental topics. Her leadership within Waterkeeper Alliance connected her to more than 300 organizations and communities across the globe. Callaway continues to serve on Waterkeeper's Leadership Circle and is the Co-Chair for the Southeast Sustainability Director's Network of more than 100 communities across ten southern states. Callaway has won a host of awards, including: Leadership Mobile (2012), Leadership Mobile Dean (2017), River Hero, Coastal Living's Coastal Hero. Callaway received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy & Human and Natural Ecology from Emory University.

Laura Bozzi

Dr. Laura Bozzi is the Senior Director of Environmental Health Policy at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where she works to integrate health equity into climate policy at the city and state levels. Previously, Laura held climate and health positions at the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health and the Rhode Island Department of Health. Laura's relevant work includes overseeing community climate resilience programs that foster social cohesion, leading community-engaged research projects on climate resilience, and flood adaptation policy development at the municipal and state level. She holds a PhD in Forestry and Environmental Studies, a Master of Environmental Management, and a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, from Yale University.

Jennifer Horney

Dr. Jennifer A. Horney is Professor and Founding Director of the Epidemiology Program and Core Faculty at the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. She also directs the Partnership for Healthy Community, part of the University's Community Engagement Initiative. Dr. Horney's research focuses on measuring the health impacts of disasters including interdisciplinary research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Academies, Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies. Dr. Horney was part of the public health response to Hurricanes Isabel, Charley, Katrina, Wilma, Irene, and Harvey where she conducted rapid assessments of disaster impacts on individual and community health. Dr. Horney received her Ph.D. and MPH from the University of North Carolina, where her research focused on the role of social factors during disasters. She has previously been a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program, Enhancing Community Resilience (EnCoRe) Committee, Integration of Public Health and Human Services Following Large Scale Disasters planning committee, and Developing Wearable Technologies to Advance Understanding of Precision Environmental Health planning committee. She was also a commissioned author for the Academy's Committee on Evidence-Based Practices for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Sara Hughes

Dr. Sara Hughes is an associate professor at the University of Michigan and senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation. She also serves as associate director of the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research. Her research uses mixed methods to understand the adoption, implementation, and impacts of water and climate change related policies and programs. She has contributed to numerous regional, national and global assessments including the 2021 IPCC report, the U.S. National Climate Assessment, and UNEP's GEO for Cities. She regularly partners with decision-makers and stakeholders, from local to global, to identify effective and equitable solutions to water and climate change challenges. Her research has been supported by several granting organizations, including the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Sara received her Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Management from the University of California, Santa

Anuli Njoku

Dr. Anuli Njoku is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University. Her research and teaching interests include social determinants of health, health equity, environmental health, health promotion and education, and rural health. She has over 16 years of teaching experience, including developing and teaching over 20 undergraduate and graduate public health courses on topics such as environmental health and safety. She completed a Fulbright Specialist project in Brazil in 2023. She has published on COVID-19 and environmental racism, electronic waste inequities in Ghana, and reducing pharmaceutical pollution to address disparities. She is an ongoing reviewer for various health-related journals, textbooks, and conferences. She is an active member of the Environment Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA), including serving a 3-year term as Section Councilor, being an ongoing APHA abstract reviewer, moderating sessions at the annual

meeting, and serving on the student scholarship review committee. She has a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Rutgers University, Master of Public Health from Boston University, Doctor of Public Health from Drexel University, and postdoctoral training from Fox Chase Cancer Center. She currently serves as a member of the Environmental Health Matters Initiative's steering committee.

Meagan Williams

Ms. Meagan Williams is a registered Professional Engineer and Civil Engineer and serves as the Urban Water Program Manager at the City of New Orleans Office of Resilience and Sustainability. In this role, she spearheads the master planning and execution of stormwater management and green infrastructure practices, policies, and initiatives across the New Orleans Area. Williams commenced her career with the City of New Orleans in 2016 as a roadway and drainage engineer in the Department of Public Works, swiftly transitioning to the management, design, and implementation of green infrastructure projects. Having witnessed the recurrent impact of floods and hurricanes on New Orleans, Meagan redirected her focus to stormwater management practices for flood mitigation. As the liaison between Public Works, Sewerage and Water Board, and other sectors, Meagan prioritizes community needs and education in every stormwater management implementation. Meagan received the 2021 Emerging Water Leader Award from the Water Now Alliance. Dedicated to community service, she is actively involved in Engineers Without Borders, contributing to international projects, and serves her third term as the President of the American Public Works Association New Orleans Chapter. Meagan is pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering with a Water Resources focus at the University of New Orleans.

Katya Wowk

Dr. Katya Wowk is Senior Social Scientist at The Water Institute who relies on community-based participatory research (CBPR) methodologies to strengthen community resilience. She Co-founded the Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) following Hurricane Harvey in 2017, which is a formal initiative with the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (COG) working to strengthen the capacity of at-risk local communities to collectively build resilience in the 11-county region. Dr. Wowk is also a NOAA Trained Facilitator and has worked in flood resilience, community resilience, and CBPR since 2012 when she was NOAA's Policy Lead for Hurricane Sandy Recovery. Dr. Wowk employs a knowledge co-production framework to guide data-driven approaches to resilience-building, which strengthens the transfer and use of research through understanding the concerns, constraints and policy preferences perceived by end-users, and empowers community partners as co-equal team members. She is a Member of the Editorial Board Springer Nature Humanities & Social Sciences, Co-Chair of the Global Ocean Forum Board Working Group on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management, and a member of numerous local boards in Texas and the Coastal Bend. Katya holds a Ph.D. in Coastal and Ocean Policy from the University of Delaware and an M.P.A. in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University.