

Pharmaceuticals, Micropollutants and Antibiotics in Biosolids

38th Annual Spring Biosolids Symposium
Tuesday, March 9, 2021



Dr. Patrick McNamara
Marquette University



Our Many Names For Pollutants

Contaminants of
Emerging Concern

Micropollutants (organic micropollutants OMPs)

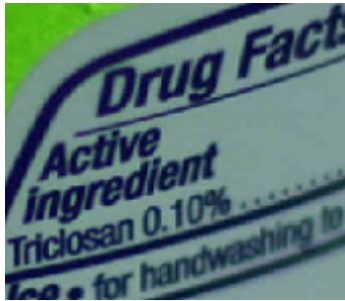
Trace Organic Contaminants (TOrCs)

Microconstituents

Pharmaceuticals and
Personal Care Products
(PPCP)



Where do they come from?



In the News – What Does it Mean?

AP: Drugs found in drinking water

Drugs in Our Drinking Water?

Updated 9/12/2008 2:02 PM | Comments 153 | Recommend 97

Experts put potential risks in perspective after a report that drugs are in the water supply.

By Jeff Donn, Martha Mendoza and

46 million in U.S. have drugs in drinking water

Share this: [f](#) [t](#) Font size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

Reviewed by Louise Chang,

Testing shows traces of meds in water groups Tons of Released Drugs Taint U.S. Water

including antibiotics, hormones, mood

April 19, 2009 | [RSS Feed](#) | [Print](#)

Next story in More health news

Study finds hospitals hype robot surge

Below: [Discuss](#) [Related](#)

Ap Associated Press

updated 9/11/2008 4:29:08 PM ET

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Testing prompted by an Associated Press story that revealed amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies

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Ap Associated Press

JEFF DONN

Associated Press Writers

U.S. manufacturers, including major drugmakers, have legally released at least 271 million pounds of pharmaceuticals into waterways that often provide drinking water — contamination the federal government has consistently overlooked, according to an Associated Press investigation.

Hundreds of active pharmaceutical ingredients are used in a variety of manufacturing, including drugmaking: For example, lithium is used to make ceramics and treat bipolar disorder; nitroglycerin is a heart drug and also used in explosives; copper shows up in everything from pipes to contraceptives.

Federal and industry officials say they don't know the extent to which pharmaceuticals are released by U.S. manufacturers

Related News

[Painkiller Abuse by Kids Way Up, Study Finds](#)

[Tainted Steroid Injections May Affect Those Treated for Joint Pain](#)

[Drop in Illicit Drug Use in](#)

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Seminal Study – They Are Everywhere

Environ. Sci. Technol. 2002, 36, 1202–1211

Pharmaceuticals, Hormones, and Other Organic Wastewater Contaminants in U.S. Streams, 1999–2000: A National Reconnaissance

DANA W. KOLPIN*

*U.S. Geological Survey, 400 S. Clinton Street, Box 1230,
Iowa City, Iowa 52244*

EDWARD T. FURLONG

*U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25046, MS 407,
Denver, Colorado 80225-0046*

MICHAEL T. MEYER

U.S. Geological Survey, 4500 SW 40th Avenue,

rarely exceeded drinking-water guidelines, drinking-water health advisories, or aquatic-life criteria. Many compounds, however, do not have such guidelines established. The detection of multiple OWCs was common for this study, with a median of seven and as many as 38 OWCs being found in a given water sample. Little is known about the potential interactive effects (such as synergistic or antagonistic toxicity) that may occur from complex mixtures of OWCs in the environment. In addition, results of this study demonstrate the importance of obtaining data on metabolites to fully understand not only the fate and transport of OWCs in the hydrologic system but also their ultimate overall effect on human health and the environment.

Introduction

The continued exponential growth in human population has created a corresponding increase in the demand for the Earth's limited supply of freshwater. This sustains the

Seminal Study – They Are Everywhere

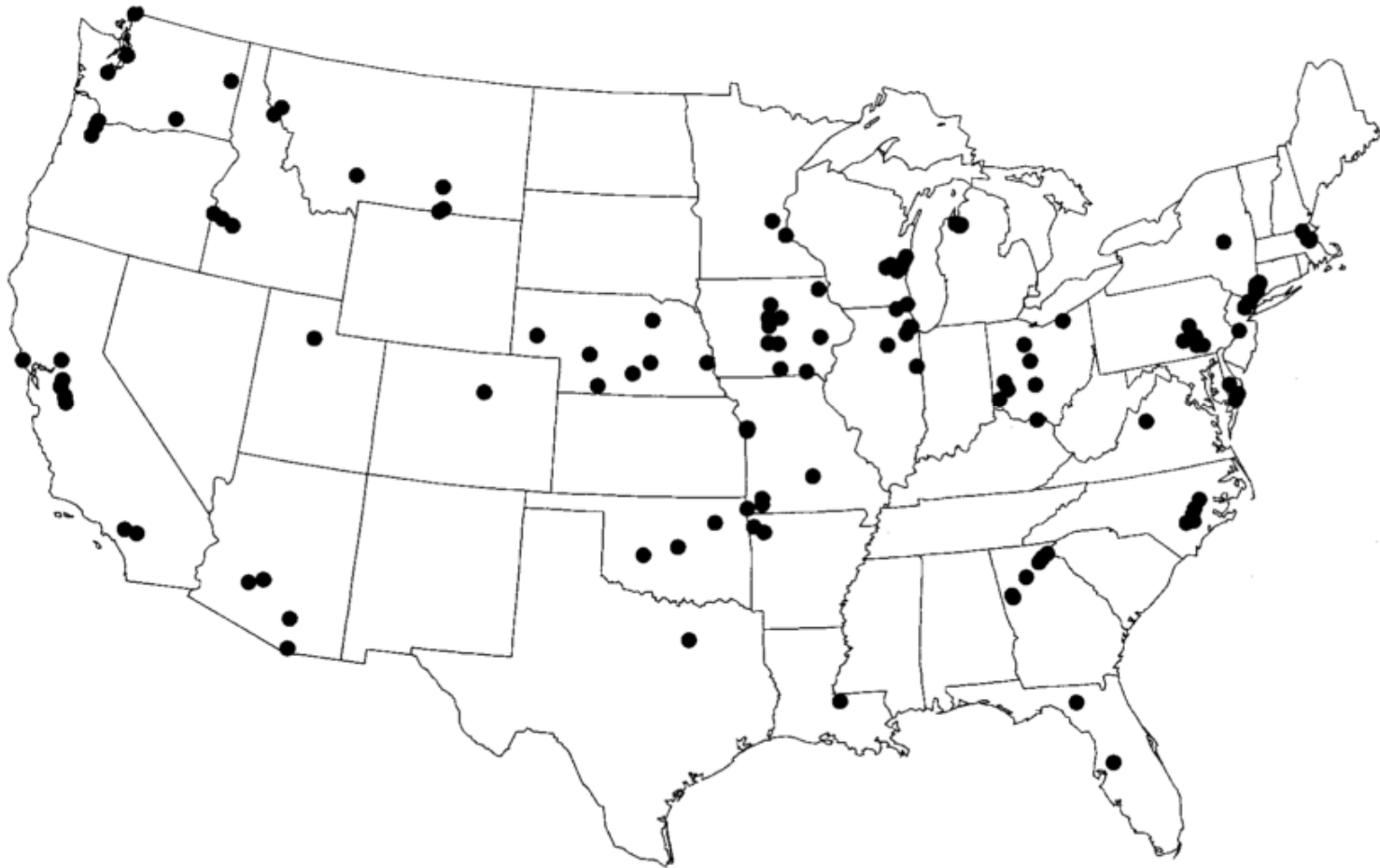


FIGURE 1. Location of 139 stream sampling sites.

