

CTR 2026 Workshop on

Translational Research and Technology Innovations for PFAS Decontaminations

Presented at the New Jersey Institute of Technology | Accredited by NJ Water Association

Friday, April 24, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; NJIT Campus Center, Newark, NJ 07102

Course Description

The CTR workshop is focused on translational research and innovative technologies for detecting and managing PFAS related contaminants in water and infrastructure. The CTR Workshop will engage faculty, research staff, undergraduate and graduate students and postdocs and external partners including major NJ universities, industry, water utilities, business accelerators, government and community stakeholders who are pursuing or are interested in translational research and innovative technology development for removing and managing the PFAS related contaminations in water and infrastructure for healthier societies.

Invited Distinguished Speakers with Stimulative and Interactive Presentations 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 including NJ DEP and CSIT.
- Industry and business leaders pursuing the development of PFAS decontamination and management technologies at major companies including Veolia, Langan, Battelle, American Water, Jersey Water Works, Allonnia, Arcadis and CDM Smith and others.
- Leaders from major utilities, research foundations and private organizations including Ridgewood Water, Water Research Foundation, NJ AWWA, and Clean Water Action.
- Experts in academia from NJIT, Princeton University, Rutgers University, and Stevens Institute of Technology

In addition, the Industry-University-Community Showcase on Technology Innovations in PFAS Decontamination will feature more than 30 companies, academic research centers and laboratories, and global, national, state and regional water utilities working in or managing the cutting-edge of technology innovations and deployment for addressing the critical challenges of PFAS management in water, and infrastructure

AGENDA

8:00 a.m. CTR PFAS Workshop Registration | Breakfast | Networking

PFAS Contamination in Water and Infrastructure Challenges: multi-stakeholder partnerships to address PFAS contamination challenges through advocacy, technology translation and commercialization, remediation, standards, policies, and regulations.

8.40 a.m.- 10.30 a.m.

Distinguished Keynote and Fireside Chat Sessions: NJ State and Industry Leaders on the Vision to Address PFAS Challenges with Innovation Ecosystems

8.40 a.m. – 9.45 a.m:

- Katrina Angarone, Chief Strategy Officer, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP)
- Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, NJ Assembly Appropriations Chair
- Mayor Paul Vagianos, Village of Ridgewood, NJ
- Andrew Kricun, Managing Director with Moonshot Missions and Co-Chair, Jersey Water Works Steering Committee
- Kendra Morris - Chief Executive Officer of Veolia's Regulated Water Business in North America

Abstract: The NJ DEP Distinguished Keynote presentation will focus on the leadership and priorities of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection including the PFAS advocacy, research support, and strategic initiatives in data collection, standards and policy development. In the Fireside Chat session, NJ State, industry and community leaders will share their vision and recent developments on increasing awareness and promoting collaborative synergy with multi-stakeholder partnerships to address PFAS contamination challenges through advocacy, technology translation and commercialization, remediation, standards, policies and regulations.

9.45 a.m. – 10.30 am:

- - 9.45 AM -10.00 AM: Distinguished Keynote Presentation -1: PFAS and Clean Water Advocacy - Amy Goldsmith, NJ State Director, Clean Water Action, Clean Water Fund

- - 10.00 AM – 10.15 AM: Distinguished Keynote Presentation -2: A Case Study - Richard Calbi Jr. P.E., P.P., Director of Operations – Ridgewood Water
- - 10.15 AM – 10.30 AM: Panel Discussion with Distinguished Keynote Speakers - Moderator: Stewart Abrams, Director of Remediation Technology, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Abstract: A PFAS Conundrum – One drinking water utilities journey from finding PFOA at every single source, investing \$150M in treatment improvements and preparing for what’s next. Richard Calbi P.E, Director of Operations for Ridgewood Water will discuss the utilities PFAS challenges. Ridgewood Water is partnering with NJIT CTR to evaluate technologies that will extend efficiencies in PFAS treatment process and detection. This distinguished keynote session will present strategic PFAS advocacy, communication and testing programs for clean water in New Jersey. CTR Workshop attendees will have an opportunity to interact with distinguished speakers to learn more about these programs for enhancing their understanding of PFAS challenges and effective strategies for clean water.

