

October 29th, 2 pm - Persistent, Ubiquitous, and Unknown – Stark Challenges in Understanding PFAS Toxicity and Health Effects

Speakers



Sophie Greene, PFAS Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Sophie Greene is the PFAS Coordinator at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She began working in this role spring of 2020, and has previously worked on human health risk assessment at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC. Sophie has a Master of Science degree in geology from the University of Vermont and an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Carleton College.



James Jacobus, PhD, Toxicologist and Risk Assessor, Minnesota Department of Health

James (Jim) Jacobus is a toxicologist and risk assessor in the Health Risk Assessment Unit of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), working as part of a team of toxicologists deriving multi-duration health-based guidance for the Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern Initiative. The overall goal of this program is to develop health-based guidance for water, engage the public, and provide information on risks and strategies to reduce exposure for a wide variety of emerging contaminants. Jim has reviewed numerous PFAS compounds while at MDH, including co-authoring a manuscript on the importance of placental and breastmilk transfer of PFOA when determining public health protective water guidance values. Prior to joining MDH, Dr. Jacobus conducted research on polychlorinated biphenyls at the Iowa Superfund Research Program and low dose, low and high linear energy transfer ionizing radiation as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Iowa's Free Radical and Radiation Biology Program. He was mentored by Dr. Larry Robertson (Ph.D.) and Dr. Douglas Spitz (Postdoc).

Jim has pre-doctoral experience as an environmental scientist for a private firm engaged in the remediation of leaking underground storage tanks, and performed outreach activities for the University of Wisconsin-Extension (Soil Science). He earned his doctorate in Human Toxicology from the University of Iowa (2009), supported by the Iowa Superfund Research Program, and trained as an NIH T-32 postdoctoral fellow from 2010-2013. Jim is in his seventh year with MDH and greatly enjoys the variety of tasks and challenges offered by working at the state level to improve public health.



**Catherine Neuschler, Water Assessment Section Manager,
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Catherine Neuschler is the manager of the water assessment section in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division. In that role, she oversees work related to the development of water quality standards and effluent limits; the Agency's ambient groundwater monitoring network; investigations into potential, persistent, and emerging contaminants; and the impaired waters list. Catherine has been with the MPCA since 2006, and has previously worked on air quality issues and supervised the agency rules unit. She holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and an

undergraduate degree from Macalester College. Catherine lives in St. Paul.