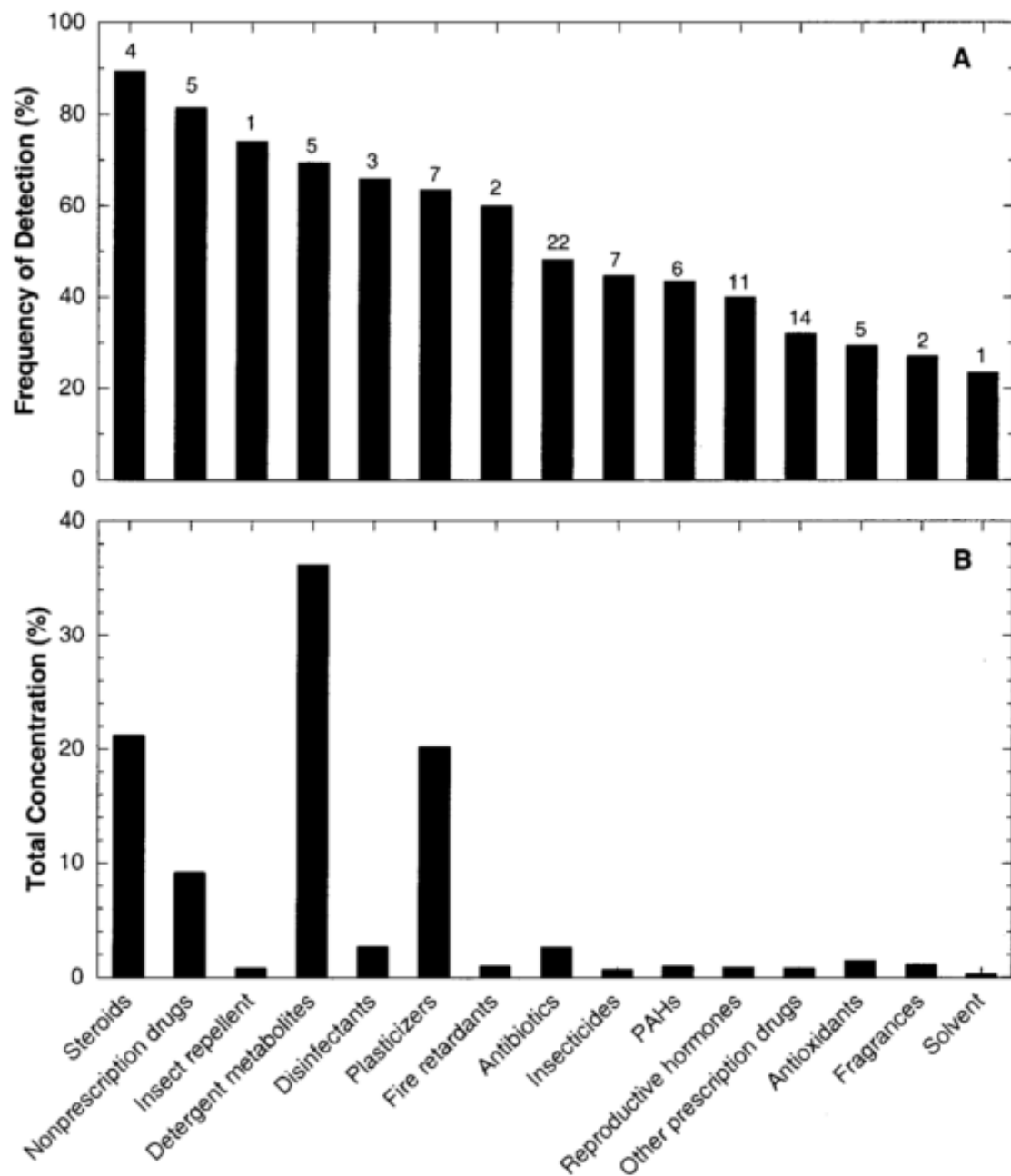
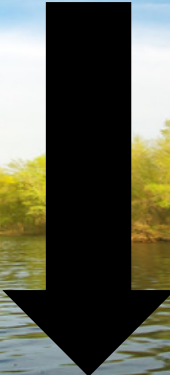


FIGURE 4. Frequency of detection of organic wastewater contaminants by general use category (4A), and percent of total measured concentration of organic wastewater contaminants by general use category (4B). Number of compounds in each category shown above bar.

Do they have any impact?

Lake Experiment – Spike in Realistic Dose

5-6 ng/L
17 α -ethynylestradiol (EE2)



Collapse of a fish population after exposure to a synthetic estrogen

Karen A. **Kidd**^{*†}, Paul J. Blanchfield^{*}, Kenneth H. Mills^{*}, Vince P. Palace^{*}, Robert E. Evans^{*}, James M. Lazorchak[‡], and Robert W. Flick[‡]

^{*}Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Freshwater Institute, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N6; and [†]Molecular Indicators Research Branch, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268

Edited by Deborah Swackhamer, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, and accepted by the Editorial Board March 29, 2007 (received for review October 27, 2006)

Evidence for Fish Feminization

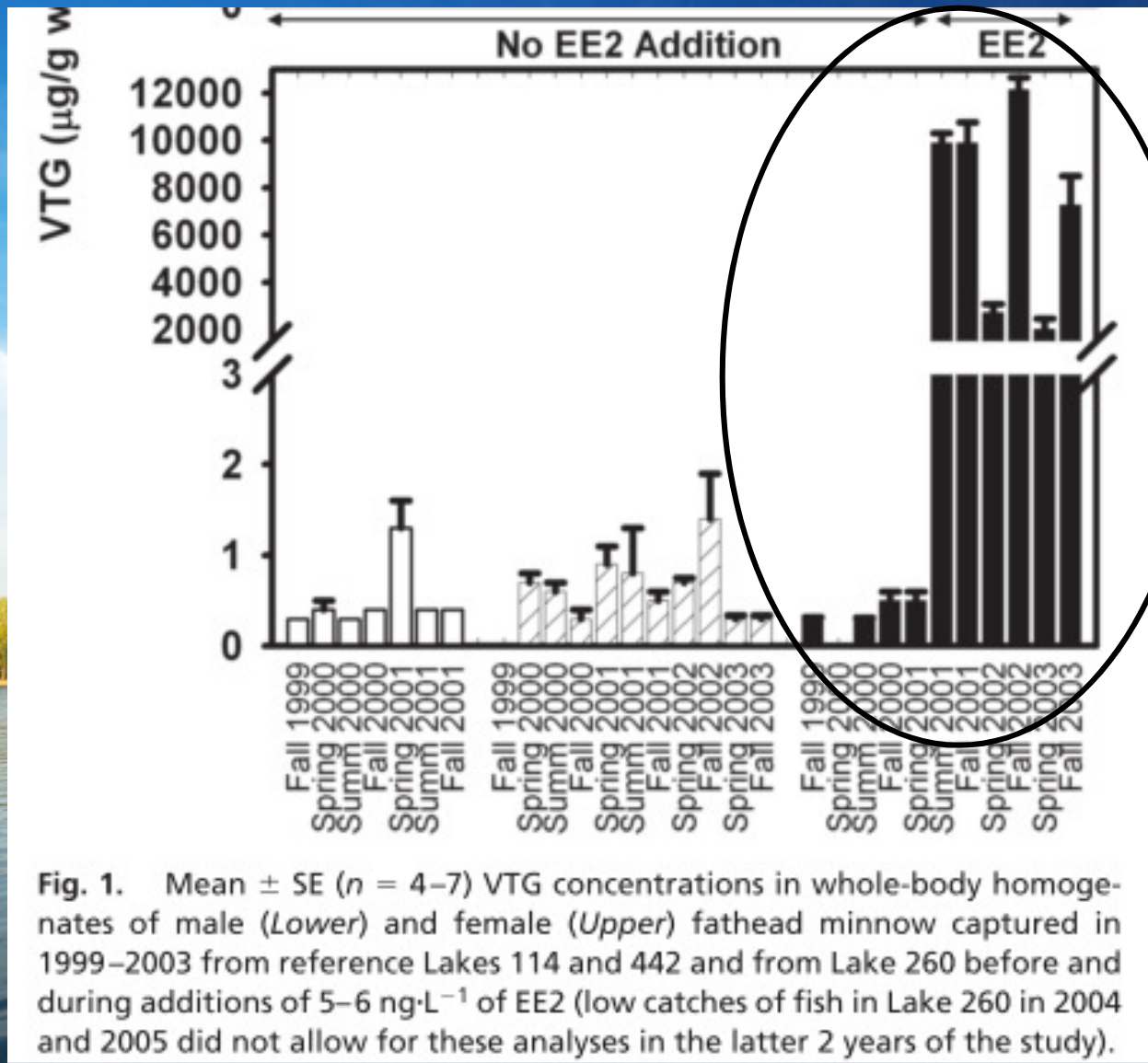


Fig. 1. Mean \pm SE ($n = 4-7$) VTG concentrations in whole-body homogenates of male (*Lower*) and female (*Upper*) fathead minnow captured in 1999–2003 from reference Lakes 114 and 442 and from Lake 260 before and during additions of $5-6 \text{ ng}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ of EE2 (low catches of fish in Lake 260 in 2004 and 2005 did not allow for these analyses in the latter 2 years of the study).

