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***NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory***  
***49<sup>th</sup> Global Monitoring Annual Conference***

24-28 May  
Boulder, Colorado

We in NOAA's Global Monitoring Laboratory welcome you to the 49<sup>th</sup> Global Monitoring Annual Conference (GMAC). This is the second GMAC that we have hosted virtually, owing to the CoViD Pandemic. We learned a lot putting together last year's meeting and have put many of those "lessons learned" to effect for this year. You'll notice that we have scheduled both oral and poster sessions each day this year. The sessions are broken out topically throughout the entire week, but only in the local afternoons, giving many of you a half-day back daily. We realize the strain that a virtual meeting like this puts on those of you who are our international colleagues, so we especially appreciate your willingness to present or attend this event. We sincerely hope that next year's GMAC (50<sup>th</sup>!!) can be hosted in person and look forward to seeing you all there! This annual gathering is a hallmark of GML and highlights our dedication to the global research community to collectively improve our knowledge and base practices. Throughout the years, the goal of this conference has remained steadfast - to create a forum for thoughtful and lively discussion on research from sustained measurement records and what it takes to understand them.

Because this meeting is virtual, it does allow for a much greater attendance. This year we have over 450 attendees, which is about twice as many as usually attend. This breaks down to be roughly 290 U.S. attendees and 160 of our international colleagues from 30 countries.

The GMAC, as always, will focus on observations and their value for improving understanding of our ever-changing Earth system. We anticipate discussions highlighting long-term data sets, advances in technology, evolution of networks, observing gaps, and the immense possibilities achievable through our collaborations. The conference agenda and abstracts from all presentations and posters at the conference are available at <https://gml.noaa.gov/annualconference/index.html>.

Thank you all for participating in this conference!

James H. Butler, Director  
Global Monitoring Laboratory

