

NCAR



Information Release

1979-26

November 14, 1979
For Immediate Release

Holland Named Senior Scientist at NCAR

Boulder, Colorado---Dr. William R. Holland has been appointed a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

Holland, who is head of the Oceanography Section of NCAR's Atmospheric Analysis and Prediction Division, is well-known for his numerical modeling of ocean circulation.

According to Holland, ocean modeling was in a primitive state only a few years ago. With improved observations and more powerful computers, he says, "we now can make comparisons between the real and the modeled oceans and do some crucial tests."

Having earned his doctorate at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1966, Holland studied fluid flow at Cambridge University under a National Science Foundation fellowship. Between 1967 and 1974, he was a research oceanographer at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He came to NCAR in 1974.

His appointment as senior scientist was made by Dr. Francis P. Bretherton, director of NCAR, with the authorization of the board of trustees of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, a non-profit consortium of universities that operates NCAR under sponsorship of the National Science Foundation.

In making the announcement, Bretherton said that to be selected to this highest level of scientific appointment at NCAR, the senior scientist must not only demonstrate exceptional professional competence, but also an ability to guide and shape the future programs of the center.

"Holland," he said, "has been a major influence in bringing oceanic modeling to the point where it can begin to be used in several ways, especially in couplings with climate models. This is extremely important at NCAR since the behavior of the atmosphere is determined partly by its interaction with the ocean."

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Holland has concentrated much of his effort on the role of eddies in ocean circulation. He is presently extending his geographical area of interest from the North Atlantic into the equatorial regions and other oceans.

Recently accepting the job as co-chief editor of the Journal of Physical Oceanography, Holland also has served on several international oceanographic committees, among them the Climate Dynamics Panel of the U.S. Global Atmospheric Research Program Committee, the Numerical Modeling Committee of the Mid-Ocean Dynamics Experiment (MODE), and chairman of the Numerical Modeling Committee of the POLYMODE Theoretical Panel.

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