Eventual Collapse of Population

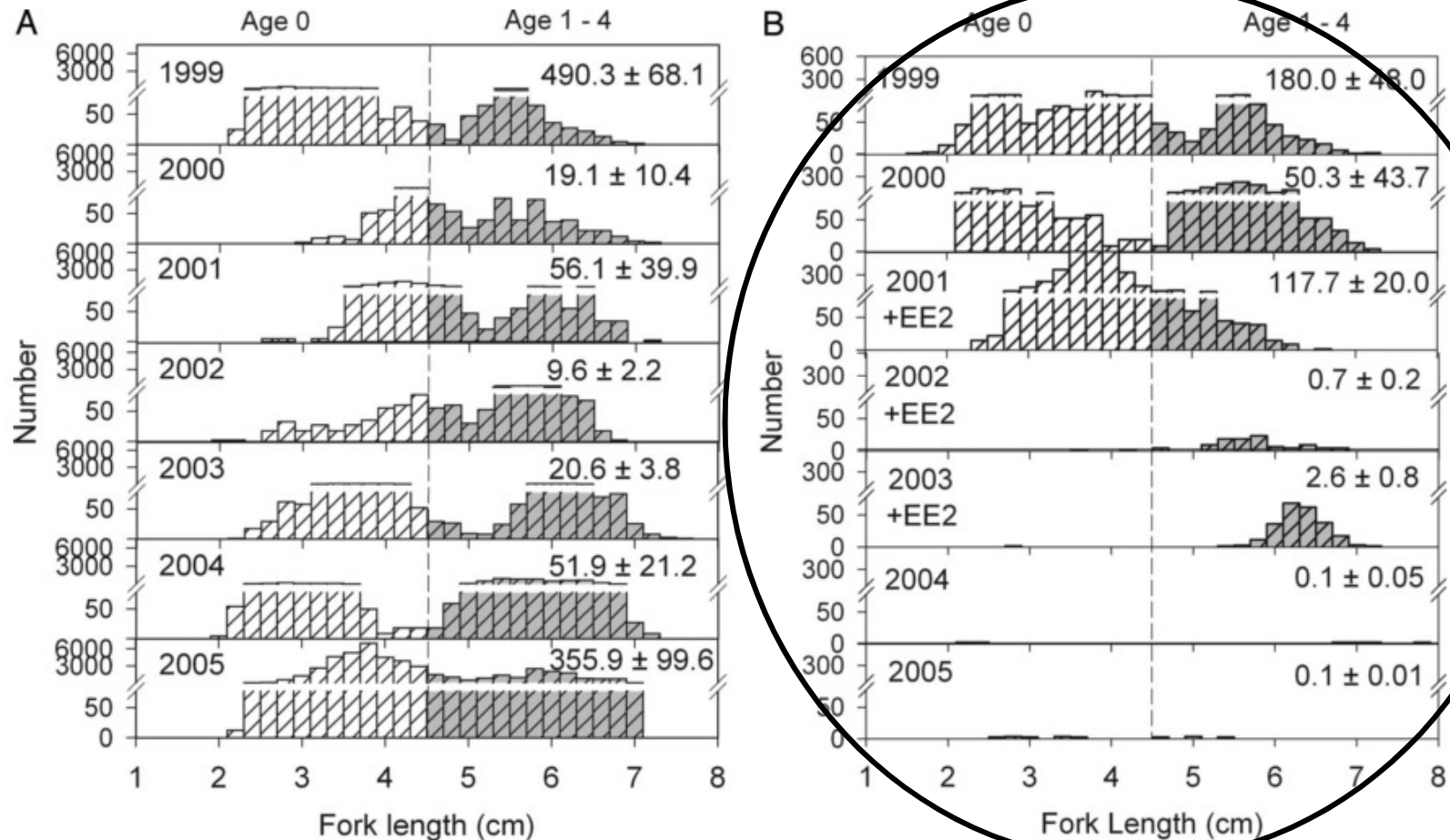


Fig. 3. Length frequency distributions of fathead minnow captured in trap nets in reference Lake 442 (A) and Lake 260 (B) (amended with 5–6 ng-L⁻¹ of EE2 in 2001–2003) during the fall of 1999–2005. Distributions for each fall have been standardized to 100 trap-net days. Mean \pm SE daily trap-net CPUE data for adults and juveniles for the fall catches are shown in the panels.

Nice experiment, but are there any
real world impacts?

Wastewater Influences Minnow Gender

Environ. Sci. Technol. 2008, 42, 3407–3414

Reproductive Disruption in Fish Downstream from an Estrogenic Wastewater Effluent

ALAN M. VAJDA,^{*,†} LARRY B. BARBER,[‡]
JAMES L. GRAY,[‡] ELENA M. LOPEZ,[†]
JOHN D. WOODLING,[†] AND
DAVID O. NORRIS[†]

Department of Integrative Physiology, University of Colorado, UCB 354, Boulder, Colorado 80309, and U.S. Geological Survey, 3215 Marine Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303

Received August 17, 2007. Revised manuscript received December 18, 2007. Accepted January 7, 2008.

ceuticals (7, 11). O
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Gonadal malfor
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susceptible to the
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Upstream of WWTP

36-46% Males



Downstream of WWTP

**17-21% Males
18-22% Intersex**

Micropollutants, with Designed
Biological Impacts,

Impact Biological Systems

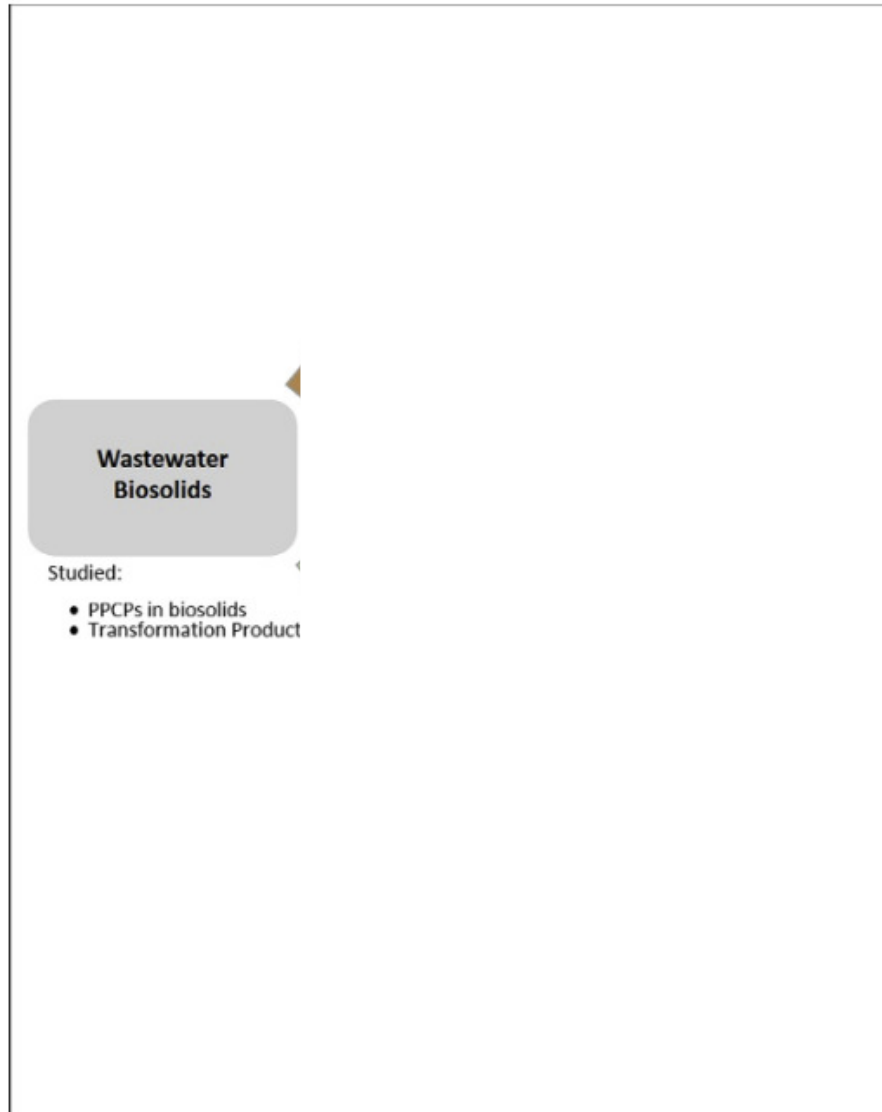
Acute Toxicity → Chronic Low-level exposure



What about micropollutants in biosolids?

Translocation of pharmaceuticals and personal care products after land application of biosolids

Chad A. Kinney¹ and Brian Vanden Heuvel²



Highlights of current understanding related to PPCPs in biosolids and plant uptake of PPCPs along with key knowledge gaps identified.

What micropollutants are in biosolids?

