



**CTR Workshop on
Translational Research and Technology Innovations
for
PFAS Decontaminations**

*sponsored by National Science Foundation ART (Accelerating Research Translation)
Program at NJIT and National Academy of Inventor (NAI) – NJIT Chapter*

April 24, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Atrium, Campus Center

NJIT

CTR

Center for Translational Research
New Jersey Institute of Technology

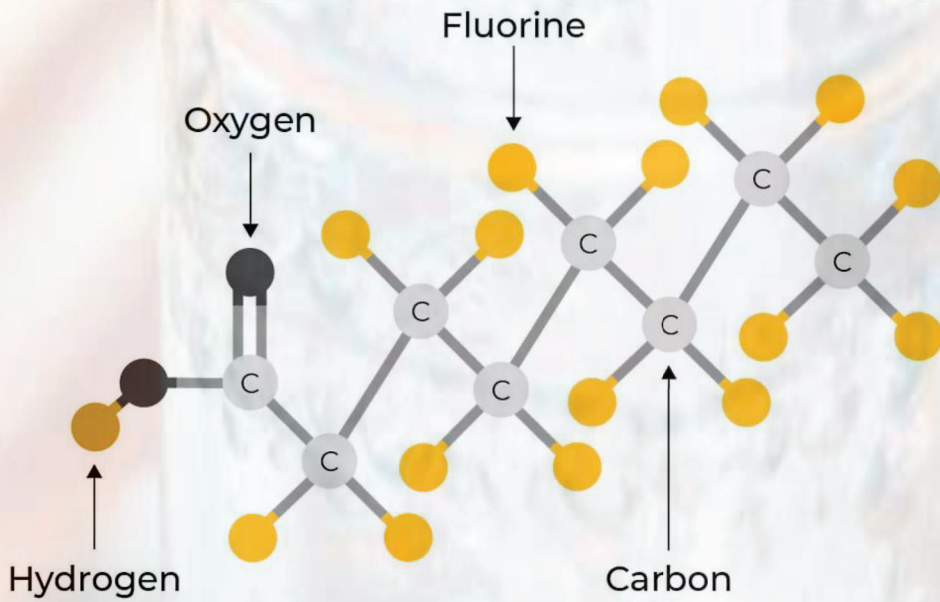


NJIT
New Jersey Institute
of Technology

Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors

PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances



NJIT



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Decontaminations**

Sponsored by
NSF ART (Accelerating Research Translation) Program at NJIT
National Academy of Inventor (NAI) – NJIT Chapter

Co-organizers and Co-Chairs

Atam Dhawan, Senior Vice Provost for Research, NJIT; Executive Director – Center for Translational Research

Nick DeNichilo, Vice Co-Chair, NJIT Board of Trustees; Former President & CEO at Mott MacDonald – North America (retired)

Carol Walczyk, Vice President – Engineering, Veolia North America; Vice President – American Water Works Association

Date and Venue: April 24, 2025, 9.00 AM – 4.00 PM; Campus Center Atrium

Full Announcement



and Additional Information

Check out our website:



Center for Translational Research

Live Video Streaming

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njit-edu.zoom.us/j/96990923115?pwd=dLxbZdrSUUIQbrdIBFhvJ1bBUj6bP.1>

Meeting ID: 969 9092 3115

Passcode: 754618

Brief Description: The [Center for Translational Research](#) is committed to promoting excellence in collaborative research, innovation partnerships, entrepreneurial pathways, education, training and infrastructure development to translate technology into applications with a high societal and economic impact. To follow up on the CTR mission to enhance the research, innovation and technology entrepreneurship ecosystem at NJIT, we have initiated a series of workshops on pathways to translational research and innovation partnerships, with panel discussions and breakout sessions giving faculty, postdocs and students an opportunity to interact with experts on early and advanced translational research, tech transfer, licensing and funding strategies for entrepreneurial activities. This CTR workshop is focused on translational research and innovative technologies for detecting and managing PFAS related contaminants in water, soil, air, infrastructure and consumable products.

Who Should Attend: Faculty, research staff, undergraduate and graduate students and postdocs and external partners including major NJ universities, industry, utilities, business accelerators, government and community stakeholders who are pursuing or are interested in translational research and innovative technology development for removing the PFAS related contaminants in water, soil, air, infrastructure and environment for sustainable societies should attend and would be benefited from the workshop.

Why You Should Attend: The workshop attendees will have the opportunity to learn about recent developments and current and future challenges in PFAS decontamination technologies and associated regulatory policies for its societal impact from the leaders in industry, academia and government sectors. Featured keynote presentations and panel sessions include stimulative and interactive discussions from:

- Government leaders addressing PFAS challenges and specific actions to safeguard public health and environment including elected officials and federal, state, regional departments and agencies.
- Industry leaders pursuing the development of PFAS decontamination and management technologies at global and start-up companies.
- Leaders from major research foundations and private organizations.
- Experts in academia from NJIT, Princeton University, Rutgers University, Rowan University and Stevens Institute of Technology

In addition, the Industry-University-Community Showcase on Technology Innovations in PFAS Decontamination will feature more than 40 companies, academic research centers and laboratories,

and global, national, state and regional utilities working in the cutting-edge of technology innovations and deployment for addressing the critical challenges of PFAS management in environment, soil, water, consumable products and infrastructure.

