

2026 Microbes in Wastewater Symposium

AGENDA

January 15 - 16, 2026 | Newport Beach, California



DAY 1

Thursday,
January
15th

8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 AM	Welcome and Keynote Address: Goals for Downstream–Upstream Pathogen Monitoring in Wastewater <i>Kris Locken, Joan Rose</i>
9:55 AM	Bringing a Water Microbiome Perspective to Direct Potable Reuse <i>Kara Nelson</i>
10:20 AM	On-Site, On-Time: Mobile Wastewater Testing for Early Warning in Remote Regions <i>Lawrence Goodridge</i>
10:45 AM	Poster Session & Coffee Break - Refreshments Provided by CeresNano
11:15 AM	Flush with Data: Wastewater Surveillance as a Comprehensive and Unbiased Readout of Community Health <i>Marc Johnson</i>
11:40 AM	The Wastewater RNA Virome Through Ultra-Deep Genome resolved Metagenomics <i>Rose Kantor</i>
12:05 PM	Streamlined Workflows for the Analysis of Pathogens in Wastewater <i>Annabelle Damerum</i>
12:30 PM	Sponsor Spotlight - Phase Genomics <i>Ivan Liachko</i>
12:45 PM	Lunch
1:35 PM	Group Photo
1:50 PM	Panel Discussion: Toward Standards in Wastewater Microbiology and AMR Surveillance <i>Moderator: Rachel Noble. Nancy Lin, Ishi Keenum, Michael Weinstein, Scott Jackson</i>
2:50 PM	Strategies for Sustainable and Impactful Wastewater-Based Pathogen Surveillance in the Face of Public Health and Funding Challenges <i>Martin Shafer</i>
3:15 PM	Poster Session & Coffee Break - Refreshments Provided by KVAC
3:45 PM	Use of Wastewater Data to Inform Public Health Surveillance and Outbreak Response <i>Prabhu Gounder</i>
4:10 PM	International Sewage Crisis: Policy, Science, and Public Health Protection <i>Heather Buonomo</i>
4:35 PM	Blueprints for Detection: Scalable, Validated Assay Design for Wastewater-Based Epidemiology <i>Lauren Stadler</i>
5:00 PM	Happy Hour & Poster Session - Provided by Zymo Research
6:30 PM	Dinner Cruise - Board: 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM, Cruise: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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DAY 2

Friday,
January
16th

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Evolution of Shortcut Nitrogen Removal: The Path to Mainstream Anammox Implementation <i>Stephanie Klaus</i>
9:25 AM	National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS): Advancing Public Health Through Wastewater-Based Genomics <i>Daniel Cornforth</i>
9:50 AM	Toward a Global Biosurveillance Framework for Early Detection of Known and Emerging Pathogens <i>Patrick Chain</i>
10:15 AM	Poster Session & Coffee Break
10:55 AM	Viruses in Wastewater: What Have We Learned and Where Are We Going? <i>Sunny Jiang</i>
11:20 AM	A Microbial Sequencing Approach to Identify Contamination from Sewers in an Urban Watershed <i>Joshua Steele</i>
11:45 AM	Fungal Pathogens, Common Wastewater Parameters, and Other Targets Worth Pursuing <i>Catherine Hoar</i>
12:10 PM	Lunch
1:10 PM	Panel Discussion: Understanding and Optimizing the Microbiomes of the Engineered One-Water Cycle <i>Moderator: Kartik Chandran, Amy Pruden, Ameet Pinto, Joan Rose, Bruce Rittmann</i>
2:10 PM	Exploring Genotyping and Phenotypic Characterization of Microbial Communities in the Water Cycle <i>Ameet Pinto</i>
2:35 PM	Poster Session & Coffee Break
3:15 PM	No Unclaimed Virus Credits! An Academic-Industry-Regulator Partnership to Develop New Crediting Frameworks for Potable Reuse <i>Brian Pecson</i>
3:40 PM	Giving the Microorganism a Little Help so That They Can Do More for Us <i>Bruce Rittmann</i>
4:30 PM	Closing and Poster Awards
4:45 PM	Happy Hour - Provided by Zymo Research

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