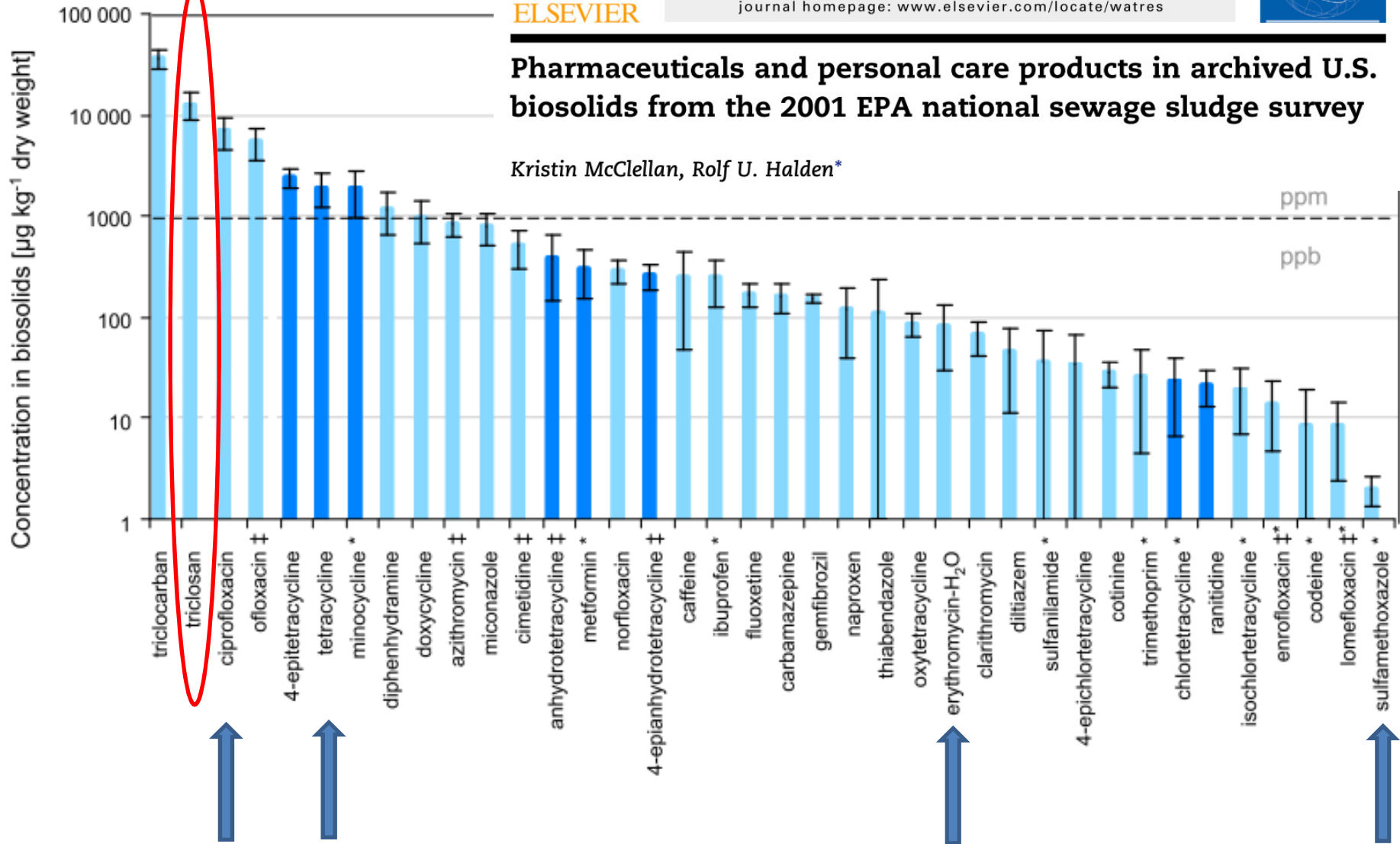
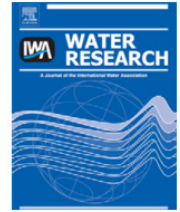


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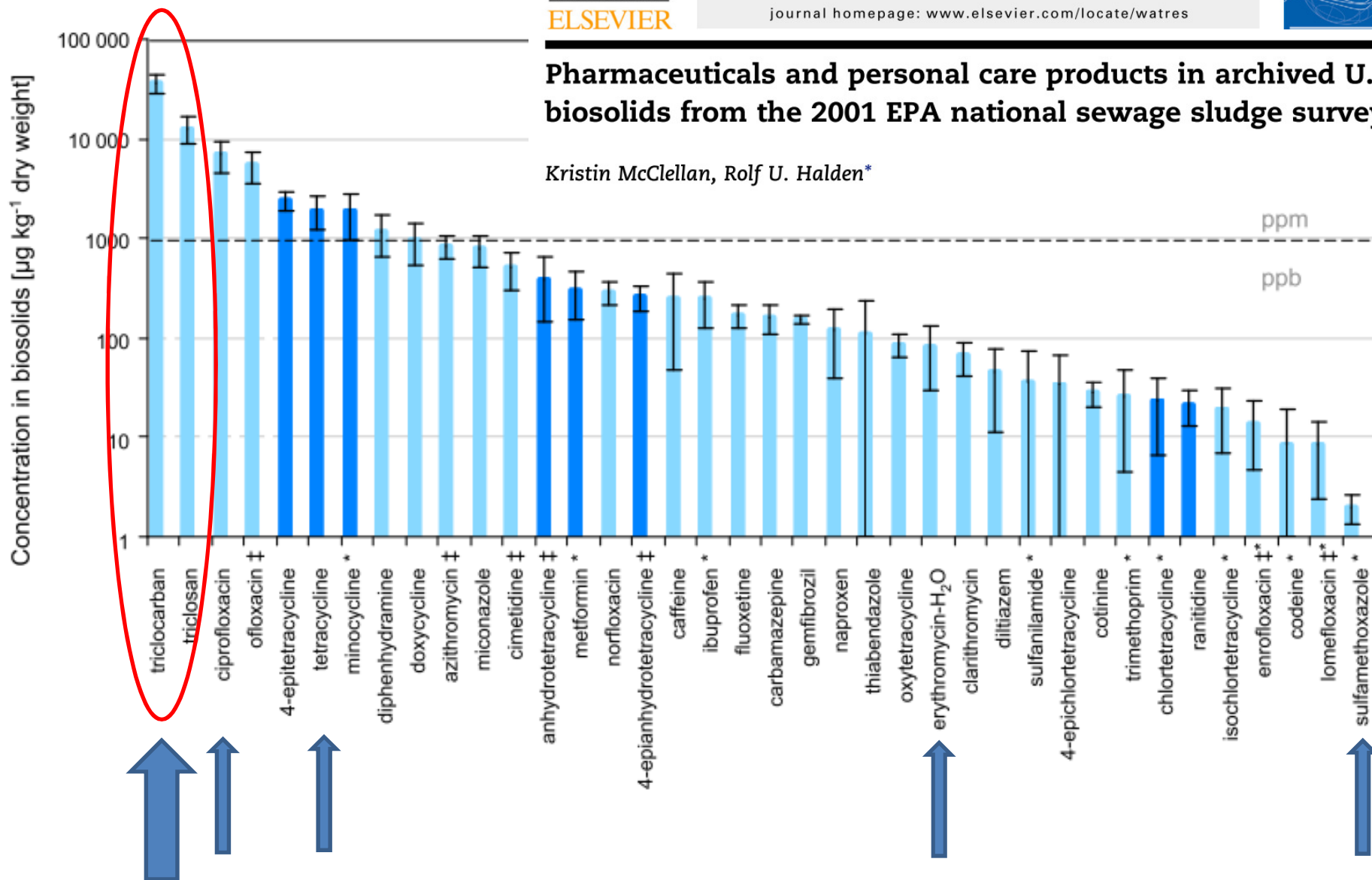


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Pharmaceuticals and personal care products in archived U.S. biosolids from the 2001 EPA national sewage sludge survey

Kristin McClellan, Rolf U. Halden*



The Broad Research Question

Do triclosan and triclocarban select for antibiotic resistance genes in anaerobic digestion?

Why Do We Care?