Agenda

- 9.00 AM – 9.30 AM: Registration and Meet & Greet Networking with Breakfast
- 9.30 AM – 10.00 AM: Welcome Remarks and Program Outline
[Atam Dhawan](#), Senior Vice Provost and Executive Director – CTR;
Workshop Co-Chair
[Nick DeNichilo](#), Vice Co-Chair, NJIT Board of Trustees, Workshop Co-Chair
[Teik Lim](#), President, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- 10.00 AM – 10.05 AM: Opening Remarks
NJ State Senator [Paul Sarlo](#)
- 10.05 AM – 10.10 AM: Assemblywoman [Lisa Swain](#)
- 10.10 AM - 10.15 AM: Assemblywoman [Shama Haider](#)
- 10.15 AM – 11.30 AM: Distinguished Keynote Session: Introductions and Remarks
Moderator: Nick DeNichilo
- 10.30 AM - 11.00 AM: Distinguished Keynote Presentation -1: Government/Agency Perspective
[Katrina Angarone](#), Chief Strategy Officer, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- 11.00 AM -11.30 AM: Distinguished Keynote Presentation: Industry Perspective
[Chris Low](#), Chief Technology Officer, Veolia North America
- 11.30 AM - 12.30 PM: Distinguished Panel Session: Translational Research in PFAS Decontamination Technologies – Academic Translational Research Perspective
[Wen Zhang](#), Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, NJIT
[Arjun Venkatesan](#), Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, NJIT
[Zhiming Zhang](#), Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rowan University
[Dibyendu “Dibs” Sarkar](#), Professor of Environmental Engineering, Founding Director, Stevens Center for Sustainability, Civil, Environmental and Ocean Engineering, Stevens Institute of Technology
[Craig Arnold](#), Vice Dean of Innovation, Office of Innovation, Princeton University

[Lisa Rodenburg](#), Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences,
Rutgers University

Moderator: Atam Dhawan

12.30 PM - 1.00 PM: Lunch with Experts and Networking

1.00 AM - 2.00 PM: Distinguished Panel Session: Translational Research in PFAS
Decontamination Technologies – Industry Technology Translation
Perspective
[Carol Walczyk](#), Vice President – Engineering, Veolia North America
[Jason Hnatko](#), Engineering Leader, Allonnia
[Rick Gillespie](#), Chief Commercial Officer, Revive Environmental
[Lauren Weinrich](#), Director, Research & Development, American Water
[Brent Alspach](#), Director of Applied Research, Arcadis

Moderator: Carol Walczyk

2.00 PM – 2.30 PM: Open Forum with Elected Officials and Community Leaders

2.30 PM - 4.00 PM: Industry-University-Community Showcase and Reception: Technology
Innovations in PFAS Decontamination: Showcase Presenters

Table #	Organization	Presenter	Presenter Title
1	Veolia North America	Carol Walczyk	Vice President – Engineering, Veolia North America
2	Veolia North America	John Peichel	Water Technologies & Solutions - Market Developer - PFAS
3	NJIT	Wen Zhang	Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
4	Carollo Engineers	Jason Marie	Client Services Manager / Vice President
5	NJIT	Arjun Venkatesan	Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
6	Mott MacDonald	Earl Schneider	Area Development Leader
7	NJIT	Jay Meegoda	Distinguished Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering
8	T&M Associates	Gary Dahms	President and Chief Executive Officer
9	NJIT	Sagnik Basuray	Associate Professor, Chemical and Material Engineering
10	NJIT	Zeyuan Qiu	Professor, Chemistry and Environmental Science
11	Colliers	Richard M. Maser	Executive Chairman
12	NJIT	Michel Boufadel	Distinguished Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering
13	Allonnia	Jason Hnatko	Engineer Manager – Emerging Contaminants
14	NJIT	Hao Chen	Professor, Chemistry and Environmental Science
15	Phase Change Solutions	Govi Rao	President and Chief Executive Officer

Table #	Organization	Presenter	Presenter Title
16	NJIT	Omowunmi Sadik	Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Distinguished Professor, Chemistry and Environmental Science
17	Revive Environmental	Rick Gillespie	Chief Commercial Officer
18	NJIT	Mark Zhou	Assistant Professor, Chemical and Materials Engineering
19	Rutgers University	Lisa Rodenburg	Professor and Director, Environmental Science Graduate Program
20	NJIT	William Pennock	Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
21	Stevens Institute of Technology	Dibyendu “Dibs” Sarkar	Professor of Environmental Engineering
22	Rowan University	Zhiming Zhang	Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
23	Princeton University	Shaharyar Wani	Graduate Student
24	NJIT	Mengyan Li	Associate Professor, Chemistry and Environmental Science
25	Polygone Inc. (Princeton)	Yueyu Yao and Nada Ali	Lead Scientists

Biographical Sketches



[Atam P. Dhawan](#) is senior vice provost for research at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). He is a tenured Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Executive Director of the Center for Translational Research, and Executive Director of Undergraduate Research and Innovation. He is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and NAI Innovation Ambassador, Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), and Fellow of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering (IAMBE) and serves on the NAI Board of Directors, NJII Board of Directors, R&D Council of NJ Board of Directors, IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering Scientific Advisory Board, and the NIH Point-of-Care Research Network Advisory Board which he chaired from 2019-2025.

Dr. Dhawan is a recipient of numerous awards including Martin Epstein Award (1984), NIH FIRST Award (1988), Sigma-Xi Young Investigator Award (1992), IEEE EMBS Early Career Achievement Award (1995), Doermann Distinguished Lecture Award (1999), EMBS Distinguished Lecturer award (2012-2013), IEEE EMBS William J. Morlock Award in Excellence in Biomedical Technology (2021) and NJ Innovate 100 Leaders Award (2024). His research interests lie in medical imaging, medical image analysis, point-of-care technologies, and pattern recognition. Dr. Dhawan has received more than \$86 million in research grants and contracts as

Principal Investigator or Co-PI. He has published over 216 research papers and book chapters. He has also authored and co-authored several books in medical imaging, and image analysis. He holds several patents, some of which have been commercialized and being used for screening of skin-lesions for diagnosis of skin-cancers, and in the treatment of spider vein diseases.



