



Vadose Zone J.  
doi:10.2136/vzj2016.outstanding  
Open access

Vol. 16, Iss. 3, 2017  
© Soil Science Society of America.  
This is an open access article  
distributed under the CC BY-NC-ND  
license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

## 2016 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 three 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

#### Schmuel Assouline

Shmuel Assouline is a senior research scientist at the Israeli Agricultural Research Organization—A.R.O., also known as the Volcani Center. Shmuel received his B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main research interests are soil physics, irrigation and surface hydrology, and management of soil and water resources.

#### Kathleen Smits

Kate Smits is currently an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado School of Mines (CSM). Kate earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering from CSM. She received a M.S. from the University of Texas, Austin, and a B.S. from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Kate previously served for eight years in the U.S. Air Force as a Civil Engineering Officer. The motivation of her research is to provide answers to many current and important geo-environmental problems such as the transport and attenuation modeling of gases migrating through the vadose zone of soils, methane migration and release into the atmosphere, water resource management in dry land, and the simulation of water content fluctuation in the vadose zone interacting with the atmosphere.

#### Naftali Lazarovich

Naftali Lazarovitch is an associate professor in the French Associates Institute for Agriculture and Biotechnology of Drylands, Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He received his Ph.D. in 2006 from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main research interests include developing a better understanding of water flow and solute and heat transport in the soil-plant-atmosphere system; increasing agricultural water use efficiency using optimal irrigation and fertigation scheduling; and modeling, measuring and interpreting various processes in the root zone.

#### Todd Skaggs

Todd Skaggs is a Research Soil Scientist and Lead Scientist at the U.S. Salinity Laboratory (USDA-ARS) in Riverside, California. He specializes in hydrologic modeling of critical zone processes and conducts computational systems research aimed at discovering innovative solutions to problems associated with water scarcity, marginal quality irrigation waters, and crop production on salt-affected lands. He is an active member of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Geophysical Union. He earned his Ph.D. (1994) and B.S. (1989) from the University of California-Riverside.



## Editor's Citations for Excellence in Review

### Matthias H. Müller

Matthias H. Müller is a post-doc at the group of Applied & Environmental Geology, University of Basel, Switzerland, investigating groundwater and heat transport models in urban areas. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Basel in the project “The ecological and socio-economic consequences of land transformation in alpine regions” using stable isotopes in hydrological investigations in alpine headwater catchments. He earned a M.Sc. in environmental geosciences and a B.Sc. in geosciences, both from the University of Basel, Switzerland, following studies in geology at the University of Granada, Spain, in environmental sciences at the University of Almería, Spain, and in mineralogy at Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany.

### Maziar Kandelous

Maziar Kandelous is a soil physicist trained from the perspectives of agricultural hydrology and irrigation engineering. He is currently an assistant professor and extension specialist at Oregon State University. Maziar earned his Ph.D. in Hydrologic Science in the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at the University of California at Davis and holds both a master's degree in irrigation and reclamation engineering and a bachelor's degree in irrigation and drainage engineering, both from the University of Tehran, Iran. His areas of expertise include agricultural sustainability, soil water quality, fertigation and nutrient management, water use efficiency, data-driven agricultural management, modeling of soil and plant water and nutrient status, and field instrumentation. Maziar's research combines experimental and modeling approaches to contribute to a better understanding of the interactions between atmosphere, plant, soil, water, and solutes to improve the sustainability of agricultural practices, especially in the context of water quality.

### Emmanuel Arthur

Emmanuel Arthur is a research scientist at the Department of Agroecology in Aarhus University, Denmark, and is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Sciences at The University of Arizona, Tucson. He received a M.Sc. in Soil Science from Ghent University and a Ph.D. in Environmental Soil Physics from Aarhus University. His current research interest focuses on understanding the mechanisms of soil water vapor sorption and estimating agronomic and engineering soil properties from water sorption isotherms. He has contributed to our understanding of soil structure development, soil amelioration with organic amendments, and the response and contribution of soil microbial communities to soil functional architecture.