10.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.

Distinguished Panel Session: Translational Research in PFAS Decontamination Technologies – Academic Translational Research Perspective

- Dr. Robert Laumbach, M.D., M.P.H., C.I.H., Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health and Justice, Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Center for Environmental Exposure and Disease (CEED), Rutgers School of Public Health
- Peter Jaffe, William L. Knapp '47 Professor of Civil Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Princeton University
- Arjun Venkatesan, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director, Emerging Contaminants Research Laboratory (ECRL), NJIT
- Dibyendu “Dibs” Sarkar, Professor, Environmental Engineering, Founding Director, Stevens Center for Sustainability, Stevens Institute of Technology
- Michael Van Ter Sluis, Vice President – Entrepreneurship, New Jersey Innovation Institute
- Moderator: Judith Sheft, Executive Director New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology

Abstract: This session will focus on key presentations on PFAS health impact and academic translational research and technology development towards commercialization. Dr. Laumbach will focus on human exposure and health outcomes, with an emphasis on ongoing studies in New Jersey. He will discuss complex challenges of multiple compounds, sources, exposure pathways, half-lives in the human body, and health outcomes. Dr. Jaffe will focus on the biodegradation of perfluorinated compounds such as PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, etc. with a discussion on the biological process and applications as well as identification of the key gene and production of the enzyme and initial applications. Dr. Venkatesan will discuss the widespread presence of PFAS in the environment and explain why these persistent compounds are difficult to detect, capture, and destroy, highlighting the key challenges and unmet needs in the field. He will also present innovative technologies developed in his laboratory and emphasize how strategic partnerships among industry, government, and academia can accelerate commercialization and real-world implementation. Dr. Sarkar will discuss "green" technologies for remediation and removal of PFAS contamination of soil and water systems that his group has developed and patented, which adhere to the principles of circular economy. Michael van Ter Sluis will discuss how the NJII Venture Studio translates academic PFAS research into scalable, venture-backed companies, highlighting the launch of PureTrace Labs as a case study in moving high-resolution mass spectrometry innovation from the lab into real-world environmental monitoring applications. He will share lessons learned on bridging academia, industry, and policy to accelerate commercialization of PFAS detection technologies and build sustainable infrastructure for translational impact.

11.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

PFAS Treatment Technologies Implementation and Regulations

Ali Pajooman, PFAS Program Manager for New Jersey at Veolia North America

Abstract: This session will review some of the major factors affecting technology considerations for PFAS treatment over the last six years with reasons for treatment with respect to health impacts. The genesis of how existing treatment technologies were selected with key takeaways will be discussed. In addition, the speakers will discuss current NJ DEP requirements, policies and regulations in the implementation of new technologies moving forward.

12.30 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

Lunch and Networking Break

1:15 p.m.–2.15 p.m.

Distinguished Panel Session: Translational Research in PFAS Decontamination Technologies – Industry Technology Translation Perspective

- Jason Hnatko, Engineer Manager for Emerging Contaminants, Allonnia
- Charles Shafer, Director, Research and Testing Laboratory, CDM Smith
- Brent Alspach, Director of Applied Research, Arcadis

- Kenan Ozekin, Chief Research Officer, The Water Research Foundation
- Lauren Weinrich, Research Analyst, American Water
- Moderator: Siavash Isazadeh, Sr. Technical Director, Technical, Strategy & Innovation, Veolia-North America

Abstract: The desire to accomplish efficacious and cost-effective destruction of PFAS in drinking water supplies has been a critical driving force for substantial investment in research and development over the past decade (including both public and private funding). However, the barriers for successful implementation are likewise substantial, and the technology landscape is littered with languishing concepts in various stages of readiness. Thus, technology providers must be both strategic and nimble in their commercialization efforts. Utilities are facing immediate pressure to deliver PFAS solutions that are protective, affordable, and implementable today, while research pipelines are still developing the next generation of treatment science. For utilities, the challenge is balancing near-term regulatory requirements including evolving state and federal expectations, with the practical realities of treatment selection, costs, and long-term sustainability across diverse communities and systems. Presentations in this session will discuss both the challenges and potentially feasible pathways for market penetration and adoption for innovations in PFAS destruction.

