



Lidia Cucurull

Congratulations to Lidia Cucurull for receiving the 2010 NOAA David Johnson Award. Dr. Cucurull is a NOAA Program Scientist for GPS Radio Occultation data at the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation in Suitland, MD. She was chosen for this award for her "innovative contributions to weather prediction through developing and implementing a methodology to assimilate satellite-based Global Positioning System-Radio Occultation observations into the National Weather Service's operational global weather prediction model and demonstrating how these data improve the skill and extend the range of weather forecasts."

Dr. Cucurull has been at the NOAA facility since 2003, first as a Visiting Scientist from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, and most recently on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act assignment. Dr. Cucurull earned her B.S. and M.S. at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and her Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Barcelona in 2001.

Created in 1999, the [NOAA David Johnson Award](#) is presented to young professionals who developed an innovative application of Earth observation satellite data that can be used for operational purposes. The nominee must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and not more than 40 years of age. The award honors [David Simonds Johnson](#), a pioneer in the use of weather satellites and the first Assistant Administrator of the [National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service](#) (NESDIS).

Dr. Cucurull will receive her award on April 1 at the Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner at the National Space Club.