[Nicholas DeNichilo](#), PE, was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mott MacDonald, North America and is presently a retired professional engineer serving on various boards and professional associations. Nick officially retired as of January 1, 2022. He was responsible for the success and sustainability of the firm’s entire operation in North America. Mott MacDonald - North America is a \$600 million business with 2500 employees and is part of Mott MacDonald’s \$ 2 billion global operations with 16,000 employees. Nick served as a member of the Mott MacDonald Group Executive Board. He brings technical expertise, with 48 years of experience in the consulting field, an extensive network of relationships with key industry leaders and regulators.

An industry expert, Nick DeNichilo has authored and presented numerous technical papers, and hosted technical discussions at various industry events. He is past Chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) Industry Leaders Council and is a past Chair of the New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). He is a member of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of ASCE. Mr. DeNichilo is also a member of the National Academy of Construction. He is a member of the New Jersey Institute of Technology’s Board of Trustees and previously served as a member of NJIT’s Board of Overseers and past Chairman of the Newark College of Engineering Board of Visitors. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Innovation Institute. He previously served as a member of the University of Rutgers, New Jersey Climate Change Alliance. Mr. DeNichilo is also a Board member of the Villanova Career Compass Advisory Board. He is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Industry Board of Center for Buildings, Infrastructure and Public Space at Columbia University.

Nick has been honored to receive awards throughout his career, including ASCE’s Engineer of the Year Award in 1999. In 2003 New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association awarded Nick the George Warren Fuller Award for his distinguished professional volunteer service in the water field. In 2005, the NJIT Alumni Association presented Nick with the Association’s Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. In 2014, ASCE awarded Nick the Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Award, which recognizes and honors outstanding civil engineering leaders whose lifetime achievements and accomplishments have made significant differences in the field of engineering management. In 2015, ASCE awarded Nick the John I. Parcel – Leif J. Sverdrup Civil Engineering Management Award for becoming a widely respected national voice on behalf of safe engineering practices and the need for resilient infrastructure. In 2020 Nick was selected as an Honorary Diplomat, Water Resources Engineer (Hon.D.WRE) in

the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. In 2021, Nick was awarded the Newark College of Engineering Outstanding Alumni Award.

Nick received his BSCE from Newark College of Engineering and his MSCE from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.



[Carol Walczyk](#) is a licensed professional civil engineer and certified project management professional with 35 years of experience in environmental infrastructure planning, design, construction and operations. She has been with Veolia since 2017, currently serving as Vice President of Engineering - Technical & Performance, where she leads a team of senior technical experts supporting operations, driving innovation, spearheading growth initiatives, and facilitating business development for Veolia's water, waste, and energy businesses across the US and Canada. Carol is also a Subject Matter Expert on PFAS

and other contaminants of emerging concern for the Veolia global network. In addition to her role at Veolia, Carol is a Vice President of the American Water Works Association.



[Teik C. Lim](#) is the 9th President of New Jersey Institute of Technology and also holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Prior to joining NJIT on July 1, 2022, Dr. Lim led the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) as interim president from 2020-2022 and was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at UTA from 2017-2020.

Dr. Lim's career has spanned from the private sector to university administration. He worked as an engineer at Structural Dynamics Research Corporation before joining The Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research as a research scientist. He taught at the University of Alabama beginning in 1998, as associate professor, before joining the University of Cincinnati in 2002, where he advanced from associate professor to professor to department head and to associate dean for graduate studies and research before, ultimately, being named Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science. Dr. Lim earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (ME) from Michigan Technological University, his Master of Science in ME from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and his Ph.D. in ME from The Ohio State University.

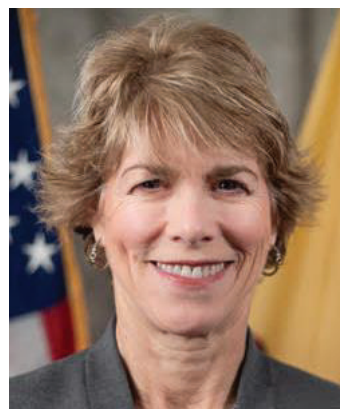
Dr. Lim is internationally recognized as a leading scholar in the field of structural vibrations and acoustics as well as modeling and simulation technology. He was named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2018. He is Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and of the Society of Automotive Engineers, from which he received numerous research and teaching awards such as the Arch T. Colwell Merit Award in 2003 and the Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award in 2002. Dr. Lim also was recognized with the Thomas French

Alumni Achievement Award in 2010, the GearLab Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2017, and the Distinguished Alumni Award for Academic Excellence in 2019 from his alma mater, The Ohio State University.



[Paul A. Sarlo](#) is the Deputy Majority Leader of the New Jersey Senate. He serves as chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Higher Education Committee, the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, and the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee. He is a former chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the Labor Committee. He has also sponsored bills which reformed New Jersey's worker's compensation system, criminalized the illegal trafficking and distribution of prescription drugs, required schools to adopt bullying prevention policies and upgraded penalties for identity theft.