Antibiotic resistance genes could subsequently be released to the environment with biosolids

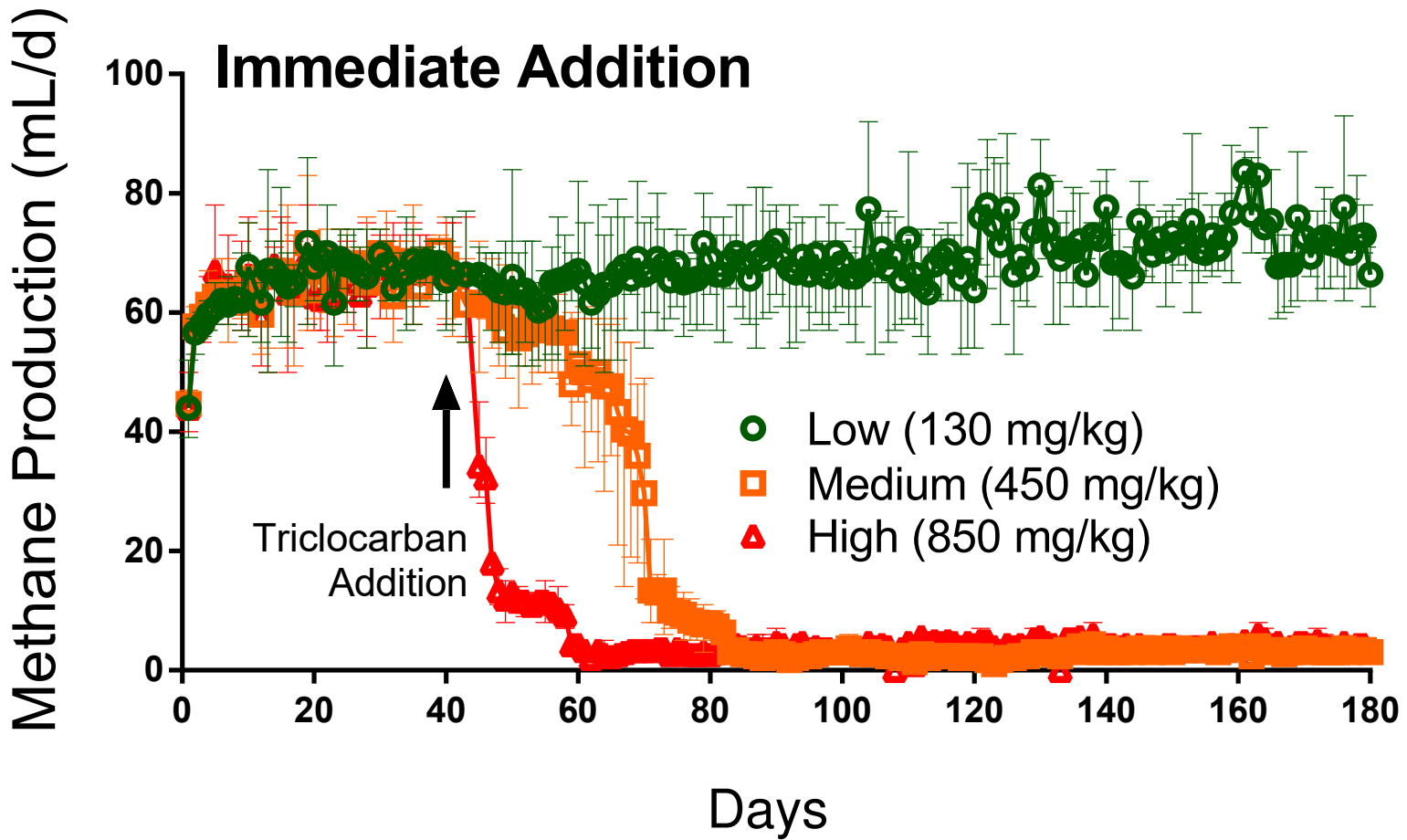


Research Approach

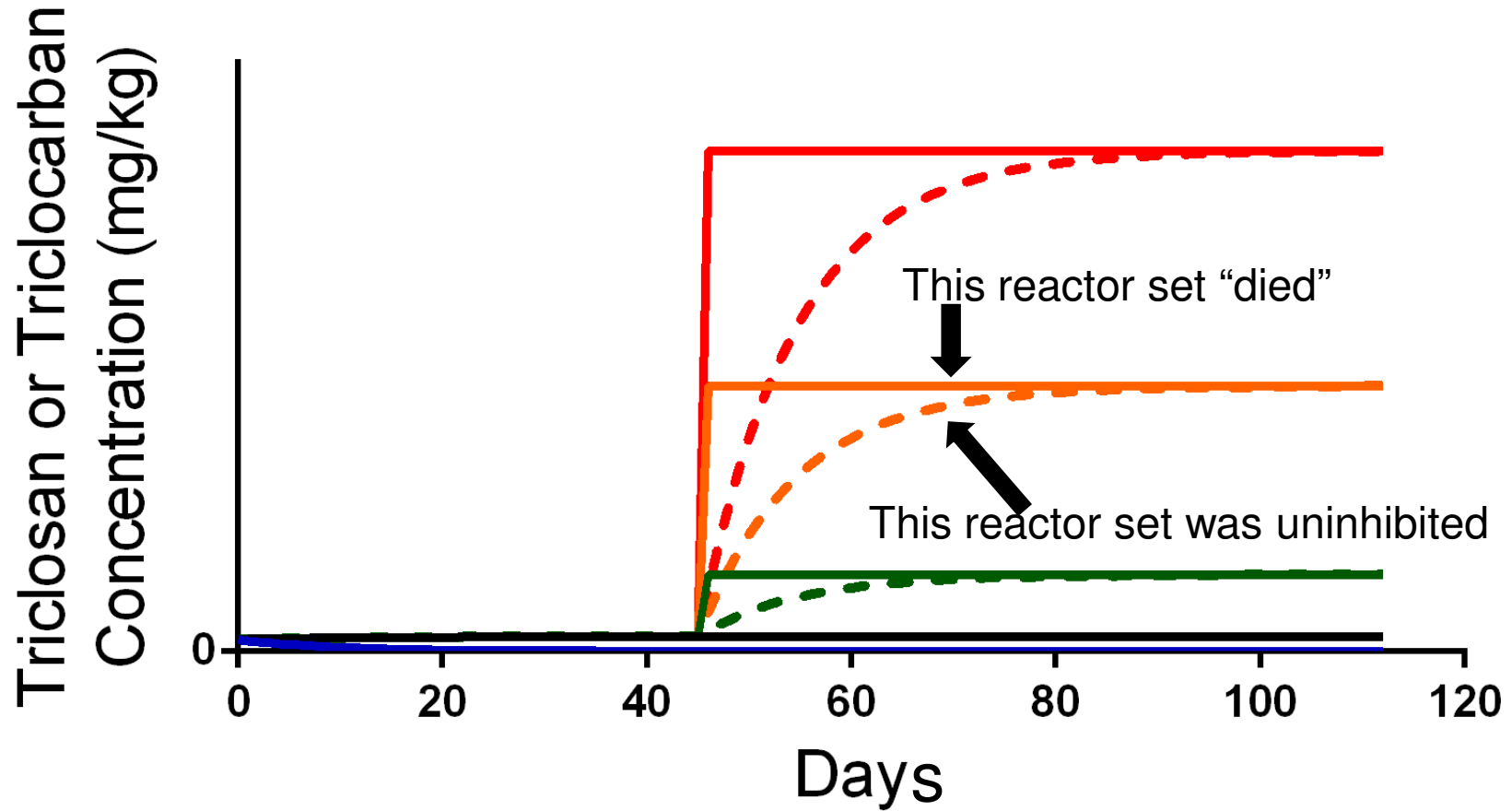
Lab Scale Digesters Amended with TCC



Methane Production - Triclocarban

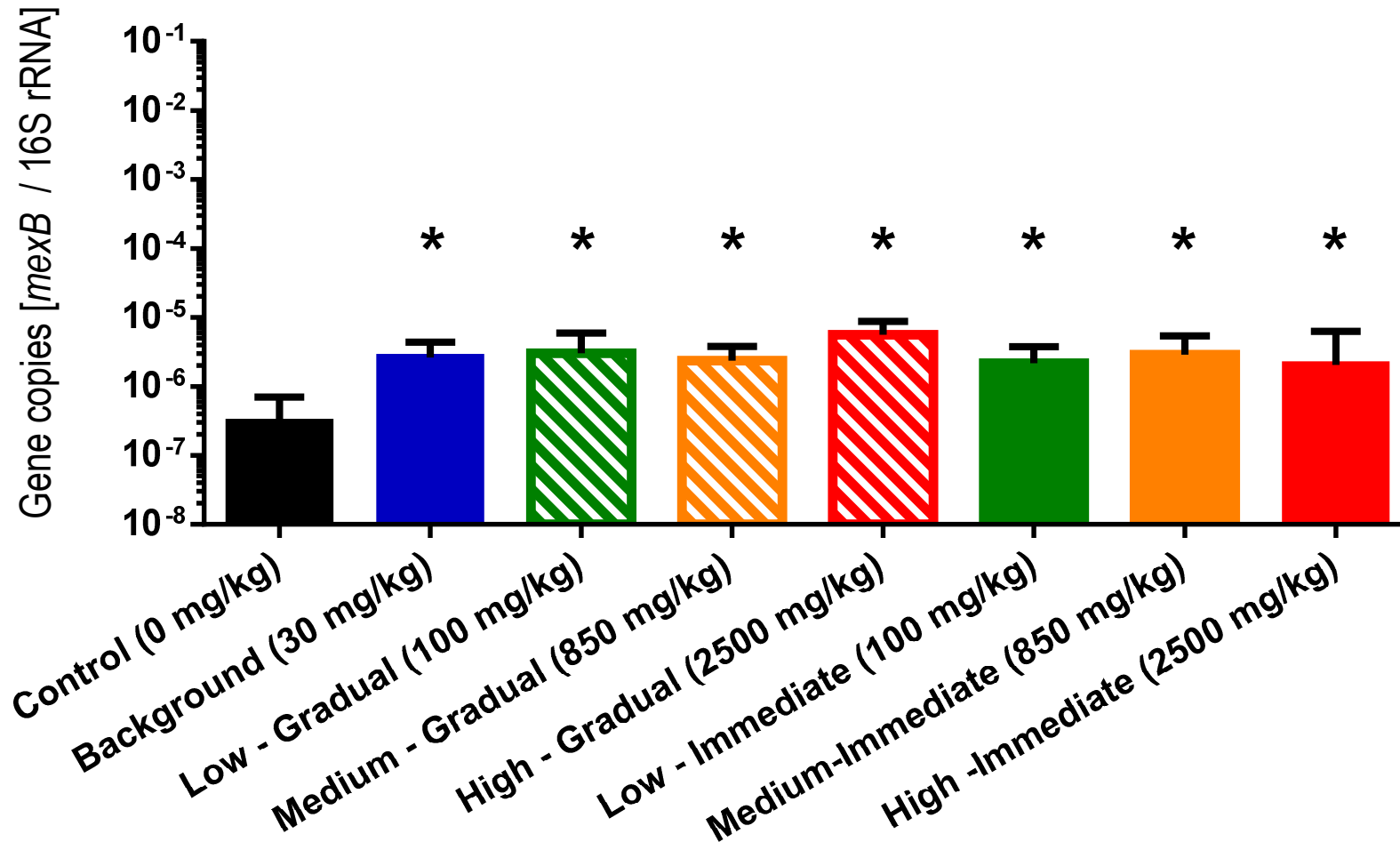


Antimicrobials Concentration



Antibiotic Resistance Genes

mexB increases from TCS

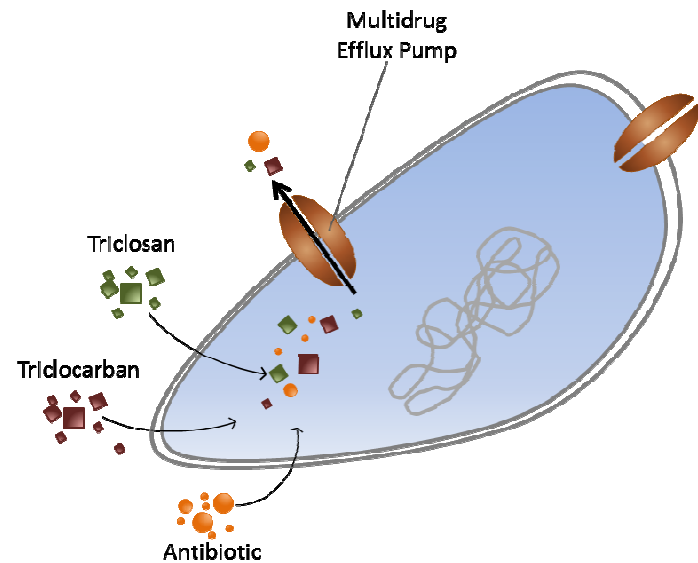


Key Finding:

Triclosan and triclocarban can select for antibiotic resistance genes at environmentally relevant levels in anaerobic digesters

Implications

- Consumer product chemicals are likely already selecting for resistance in treatment systems
 - TCS and TCC selected for a multidrug resistance gene at concentrations between 30-850 mg/kg



FDA bans Triclosan and Triclocarban from soaps

The screenshot shows the FDA website's news release page. At the top, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services logo is on the left, and the FDA logo and 'U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION' are in the center. To the right, there are links for 'A to Z Index', 'Follow FDA', and 'En Español', along with a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with categories like Home, Food, Drugs, Medical Devices, Radiation-Emitting Products, Vaccines, Blood & Biologics, Animal & Veterinary, Cosmetics, and Tobacco Products. The main content area is titled 'News & Events' and features a red-bordered box around the news release title: 'FDA issues final rule on safety and effectiveness of antibacterial soaps'. Below the title is a sub-headline: 'Rule removes triclosan and triclocarban from over-the-counter antibacterial hand and body washes'. There are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Email, and Print. The release date is 'September 2, 2016'. The main text of the release begins with 'The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today issued a final rule establishing that over-the-counter (OTC) consumer antiseptic wash products containing certain active ingredients can no longer be marketed...'