



# Measuring Snow from the Ground Up: A Conversation with Dr. Diego Cerrai and his journey to working as part of the NASA Community

## Meet the Scientist



- Diego is University lead for the NASA Global Precipitation Measurement Mission Ground Validation Campaign in NE USA.
- Works at the University of Connecticut as an Assistant Professor.
- He has a B.Sc. in Physics, a M.Sc. in Physics of the Earth System, and a PhD in Environmental Engineering.

## Diego's Connection to the NASA GPM Mission



The data that Diego collects from the field serves as a way to validate or test how well GPM satellite data products are performing. As a result, the information collected from GPM GV campaign is fed to NASA scientists to help develop and improve satellite products.

## What does Diego do?



- He goes into the field and helps set up ground equipment that can measure snowfall.
- He analyzes snow data to understand more about how snow falls across areas, and its properties like shape and density.
- He then uses this information to work with electric utility companies to develop power outage prediction modeling that can help communities plan and prepare during snowstorm events.

## Advice for working in this field?



“First, when in school, be open to taking classes that cover topics that may not be in your current interests. You never know how you may apply that information later on in life! For field work, it is hard but a rewarding experience! It will help you gain valuable exposure to how instruments work, not just how to analyze the data. This hands-on experience gives lasting insights into the origin and limitations of the data you'll use later on!”

