



## Rui M. Ponte, PhD

*Physical Oceanographer*

*Lead, Atmosphere, Ocean & Climate Section  
Research & Development Division*



Rui M. Ponte is Principal Scientist and Lead of the Atmosphere, Ocean & Climate Section at AER, where he has been since 1989. Dr. Ponte's broad and multidisciplinary research interests have led him to study, among other topics:

- The general circulation of the ocean and atmosphere, using the angular momentum approach
- The effects of the ocean on the Earth's rotation and gravity field
- The high-frequency oceanic response to atmospheric forcing
- The oceanic meridional overturning circulation
- Use of satellites to improve knowledge about the state of the ocean-atmosphere system

Dr. Ponte has done extensive work on modeling and interpretation of sea level and ocean bottom pressure variability and is currently a member of the NASA's GRACE Follow-On Science Team and Sea Level Change Team. His past membership in other science teams includes TOPEX/POSEIDON, Jason-1, Jason-2/Ocean Surface Topography Mission, GRACE, Aquarius/Ocean Surface Salinity, US Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, and GODAE OceanView.

Dr. Ponte has been a long-term partner of the consortium for Estimating the Circulation and Climate of the Ocean (ECCO) and a contributor to the topics of ocean model-data synthesis and global ocean state estimation. Dr. Ponte has also participated in the Science Steering Group of the WCRP Grand Challenge on Regional Sea-Level Change & Coastal Impacts and in various special working groups on geodesy (IAU/IUGG Working Group on Non-Rigid Earth Nutation Theory, IAG Special Study Group on Interactions of the Earth's Rotational Dynamics with the Oceans and Atmospheres, and the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Special Bureau for the Ocean).

Prior to joining AER, Dr. Ponte was a Postdoctoral Investigator in Physical Oceanography at MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He has spent time as a Visiting Professor at the Université Paul Sabatier, France and at Instituto Hidrográfico, Portugal, and has also been a Visiting Scientist at MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Science for more than a decade. Dr. Ponte is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. He is also a two-time co-recipient of the NASA/US Department of Interior William T. Pecora Award for Group Achievement (1998, TOPEX/POSEIDON Science Team; 2007, GRACE Science Team) and the 2003 EU Descartes Prize for Research (IAU/IUGG Working Group on Non-Rigid Earth Nutation Theory). Dr. Ponte's work is summarized in more than 150 papers in the refereed literature.

### Education

- PhD, Physical Oceanography, Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- MSc, Oceanography, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- BSc, Physics, University of Rhode Island

### Memberships

- American Meteorological Society
- American Geophysical Union
- The Oceanography Society

For a list of publications, see Rui Ponte's [Google Scholar Profile](#).