. On the right side, there are sections for 'Inquiries', 'Media' (with contact info for Andrea Fischer), 'Consumers' (with phone number 888-INFO-FDA), and 'Related Information' (with links to 'Final Rule: Safety and Effectiveness of Consumer Antiseptics', 'Antibacterial Soap? You Can Skip It -- Use Plain Soap and Water', 'Topical Antiseptic Products', and 'Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives (CDC)').

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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FDA News Release

FDA issues final rule on safety and effectiveness of antibacterial soaps

Rule removes triclosan and triclocarban from over-the-counter antibacterial hand and body washes

SHARE | TWEET | LINKEDIN | PIN IT | EMAIL | PRINT

For Immediate Release September 2, 2016

Release

Español

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today issued a final rule establishing that over-the-counter (OTC) consumer antiseptic wash products containing certain active ingredients can no longer be marketed. Companies will no longer be able to market antibacterial washes with these ingredients because manufacturers did not demonstrate that the ingredients are both safe for long-term daily use and more effective than plain soap and water in preventing illness and the spread of certain infections. Some manufacturers have already started removing these ingredients from their products.

Inquiries

Media

✉ Andrea Fischer
📞 301-798-0393

Consumers

📞 888-INFO-FDA

Related Information

- Final Rule: Safety and Effectiveness of Consumer Antiseptics
- Antibacterial Soap? You Can Skip It -- Use Plain Soap and Water
- Topical Antiseptic Products
- Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives (CDC)