Mr. Sarlo's career in public service spans more than two decades. He has served as Mayor of the Borough of Wood-Ridge since 2000 and served on its Borough Council from 1995-2000. In 2001, he was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly, a position he held until May 2003 when he was sworn in to the New Jersey Senate to fill an unexpired term. He was elected to a full term in the New Jersey Senate in November 2003 and was re-elected in 2007, 2011, and 2013. Mr. Sarlo represents the 36th legislative district, which includes 15 municipalities in Bergen and Passaic Counties.



[Assemblywoman Lisa Swain](#) represents the 38th Legislative District in the NJ General Assembly. She was sworn in on May 24, 2018 to succeed Senator Joseph Lagana, and she serves as Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Vice Chair of the Assembly State and Local Government Committee, and as a member of the Assembly Education Committee.

Prior to joining the state legislature, Lisa gave back to her community by serving on the Fair Lawn Borough Council from 2008-2018 and was elected Mayor in both 2011 and 2018. Lisa has always stayed active in her community, working closely with the Fair Lawn Economic Development Corporation, the Green Team, and her constituents to help solve their varied issues. She's an accomplished triathlete and member of Team USA, the World Championship Triathlon Team. She's also the Vice President of the North Jersey Masters Track & Field Club.

Lisa graduated with a B.A. from the University of Rochester and has her M.A. from New York University. She resides in Fair Lawn with her husband, Ron, and has two adult kids.



[Assemblywoman Shama Haider](#) started her activism in Pakistan as a college student protesting against military dictatorship. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Punjab in Pakistan. After moving to the United States in 1977, she settled down in the Borough of Tenafly in Bergen County, New Jersey. During her professional career she helped to fundraise for a non-profit focusing on funding arts programs for schools. Shama became an active member of her community by participating in municipal boards and parent teacher associations. She was elected to local council in both 2001 and 2015. Most recently, Shama made history by becoming the

first Muslim American elected to serve in the state legislature. In her second term, she is a Deputy Majority leader and Chair of the Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee. She also serves on the Assembly Health and Appropriations Committees.



[Katrina Angarone](#) serves as Chief Strategy Officer for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Kati advances strategic initiatives, including expanding public access to environmental information, increasing the visibility of DEP programs and services, cultivating external partnerships and coordinating strategic planning on cross-media issues. She also oversees the efforts of our Office of Legislative Affairs and our Office of Environmental and Public Health Analysis.

Kati has worked at DEP for more than 25 years. She previously served as Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management (WLM), overseeing the Division of Watershed Protection & Restoration, the Division of Land Resource Protection and the Division of Resilience, Engineering & Construction. As WLM's leader, she focused on advancing watershed initiatives, including integration of New Jersey-specific climate change science into watershed policy. The post followed a term as Associate Commissioner for Science & Policy, where she managed science, environmental health and economic analysis programs, while developing policy protective of New Jersey's environment and public health.

Earlier, Kati spent several years focused on water policy, including the adoption of new drinking water standards, which involved first-in-the-nation PFAS standards and water supply emergency response. More than half of her DEP career was spent assisting with the development of New Jersey's state land use policies, including stormwater management, habitat protection, flood hazard area controls and protection of the Highlands region.

A passionate advocate of the environment, Kati is dedicated to DEP's mission to protect the environment and public health in service to the people of New Jersey.



[Chris Low](#) is Chief Technology Officer and EVP of Technical and Performance, EHS - Veolia North America. Chris has over 23 years of experience working on water treatment projects. During his career he has worked in Engineering, Project Management, and General Management roles delivering treatment solutions to both Municipal and Industrial customers.

As Chief Technology Officer, he is currently responsible for Veolia North America's technical engineering, capital project delivery, environmental compliance, health & safety, and operational excellence. Chris has executive oversight of our capital investment program for PFAS treatment in drinking water and at our hazardous waste incineration facilities.



[Wen Zhang](#) is a professor of NJIT's Newark College of Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering with a joint appointment in the Department of Chemical and Material Engineering at NJIT. Wen is a licensed Professional Engineer registered in the States of New Jersey and Delaware. He is an American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) Board Certified Environmental Engineer (BCEE). Dr. Zhang leads the Nanotechnology in Sustainable Environment and Agriculture Laboratory with two major missions of (1) mitigating the impact of climate change through sustainable agricultural irrigation and food disinfection, and (2) developing nanotechnology-based materials and processes for sustainable pollution mitigation and resource recovery. Dr. Zhang has a broad spectrum of research interests and footprints in colloidal science and interfaces, nanomaterial synthesis and characterization, catalytic processes and engineering that translate into vibrant scientific research and technology transfer activities. For example, his current efforts embrace reactive membrane filtration systems to develop novel air and water disinfection technologies, resource recovery from wastewater, desalination and persistent contaminant removal. Two of his patented technologies have been licensed by external commercial companies. For example, PureNanotech Inc. is one of them that promotes nanobubble technology for enhanced plant growth irrigation in controlled environment agriculture applications. His research on microwave-enhanced filtration system received 2023 Grand Prize for University Research in the AAEES Excellence in Environmental Engineering and Science Competition. In 2023, he was inducted as a senior member of the US National Academy of Innovators (NAI) and nominated for the IAAM fellow of the International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM).



[Arjun Venkatesan](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at NJIT. His research focuses on the occurrence, fate, and treatment of toxic chemicals in the environment, with a current focus on PFAS. Additionally, he develops novel analytical and monitoring approaches to assess human and environmental health risks associated with toxic exposures and drug use. To date, he has secured and managed >\$7 million in externally funded research grants from federal (NSF, US DoD, US DOE, USBR), state, and industry sponsors. His work has been featured in media, including National Geographic, NY Times, PBS programming and the National Institutes of Health, among others. He is a recipient of the 2025 40 Under 40 Recognition Program from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. Venkatesan received his Master's in environmental engineering from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2009) and his Ph.D. in environmental engineering from Arizona State University (2013). To date, Dr. Venkatesan has published 60 plus peer-reviewed journal articles on emerging contaminants, wastewater-based epidemiology, and water treatment.



