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Preface

During the 2003 EGS–AGU–EUG Joint Assembly held in Nice, France, 06–11 April 2003, the turn-out was tremendous: “...first- and last-joint meeting of AGU, EUG and EGS ...and the more than 10,000 participants from over 90 countries made it one the largest gatherings of geoscientists ever” (EOS 84(17) 29 April 2003, p. 159). Some 14,000 abstracts were submitted. Of these, some 70 ended up in the Ocean Sciences session OS3 on “Small and mesoscale processes and their impact on the large scale”. Within the session approximately 40% (27 contributions) were presented orally and none was cancelled. The discussion was lively, indicating that the subject studying detailed ocean processes ranging from internal waves to eddies is highly topical in present-day (physical) oceanographic research. Some 10 of the OS3-contributions eventually found their way as a paper to this special issue of Deep-Sea Research II under a tight scheme of deadlines. These papers reflect more or less the contributions presented at the Joint Assembly meeting, they were not pre-selected. This publication within 1 year after submission of the manuscripts could not have

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Hans van Haren
*Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research
(NIOZ), P.O. Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg,
The Netherlands*
E-mail address: hansvh@nioz.nl

Louis St. Laurent
*Department of Oceanography,
Florida State University, Rm 407 OSB,
West Call Street, 32306-4320 Tallahassee,
FL, United States of America*
E-mail address: lous@ocean.fsu.edu

David Marshall
*Department of Meteorology, University of Reading,
P.O. Box 243, Reading RG6 6BB, UK*
E-mail address: davidm@met.rdg.ac.uk