

Sumant Nigam got his M.Sc. degree in Physics from the 5-year integrated science and engineering program at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1978, supported by a national science talent scholarship. Sumant obtained his Ph.D. degree in geophysical fluid dynamics from Princeton University in 1984. From 1984 to 1987, he did postdoctoral work with Richard Lindzen at MIT. Sumant came to the University of Maryland in 1987, where he is currently Professor with joint appointments in the Atmospheric & Oceanic Science department and the Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center. From 2000-2002, Sumant was Director of the Large-scale Dynamic Meteorology program at the US National Science Foundation.

Sumant's interests are in climate dynamics, with a focus on the structure and mechanisms of seasonal atmospheric circulation variability and tropical ocean-atmosphere interaction. His dynamically rooted analysis of observations, theoretical diagnosis, and numerical modeling efforts have advanced understanding of wintertime stationary waves, Asian and North American summer monsoons, and the leading modes of climate variability, such as ENSO and NAO. Sumant proposed (with Lindzen) a new mechanism for tropical air-sea interaction that explains the seasonal and interannual evolution of surface winds over the tropical oceans; especially in the central and eastern basins. More recently, Sumant has focused on the structure and mechanisms of hydroclimate variability, bringing the large-scale circulation perspective to regional hydroclimate problems, including those of droughts.

Sumant has served as co-chair of the US Climate Variability and Predictability Program's panel on Phenomena, Observations, and Synthesis; and of the Climate Variability Working Group of NCAR's Community Climate System Model. Sumant was an editor of the *Journal of Climate* from 2004-2006. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. In 2004, he was featured on the cover of *SCIENCE* (28 May) in connection with a report on foreign-born US scientists, titled "Brains & Borders: Many Origins, One Destination."