2.15 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

PFAS in Water Communication and Advocacy

Paula Figueroa-Vega, Director, Jersey Water Works Collaborative & Organizational Development, New Jersey Future

Abstract: PFAS-related information—whether in research, treatment, regulations, or lawsuits—is often highly technical and can be challenging to understand. Regulatory guidelines are complex, making them difficult to explain, follow, and implement. The immediacy of the issue creates an urgency for next steps and timelines to follow. Bridging this information gap is crucial for decision-makers, including municipal leaders managing utility budgets and utility staff overseeing treatment processes. Policy makers play a key role in making public health decisions. Consumers also need clear information about how PFAS may affect their health and how they can protect themselves. The session will provide an overview of communication and advocacy, with an emphasis on people-centered and action-oriented messaging.

Session Agenda:

Welcome: Paula Figueroa-Vega, Jersey Water Works

Introduction of session

Explain JWW PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Committee

Goals and Process

Presentation and Discussion with Audience: Amy Goldsmith, Clean Water Action: Communication Messages and Advocacy

3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

General Session: NJ PFAS-PIC Launch and Closing Discussion – PFAS in Water and Infrastructure: Next Steps

Siavash Isazadeh, Sr. Technical Director, Veolia-North America

Paige Jacob, PFAS Chemistry Program Manager, Battelle

Paula Figueroa, Director, Jersey Water Works

Richard Calbi Jr, Director of Operations – Ridgewood Water

Michael Zwick, Senior Vice President of Research, Rutgers University

Abstract: In this session, leaders from the New Jersey PFAS Partnership Innovation Consortium (NJ PFAS-PIC) member organizations from industry, academic, government, and community sectors will present the vision and goals of the consortium, promoting collaborative synergy and partnerships in addressing PFAS challenges for societal benefits

3:30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Industry-University-Community Showcase: Technology Innovations in PFAS Decontamination

Researchers, executives, and technical and utility managers from industry, academia and utilities companies including Veolia, Langan, Battelle, American Water, Jersey Water Works, Allonnia, Arcadis, Ridgewood Water, Water Research Foundation, NJ AWWA, and Clean Water Action, and NJIT, Princeton University, Rutgers University, and Stevens Institute of Technology.

Abstract: The CTR PFAS Workshop Industry-University-Community showcase with e-posters and information exhibits will present ongoing developments and technology research, translation, and/or commercialization from their labs or

organizations to communities, along with networking opportunities for enhancing PFAS advocacy and communication towards PFAS detection, monitoring, and decontamination for societal benefits.

5.00 p.m. Workshop adjourns

This Workshop is Accredited by the New Jersey Water Association:

Accreditation is available to New Jersey-Licensed Water Operators, Certified Public Works Managers and Professional Engineers.

Water: 6.0 Training Contact Hours #04-032603-10

CPWM: DLGS-NJWA-307 (4.0 Technical, 2.0 Managerial)

P.E.: Please retain course information and certificate.

Full-day attendance is required for accreditation

Date and Location: Date and Venue: April 24, 2026, 8.00 AM – 5.00 PM; Ballroom A&B, Campus Center, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark 07102

Full Announcement and Preliminary Program: Click [Here](#)

Registration Requested: Please Click [Here](#) to Register by April 2, 2026; No registration fee.

Free Parking at NJIT Campus – Parking Garage. <https://www.njit.edu/parking/campus-parking-map-0>

Moderator:



[Atam P. Dhawan](#) is Chief Strategic Innovation Officer and 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, NJIT 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.