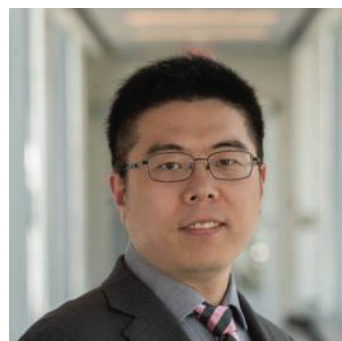
[Dibyendu "Dibs" Sarkar](#) is professor of environmental engineering and the founding director of the Stevens Center for Sustainability at Stevens Institute of Technology. He is broadly trained as an environmental geochemist with research interests in environmental remediation, risk assessment, and green technology development. Between 2008 and 2015, he was a professor of environmental science and founding director of the Environmental Science and Management PhD program at Montclair State University, New Jersey. Between 2000 and 2008, he served as an assistant and associate professor and associate dean of graduate studies and research at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Dibs graduated with a PhD in geochemistry from the University of Tennessee in 1997 and worked as a postdoctoral scientist in soil and water chemistry at the University of Florida until 2000. He is a licensed Professional Geologist in the State of Texas. Thus far, he has advised/advising 35+ PhD and MS/ME students, 20+ postdoctoral associates, and many visiting scholars. He has published 3 books, 180+ journal articles, 20 book chapters, and 300+ technical abstracts and conference proceedings. He has received more than \$17 million in grant funding as a PI or Co-PI to support the research activities. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, and the founding principal of SIROM Scientific Solutions, LLC, an environmental R&D startup incorporated in New Jersey. He is the founding editor-in-chief of Current Pollution Reports (Springer), founding section editor-in-chief of Environmental Sciences section of Applied Sciences (MDPI), founding technical editor

of International Journal of Environmental Science and Technology (Springer), and associate editor of Environmental Technology and Innovation (Elsevier) and Environmental Geochemistry and Health (Springer). Dibs serves as a reviewer for many journals, and in panels of several grant funding agencies, including NIH and NSF.



[Lisa Rodenburg](#) has a BA in chemistry from Wittenberg University and PhD in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins. She has been a professor in the Environmental Science Department at Rutgers for 25 years. She is an expert on source apportionment of PCBs and other organic contaminants. She also does consulting and expert witness work.



[Zhiming Zhang](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Rowan University. Dr. Zhang obtained his Ph.D. degree from Florida State University in 2019. Before joining Rowan University as an Assistant Professor in 2023, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Environmental Sustainability Laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Dr. Zhang has a broad research background in Environmental Engineering, ranging from tiny scales in microorganisms and nanoparticles for environmental remediation to large scales in stormwater management and watershed protection. His current research work includes sustainable water and wastewater treatment using biological and physicochemical methods to remove legacy and emerging contaminants (e.g., heavy metals and PFAS), in-situ remediation of contaminated groundwater and soil, development of green technologies, and the optimization of stormwater best management practices.



[Craig B. Arnold](#) is the Susan Dod Brown Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Vice Dean for Innovation at Princeton. As vice dean for innovation, Craig B. Arnold leads the [Princeton Innovation](#) initiative and oversees the University's efforts to grow Princeton's culture of innovation across disciplines. The role aims to strengthen the University's capacity to engage with entrepreneurs, alumni, industry, technology investors and other potential partners.

Arnold is Princeton's Susan Dod Brown Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He has served since 2015 as the director of the [Princeton](#)

[Institute of Materials](#). He leads a vibrant research program that ranges from basic science to applied technology aimed at developing a deeper understanding of materials synthesis and processing in areas including advanced manufacturing, energy storage and conversion, and optics and photonics. In 2017, Arnold received an Edison Patent Award from the Research & Development Council of New Jersey for the creation of an adjustable lens that focuses light in response to sound waves. The tunable acoustic gradient (TAG) lens is now used in many industrial and research applications including robotics, machine vision, industrial metrology and ultra-high precision microscopy. Arnold holds 13 granted patents, and is the co-founder of two companies based on research conducted at Princeton. TAG Optics Inc. developed the TAG lens and was later acquired by a major precision instrument manufacturer. Invictis Technologies is working to create a safer and less painful automated intravenous injection device.

Arnold was named a Knight of Laser Technology (2018) by the International Academy for Production Engineering (CIRP)-Photonic Technologies. He has received a number of prominent industry awards for his technology including R&D World magazine's R&D 100 award, the SPIE Prism Award for Photonics Innovation, and Vision Systems Design magazine's Innovators Award. Arnold has received prestigious federal awards and grants, including the National Science Foundation CAREER Award and the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Young Investigator Award.



[Jason Hnatko](#) is the Engineering Manager for Emerging Contaminants at Allonnia whose mission is to solve the world's toughest environmental challenges. Jason leads the SAFF team tasked with implementing foam fractionation to remove PFAS from aqueous matrices. At Allonnia he has led numerous foam fractionation bench tests, nine field pilot tests, and three permanent SAFF installations.

Jason holds a PhD in Civil & Environmental Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer. He has more than 15 years of environmental consulting and research experience, primarily in the investigation and remediation of PFAS and bioremediation of chlorinated solvents. His research focused on chlorinated ethene biodegradation and microbiology, including the impact of PFAS on dechlorinating microorganisms. He has previously served as a technical expert for the investigation and remediation of PFAS contamination at numerous sites.



