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Sumant chairs the Climate Variations and Change Committee of the American Meteorological Society and the Advisory Panel for NCAR's Climate and Global Dynamics Laboratory. He also serves on the International Commission on Dynamic Meteorology, and on the advisory committee of NCAR and the NSF-Geosciences directorate. Sumant was a member of the Climate Research Committee and the Board of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate of the US National Academies from 2008-2012. He previously served as co-chair of the Climate Variability working group of NCAR's Community Climate System Model, Editor of the Journal of Climate, and as Director of the Large-scale Dynamic Meteorology program at the US National Science Foundation. Sumant is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and the Royal Meteorological Society, and currently a Jefferson Science Fellow of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and a senior science advisor to the US State Department.

Sumant got his M.Sc. degree in Physics from the 5-year integrated science and engineering program at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, supported by the National Science Talent Scholarship. He obtained his Ph.D. in Geophysical Fluid Dynamics from Princeton University in 1984, and postdoctoral training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Sumant was featured on the cover of SCIENCE in May 2004 in connection with a report on foreign-born US scientists, titled "*Brains & Borders: Many Origins, One Destination.*"