

## 2026 Microbes in Wastewater Symposium

# AGENDA

January 15 - 16, 2026 | Newport Beach, California

### DAY 1

Thursday,  
January  
15th

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



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## DAY 2

Friday,  
January  
16th

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

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