[Lauren Weinrich](#), serves as the Director of Research and Development for American Water, the largest regulated water and wastewater company in the United States. Dr. Weinrich's leadership is characterized by a strong commitment to improving water quality, addressing constituents of concern, and engaging with both internal and external stakeholders to tackle current and future challenges in the water industry. In the laboratory, Dr. Weinrich's team develops methods and utilizes advanced chemistry and data analytics to characterize PFAS and other contaminants. In the field, they assess the occurrence and removal of PFAS through pilots across various states, providing operational and monitoring guidance to our subsidiaries. They are currently assisting with other regulatory preparations for PFAS, source water assessments, and wastewater monitoring.

Dr. Weinrich served as the Principal Investigator for the Water Research Foundation project titled "PFAS One Water Risk Communication Messaging for Water Sector Professionals." This project, funded by the Water Research Foundation and the American Water Works Association, aimed to develop effective communication materials for the water sector regarding PFAS. She was Co-Principal Investigator for WRF Project 4913, published in 2025, entitled "Investigation of Treatment Alternatives for Short-Chain PFAS," that developed a guidance manual to help water treatment professionals select cost-effective and sustainable methods for removing short-chain PFAS. Dr. Weinrich contributes to several technical advisory workgroups through the American Water Works Association, including the PFAS, Real-Time Source Water Monitoring, and Aesthetic Quality and Perception Committees. She stays close to other cutting-edge research also in her role as Deputy Editor for AWWA's Journal Water Science. She holds a BS degree in biology from Marymount University, MS in Environmental Science & Engineering from UNC – Chapel Hill, and PhD in Environmental Science & Engineering from Drexel University.



[Rick Gillespie](#), Chief Commercial Officer at Revive Environmental, leads spearheads the company's mission to ensure clean water by destroying PFAS. Rick leads the commercial efforts to destroy PFAS in AFFF, landfill leachate, industrial wastewater, and contaminated groundwater. His experience includes AFFF foam transition projects across different industries, including commercial airports, and oil and gas. He also works closely with landfills to combine foam fractionation with supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) to solve

high-volume recurring PFAS-laden waste streams.

Previously, Rick spent 24 years at Regenesys, driving sales and business development in remediation and vapor intrusion mitigation. His collaborations with E&C firms, regulatory agencies, private industry, and DoD clients have yielded successful outcomes at over 1,000 sites.

Rick began his career at Battelle Memorial Institute, contributing to key USAF initiatives and co-authoring the Air Sparging Design Paradigm. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.



[Brent Alspach](#) holds both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. Brent joined Arcadis in 1997 and serves as a Vice President and Director of Applied Research. He oversees a program that has conducted approximately \$35 million in drinking water, potable reuse, wastewater, and stormwater research funded by the Water Research Foundation, AWWA, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, among other organizations. Mr. Alspach is a past President of the American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA) past Chair of the AWWA Water Quality & Technology Division Board of Trustees. He also serves on the AWWA Technical & Education Council, as well as on the advisory / editorial boards for the publications AWWA Water Science and Opflow. He has a wide range of water quality and treatment expertise, with a contemporary focus on emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS, microplastics, and 6PPD-quinone), enhanced recovery of RO systems, ceramic membrane filtration. In accordance with this expertise, Mr. Alspach has testified about microplastics in drinking water before US Congressional hearing. His recognitions include: AWWA Volunteer of the Year; AWWA George Warren Fuller Award; and the AMTA President's Award. And as an ardent baseball fan, he has seen a game in 29 of the 30 active MLB ballparks.



CTR Workshop on Translational Research and Technology Innovations for PFAS Decontaminations

List of Attendees

Name	Organization/Institution	Affiliation and Role
Aizaz Shariff	Rutgers	Industry Executive/Staff
Alexander Karalokian	Ridgewood Water	Government - City
Amalia Terracciano	CDM Smith	Industry Executive/Staff
Amanda Berger	Arcadis	Industry Executive/Staff
Andrew Watson	HDR	Industry Executive/Staff
Anish Katwal	NJIT	Graduate Student
Arjun Venkatesan	NJIT	Faculty
Atam Dhawan	NJIT	Academic-Research Staff
Bahareh Kargar	NJIT	Faculty
Bishnu Pandey	NJIT	Graduate Student
Boris Khusid	NJIT	Faculty
Brent Alspach	Arcadis	Industry Executive/Staff
Brian Carr	Middlesex Water Company	Industry Executive/Staff
Brian G. Kiernan	NJIT	NJIT TITA Chair
Bruce Alderman	ROTEC	Industry Executive/Staff
Bryon Dahlgren	Battelle	Consultant
Cailyn Bruno	NJIT Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities	Academic-Research Staff
Carol Walczyk	Veolia North America	Industry Executive/Staff
Chad Corey	HDR Inc.	Industry Executive/Staff
Charmi	PFASolve.Inc	CEO
Chris Andreasen	Retired from Investor Owned Water Utility	Retired Water Utility Executive
Chris Curran	AECOM	Consultant
Chris Low	Veolia North America	Industry Executive/Staff
Christopher Walczyk	Colliers Engineering & Design	Industry Executive/Staff
Craig Arnold	Princeton University	Faculty
Cynthia Phillips	22nd Century by Design	Industry Executive/Staff
Dana Walter	38th Legislative District	Government - State
Daniel Mottern	NJIT	Graduate Student
David Anthony Ksuniak	T&M Associates	Industry Executive/Staff
Dennis Toft	CSG Law	Environmental Attorney and NJIT Trustee
Dheeban Govindan	NJIT	Graduate Student
Dibyendu "Dibs" Sarkar	Stevens Institute of Technology	Faculty

