

## **A. Center/Institute/Program**

### **Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute/New Jersey Meadowlands Commission**

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Director/Chairperson: Dr. Francisco Artigas

Representative to AERC: Dr. Francisco Artigas

## **B. Major objectives of the Center/Institute/Program**

The Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI) conducts and sponsors research in ecology, environmental science and information technology to monitor, preserve and improve ecological and human health and welfare in the Meadowlands, an urban estuary in northeastern New Jersey.

## **C. Major ecosystem research emphases**

Urban, tidal, brackish river, creeks and marshes, with a legacy of contamination in the sediments, hydrologic disturbance (fill, dikes, tide gates) and dominance by *Phragmites australis*.

## **D. Staff**

Approximately 15 full-time.

## **E. Approximate annual funding (recent year)**

Core funding: \$1,500,000/yr, Source: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

Grants: \$839,134 total, Major sources:

## **F. Areas and facilities for ecosystem research studies**

1. Tidal, brackish river, creeks and marshes (approximately 2000 acres), and freshwater ponds and marshes (approximately 300 acres).
2. GIS lab.
3. Chemistry lab.
4. Library
5. Sampling equipment.
6. Field-deployable water quality monitoring instruments.

7. GPS.
8. Spectral radiometers.
9. Boats.

**G. Research staff directly involved in ecosystem research (names and specialty areas)**

Artigas, Francisco J. - remote sensing, wetland vegetation

Elefante, Dom - GIS

Hobble, Christine - sediment/water chemistry

Konsevick, Edward - air quality

Shin Jin Young - organic chemistry