2018 Associate Editor Excellence Awards and Editor’s Citations for Excellence in Review

The Vadose Zone Journal Editorial Board has selected four individuals for recognition for excellence in performing their work as associate editors. The recognition is based on their efforts in establishing a quality review process—for timely and professional manuscript editing, for fair and rigorous integration of reviewer comments, and for overall excellence in managing a professional review process. The Editorial Board has also chosen four individuals for the Editor’s Citation for Excellence in Review. Members of the VZJ Editorial Board want to express their deepest appreciation for these associate editors and volunteer reviewers, who have benefitted our journal, our community, and our sciences through their outstanding work.

Associate Editor Excellence Awards

Olivier Bour

Olivier Bour is a professor at the University of Rennes (France). After research at the University of South Carolina, he did his PhD at the University of Rennes. He is currently the head of the National Network of Hydrogeological Sites H+ (part of the French critical zone observatory network OZCAR). His main research is in fractured rock hydrology. He has worked on the connectivity and hydraulic properties of multiscale fracture networks and been involved in the development of new tools and methods to provide innovative datasets that can be associated with analytical and numerical modeling to constrain flow and transport processes in heterogeneous media. His current research interests are about the use of heat as a groundwater tracer.

Peter Lehmann

Peter Lehmann is a senior scientist at ETH Zurich, from where he received MSc and PhD. His research interests focus on interactions between structures and processes at various scales, ranging from the pore scale (plant stomata and arrangement of liquid structures in pore networks) to the catchment scale (interconnection of wet patches leading to abrupt water flow or landslide triggering); more recently he has started to work at the global scale on estimates of evaporation from various climates.

Jiangying Shang

Jiangying Shang is professor of soil and environmental physics in the Department of Soil and Water Sciences at China Agricultural University. Dr. Shang received a BS and MS from China Agricultural University, and a PhD from Washington State University. She worked as a postdoc at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in environmental research for four years. Her main research interests are the fate, transformation, and transport processes of colloids and contaminants in soils and groundwater.

Kathleen Smits

Kate Smits is an Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. Kate earned a PhD in Environmental Science and Engineering from Colorado School of Mines with a research focus on shallow subsurface multiphase processes affected by heat and mass flux dynamics at the land–atmosphere interface. She received a Master’s of Science in Civil Engineering Water Resources from the University of Texas, Austin, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from the US Air Force Academy (USAF). The basic aim of Kate’s research is to combine theoretical, numerical, and experimental approaches to address hydrological processes occurring near the Earth’s surface.
**Editor’s Citations for Excellence in Review**

**Brian Ebel**
Brian Ebel is a research hydrologist with the Water Cycle Branch of the US Geological Survey. He earned his PhD in Hydrogeology at Stanford University and holds a bachelor’s degree in Earth and Planetary Sciences from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Brian’s interests include the hydrologic impacts of landscape disturbances, landslide initiation, cold-regions hydrology, surface water–groundwater interaction, and (of course) the vadose zone. He also enjoys fly fishing, hiking, and making pottery.

**Prabhakar Sharma**
Prabhakar Sharma is currently working at the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University. He received his master’s degree from Stuttgart University and PhD from Washington State University. His research and teaching interests are centered on problems associated with soil and groundwater contamination, modeling of deep hydrogeological formations, and gas-phase transport in the subsurface. He has extensively worked with colloid–nanoparticle and colloid-facilitated transport in subsurface systems and gas transport in unsaturated porous media at Washington State University, Aalborg University, University of Western Ontario, Uppsala University, and Nalanda University.

**Emilia Urbanek**
Emilia Urbanek is a soil scientist with an interest in soil water repellency in natural and burnt environments, soil carbon sequestration, and the links between soil carbon and soil moisture. She received a BSc and MSc from the Technical University of Lublin, Poland, and her PhD in 2006 from the University of Kiel, Germany. She was elected a Royal Society Research Fellow 2012–2018. She is currently a senior lecturer at Swansea University, UK, in the Department of Geography.

**Yunqiang Wang**
Yunqiang Wang completed his PhD in soil physics at the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Ministry of Water Resources, in 2010. He worked at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resource Research, CAS, as a postdoc until 2012, and then at the Institute of Earth Environment, CAS. He was promoted as a full professor in 2015. His current areas of research include: (i) spatial and temporal variability of soil properties at the slope, watershed, and regional scales; (ii) the developing processes, influencing factors, and management of dried soil layers within deep soil profiles on the Chinese Loess Plateau; and (iii) monitoring and modeling of soil moisture processes to a depth of 30 m and their relations with aboveground plant growth.