Name	Organization/Institution	Affiliation and Role
Don Than	Waters Technologies	Industry Executive/Staff
Donald Shields	New Jersey American Water Co. Inc.	Industry Executive/Staff
Dr. Jatinder Singh	Water Testing Laboratory	Government - State
Duwage Perera	NJIT	Post-Doc
Earl Schneider	Mott MacDonald	Industry Executive/Staff
Elisa Mayerberger	Calgon Carbon	Manufacturer
Emily Carey Perez de Alejo	Defend Our Health	Env Health non-profit
Enkeleida Lushi	NJIT	Faculty
Eon Soo Lee	NJIT	Faculty
Farhaneh Maghsoudi	NJIT	Graduate Student
Francisco Barajas	AECOM	Industry Executive/Staff
Gaddi Eshun	NJIT	Academic-Research Staff
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Gayla Fecher	Veolia North America	Utility Executive Staff
Govi Rao	Phase Change Solutions	Industry Executive/Staff
Grace Wang	NJIT	Faculty
Gregory Sorensen	Middlesex Water Company	Industry Executive/Staff
Guillermo Jimenez	NJIT	Faculty
Hadeer Saleh	Stevens Institute of Technology	Academic-Research Staff
Hao Chen	NJIT	Faculty
Haodong Jia	NJIT	Graduate Student
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Hui Mu	NJIT	Faculty
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Jake Schallowitz	NJIT	UG Student
Jason Hnatko	Allonnia	Industry Executive/Staff
Jason Kiernan	Veolia	Industry Executive/Staff
Jason Marie	Carollo Engineers	Industry Executive/Staff
Jay Meegoda	NJIT	Faculty
Jennifer Kosakowski	NJIT	Academic-Research Staff
Jerry Notte	JJNA; consultant to the City of Newark	Government - City
Jiahe Zhang	NJIT	Graduate Student
Jim Carlson	Komline-Sanderson Corporation	Industry Executive/Staff
Jim Mueller	Passaic Valley Water Commission	Government - City
Jin Shin	CUNY-Medgar Evers College	Faculty
Jingru Wei	NJIT	Graduate Student
Joe Pantalone	Atlantic County Utilities Authority	Government - County
Joe Barlotta	General Utility Superintendent, Joseph M. Sanzari, Inc.	Industry Executive/Staff
Joe Coviello	Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority	Government - City
Joe Klimek	Purolite (Ecolab)	Industry Executive/Staff
Joe Maggio	Brick Utilities	Government - City
Joe Nattress	CDM Smith	Consultant

Name	Organization/Institution	Affiliation and Role
Joe Stanley	NCE Board of Visitors	Engineer
John Peichel	Veolia	Industry Executive/Staff
Jon Reuther	Brown and Caldwell	Industry Executive/Staff
Jonathan Tardiff	Veolia - Regulated Water	Industry Executive/Staff
Joshua Young	NJIT	Faculty
Judith Sheft	NJCSIT	Government - State
Julie Alesandrelli	Passaic Valley Water Commission	Government - City
Kabir Mitra	ROTEC USA	Industry Executive/Staff
Kareem Adeem	City of Newark	Government - City
Katrina Angarone	Chief Strategy Officer, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Government - State
Keith F Kelly	CDM Smith	Consultant
Kevin Johnson	Calgon Carbon	Industry Executive/Staff
Khalid Mustafa	Stevens Institute of Technology	Graduate Student
Kouao-Eric Ekoue	Town of Boonton	Government - City
Kyle Hay	Brown and Caldwell	Industry Executive/Staff
Laura Cummings	Hazen and Sawyer	Industry Executive/Staff
Lauren Weinrich	American Water	Industry Executive/Staff
Leanne Kochy	NJIT	NJIT Staff - Development
Leonore Morgenstern	NJIT	Adjunct at NJIT and Consultant for Accelerator Programs
Lijie Zhang	NJIT	Faculty
Linda Cummings	NJIT	Faculty
Lisa Axe	NJIT	Faculty
Lisa Rodenburg	Rutgers University	Faculty
Lisa Swain	NJ Legislature	Government - State
Lou Kondic	NJIT	Faculty
Lynda DiMenna	American Water	Industry Executive/Staff
Margie Gray	Mott MacDonald	Industry Executive/Staff
Mark Tompeck	Mott MacDonald	Consulting Engineer
Mark Zhou	NJIT	Faculty
Matthew Fritch	Philadelphia Water Department	Government - City
Md Mohidul Alam Sabuj	NJIT	Graduate Student
Meghana Parameswarappa Jayalakshamma	NJIT	Post-Doc
Mengchu Zhou	NJIT	Faculty
Mengqiang Zhao	NJIT	Faculty
Mengyan Li	NJIT	Faculty
Michael DeNichilo	Kimley-Horn	Consultant
Michael E. Zwick	Rutgers University	Faculty
Michael Ehrlich	NJIT MTSM	Faculty
Michael Polito	Mott MacDonald	Industry Executive/Staff
Michel Boufadel	NJIT	Faculty
Milad	NJIT	Graduate Student
Mary Jane Durkin	NJII	NJII Venture Studio

