

## Director's Message

2001 was a year of planning. Six of the seven major research projects at the laboratory were in various stages of ARS's new peer review process by the Office of Scientific Quality and Review (OSQR). Five were approved during 2001, and one is still under review. The remaining research project will be reviewed during 2002. Because of the amount of effort devoted to developing these research plans, we thought it would be useful to provide them in our Annual Research Report. These plans will inform the audience for this report what we intend to do over the next five years. The research staff is excited about their new plans, and we look forward to making positive contributions to science and agriculture.

Over the past several years, we have been trying to bring together the remote sensing and the irrigated farm management teams to build on each other's strengths. Such a merger happened this year as we organized our research plans. As a result, Doug Hunsaker (70%) and Floyd Adamsen (30%) joined a new project entitled "Irrigated crop management utilizing remote sensing." Doug will lead the effort to determine crop coefficients from remote sensing data. Floyd will assist the group with development of nitrogen management recommendations based on remote sensing data. This shift resulted in Doug's being moved from the Irrigation and Water Quality Research Unit to the Environmental and Plant Dynamics Research Unit. Besides the past remote sensors [(Paul Pinter, lead scientist (70%); Ed Barnes (100%), Glenn Fitzgerald (100%)], Bruce Kimball (20%) and Gary Wall (10%) also will bring additional micro-meteorological and plant physiological expertise to the new project. We expect this new level of cooperation to provide useful farm management tools based on remote sensing.

We welcomed two new staff members to the lab in 2001: Fedja Strelkoff and Glenn Fitzgerald. Fedja had worked at the lab since 1991, but most of that time was as an employee of the University of Arizona. He is now lead scientist for the new research project "Surface irrigation water quality and management." He has been instrumental in development of our surface irrigation models and now will take a more leading role in both development and application of the models. Glenn comes to us from Shafter, California, where he worked for ARS conducting research on remote sensing with hyperspectral radiometers. He joins the remote sensing team at the laboratory on their new project "Irrigated crop management utilizing remote sensing." Glenn will continue his work with hyperspectral radiometers to detect various forms of plant stress. Welcome Fedja and Glenn.

Sherwood Idso retired from the lab after 34 years. He spent his entire, very productive career at the laboratory. A dedication is included in this report. We wish Sherwood well in his new ventures.

The laboratory program looks strong and healthy in the near term. In the long term, we need to focus on developing technology that will help growers and water-resource managers to effectively utilize water for the good of the community. This will require increased cooperation with users and additional resources. Leveraging our current resources and strong research program will be needed to bring this about.

Bert Clemmens  
Laboratory Director