Name	Organization/Institution	Affiliation and Role
Mohammadali Vafaei	NJIT	Graduate Student
Nada Ali	Princeton University	Graduate Student
Nagisa Manabe	NOFA NJ	Non-Profit
Neil Maher	NJIT	Faculty
Nick DeNichilo	NJIT BOT	NJIT Board of Trustees
Niranjana Haridas	NJIT	Graduate Student
Olumuyiwa Bamisaye	NJIT	Faculty
Pamela Sheehan	U.S,Army DEVCOM AC	Government - Federal
Parisa Javidan	Stevens Institute of Technology	Graduate Student
Pat Porcaro	Passaic Valley Water Commission	Government - City
Patrick Natale	NJIT	NJIT Foundation Board of Directors
Paul Nedwick	ResinTech Inc	Industry Executive/Staff
Paul Sarlo	NJ State Senate	Government - State
Peter Keenan	American Water	Industry Executive/Staff
Puja Dethé	NJIT	Graduate Student
Richard Calbi	Ridgewood Water	Government - City
Richard M. Maser	Colliers Engineering & Design	Executive Chairman
Rick Gillespie	Revive Environmental	Industry Executive/Staff
Rob Pfendler	T&M Associates	Industry Executive/Staff
Robert Cohen	Stryker and NJIT	Industry Executive/Staff
Robert Fullagar	Middlesex Water Company	Industry Executive/Staff
Rosa Yu	Carollo Engineers	Industry Executive/Staff
Roxana Rahmati	Stevens institute of technology	Academic-Research Staff
Sagnik Basuray	NJIT	Faculty
Santhoshi Chitthaluri	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Graduate Student
Scott MacFadden	Colliers Engineering & Design	Industry Executive/Staff
Sean McKelvey	Philadelphia Water Department	Government - City
Sean Wu	Waters Corporation	Industry Executive/Staff
Sevda	Stevens Institute of Technology	Graduate Student
Shaharyar Wani	Princeton University	Graduate Student
Shama Haider	NJ State Legislature	Government - State
Shawn Chester	NJIT	Academic-Research Staff
Sherie Dodson	NJIT	Academic-Research Staff
Shyam Marwala	City of Newark	Government - City
Siavash Isazadeh	Veolia North America	Industry Executive/Staff
Sirimuvva Pathikonda	Phase change solution	Industry Executive/Staff
Sreerag Kaaliveetil	NJIT	Graduate Student
Stephen J Kurilla	NJIT-BIOSMART	Graduate Student
Steve Romano	Kimley-Horn	Consultant
Sudheera Yaparathne	NJIT	Post-Doc
Sushma Yadav	NJIT	Post-Doc
Tahereh Moghtaderi	Rutgers	Graduate Student
Targol Teymourian	NJIT	Graduate Student

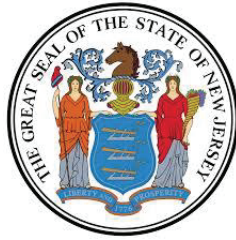
Name	Organization/Institution	Affiliation and Role
Tim Murray	General Manger of Regulated Utilities, Joseph M. Sanzari, Inc.	Industry Executive/Staff
Timothy Chou	Kimley-Horn	Consultant
Wen Zhang	NJIT	Faculty
Wendy Simone	Passaic Valley Water Commission	Government - City
William Pennock	NJIT	Faculty
Wunmi Sadik	BioSMART Center	Faculty
Yihan Zhang	NJIT	Graduate Student
Yongqing Yang	NJIT	Graduate Student
Yudong Wang	NJIT	Graduate Student
Yueyu Yao	Polygone, Inc	Industry Executive/Staff
Zeyuan Qiu	NJIT	Faculty
Zhao Chunhui	NJIT	Academic-Research Staff
Zhifeng Kou	NJIT	Faculty
Zhiming Zhang	Rowan University	Faculty
Zhiyong Xia	GHD Global	Industry Executive/Staff



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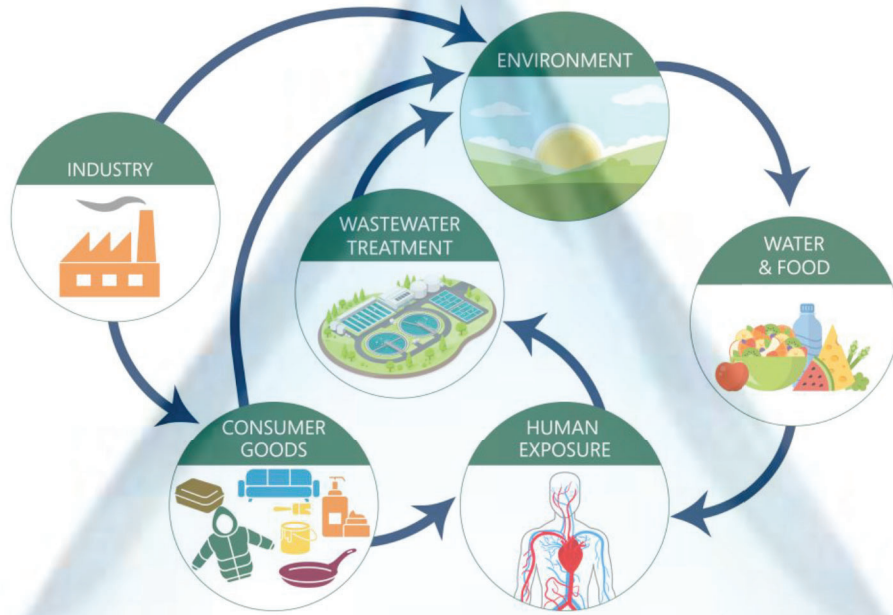

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