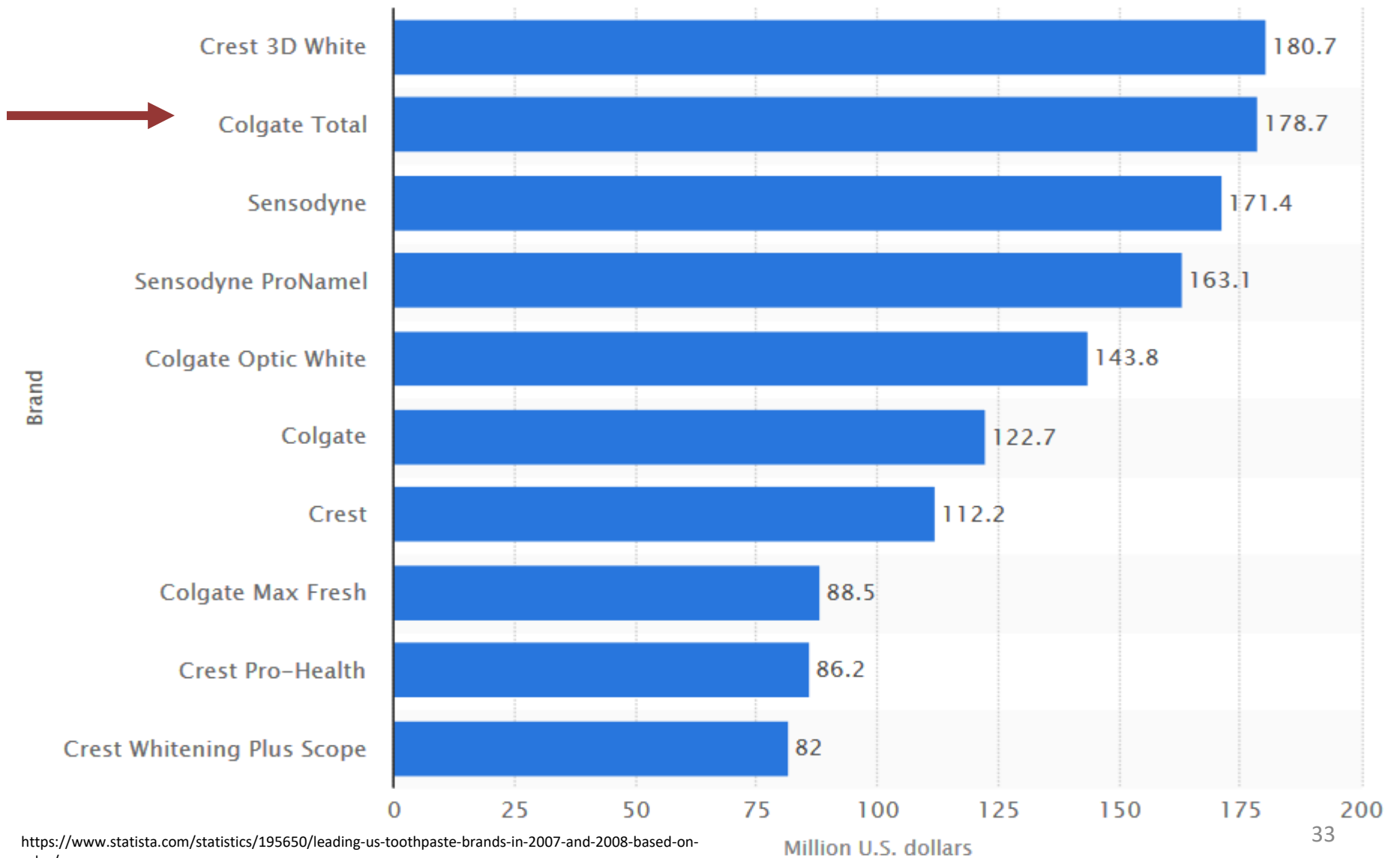
http://

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What next?




Triclosan Still in Top-Selling Toothpaste



Triclosan Free Soap




Benzalkonium Chloride



ARTEMIS
BIOSOLUTIONS

Drug Facts	
Active Ingredients	Purpose
Benzalkonium Chloride 0.13%	Antimicrobial
Uses	
■ For washing hands to decrease bacteria on the skin.	
■ Recommended for repeated use.	
Warnings	
■ For external use only.	
■ Do not use in eyes. If contact occurs, flush eyes with water.	
■ Stop use and ask a doctor if irritation or redness develops. If condition persists for more than 72 hours, consult a doctor.	
■ Keep out of reach of children. If swallowed, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.	
Directions	
■ Pump a small amount of foam into palm of hand.	
■ Rub thoroughly over all surfaces of both hands for 15 seconds.	
■ Rinse with potable water.	
Inactive Ingredients Water, dihydroxypropyl PEG-5 linoleammonium chloride, glycereth-2 cocoate, behentrimonium chloride, dihydroxyethyl cocamine oxide, fragrance	



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Protecting your health and environment.

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HAND SOAP

MOISTURIZES • LEAVES SKIN SOFT
Eliminates 99.999%
OF MOST COMMON GERMS THAT MAY CAUSE ILLNESS

8.4 fl oz (250 ml) 

Increased Use of Quaternary Ammonium Compounds during the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic and Beyond: Consideration of Environmental Implications

Priya I. Hora, Sarah G. Pati, Patrick J. McNamara, and William A. Arnold*



Benzalkonium Chloride: Limiting Stressors?

Long-Term Exposure to Benzalkonium Chloride Disinfectants Results in Change of Microbial Community Structure and Increased Antimicrobial Resistance

Madan Tandukar,[†] Seungdae Oh,[†] Ulas Tezel,^{†,§} Konstantinos T. Konstantinidis,^{†,‡} and Spyros G. Pavlostathis^{*,†}

[†]School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and [‡]School of Biology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta Georgia 30332-0512, United States

[§]The Institute of Environmental Sciences, Bogazici University, Bebek, Istanbul, 34342, Turkey

MU Research

Environmental Pollution 257 (2020) 113472



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envpol



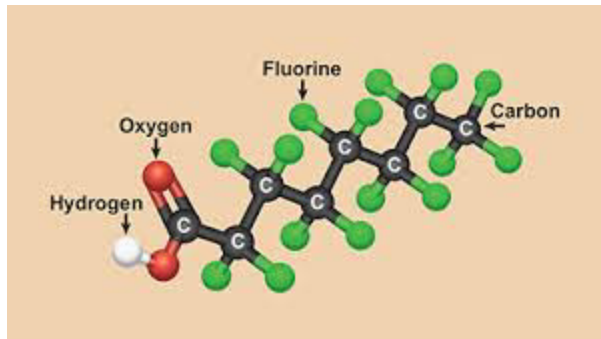
Benzalkonium chloride alters phenotypic and genotypic antibiotic resistance profiles in a source water used for drinking water treatment[☆]



Katherine R. Harrison¹, Anthony D. Kappell², Patrick J. McNamara^{*}

Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, USA

Updates on PFAS





Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Journal of Hazardous Materials

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jhazmat



National inventory of perfluoroalkyl substances in archived U.S. biosolids from the 2001 EPA National Sewage Sludge Survey



Arjun K. Venkatesan^a, Rolf U. Halden^{a,b,*}

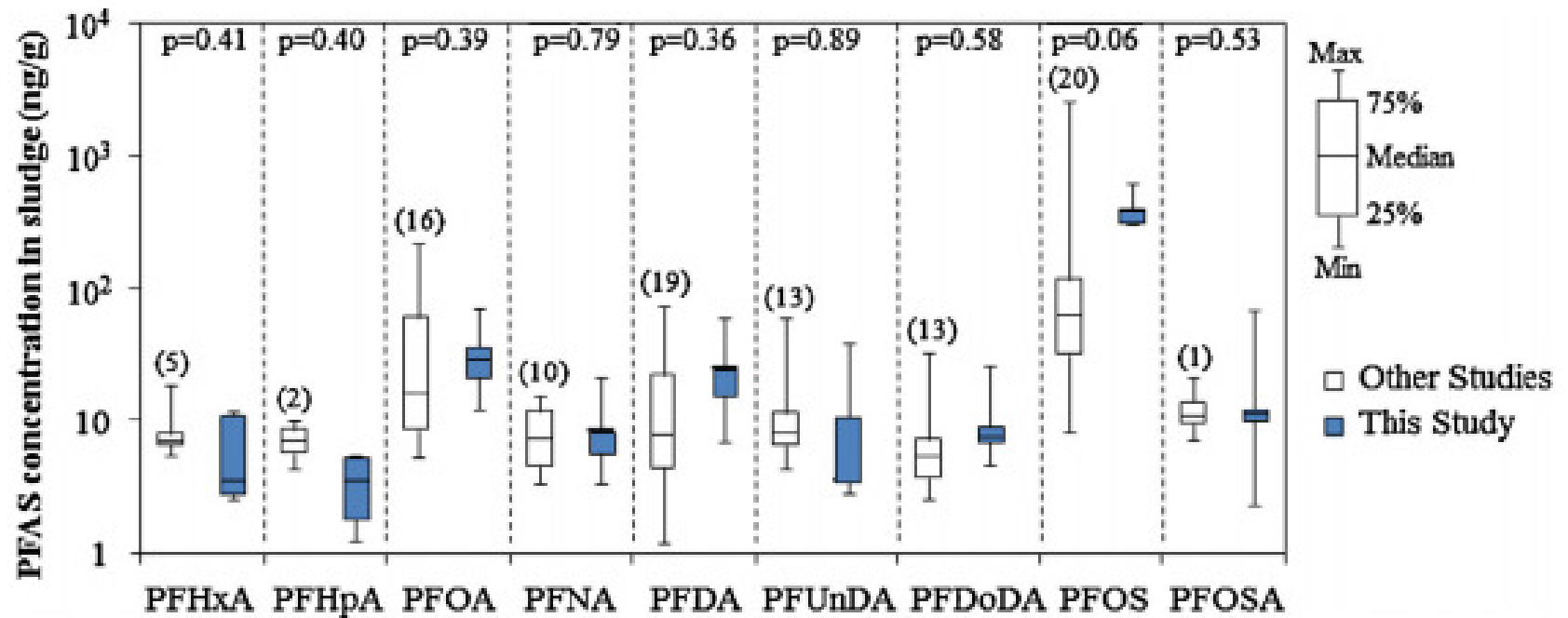
^a Center for Environmental Security, The Biodesign Institute, Security and Defense Systems Initiative, Arizona State University, 781 E. Terrace Road, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA

^b Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

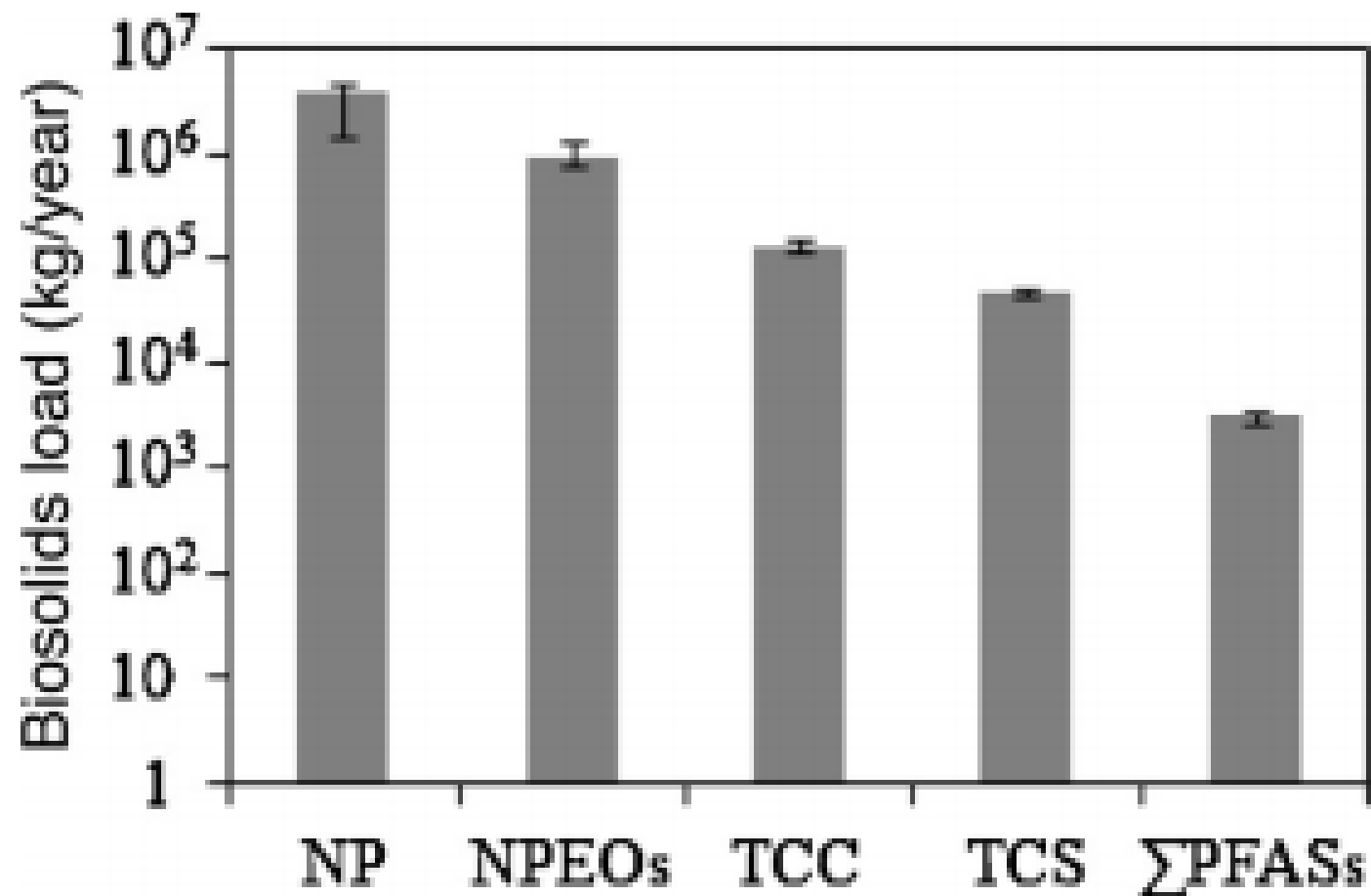
H I G H L I G H T S

- First study to report nationwide occurrence and concentrations of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in U.S. biosolids.
- Ten out of thirteen PFAS analyzed were consistently detected in all biosolids samples.
- PFOS was the most abundant PFAS in biosolids, followed by PFOA.
- Mean load of \sum PFASs in U.S. biosolids was estimated at 2749–3450 kg/year.
- PFASs in biosolids show no significant difference between pre- and post-phase out period.

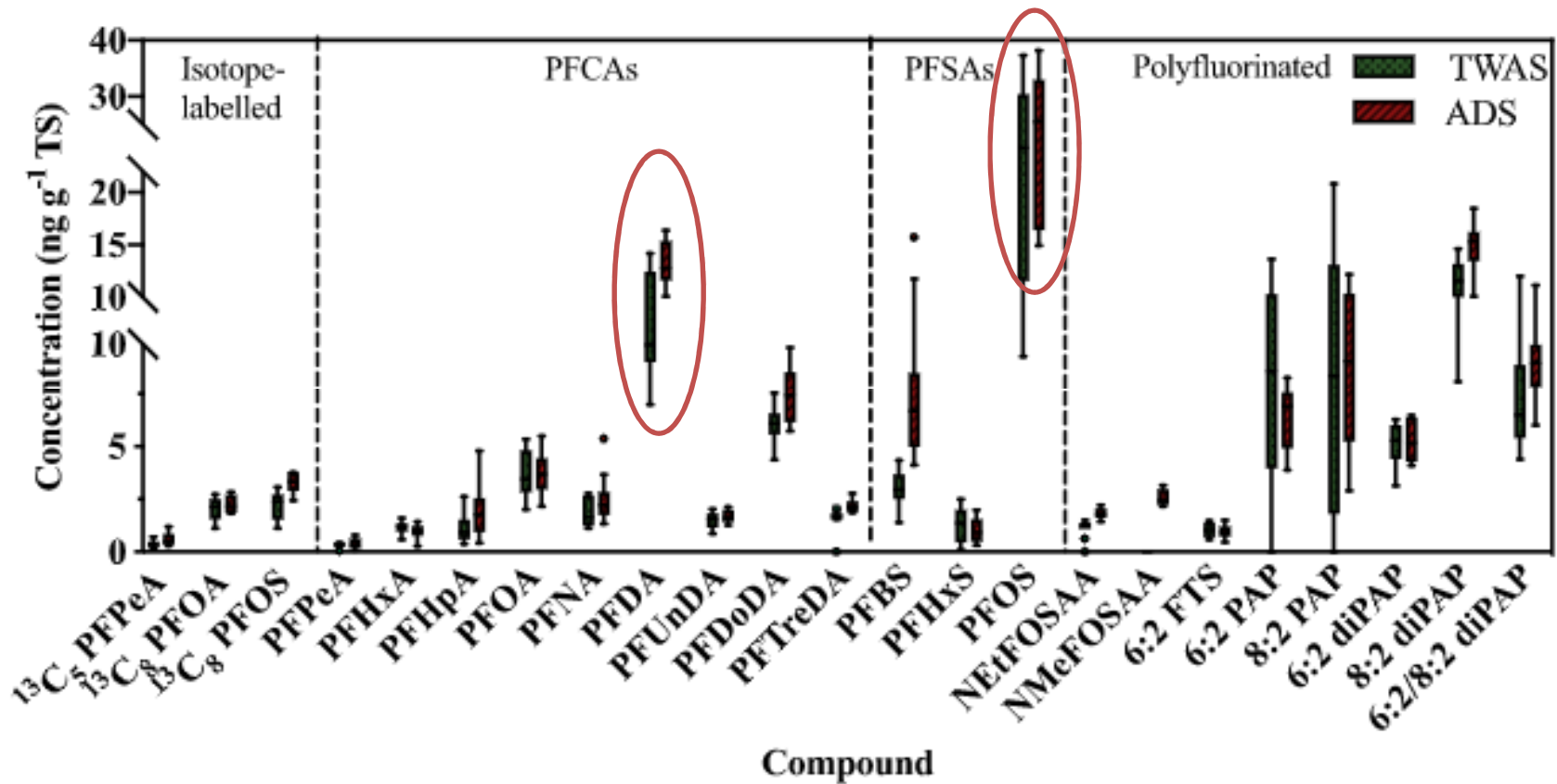
PFAS found at ng/g in biosolids



PFAS annual load less than other micropollutants



Short-chain PFAAs (C5 –C7 PFCAs and PFBS (C4)) can be generated from their precursors in AD




Formation and partitioning behaviour of perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) in waste activated sludge during anaerobic digestion



Yijing Li^a, Jennifer Bräunig^b, Guerrero C. Angelica^a, Phong K. Thai^b, Jochen F. Mueller^b, Zhiguo Yuan^{a,*}

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in commercially available biosolid-based products: The effect of treatment processes

Rooney Kim Lazcano,^{1,2,*} Chloé de Perre,¹ Michael L. Mashtare,^{1,2,3} Linda S. Lee^{1,2,3} 

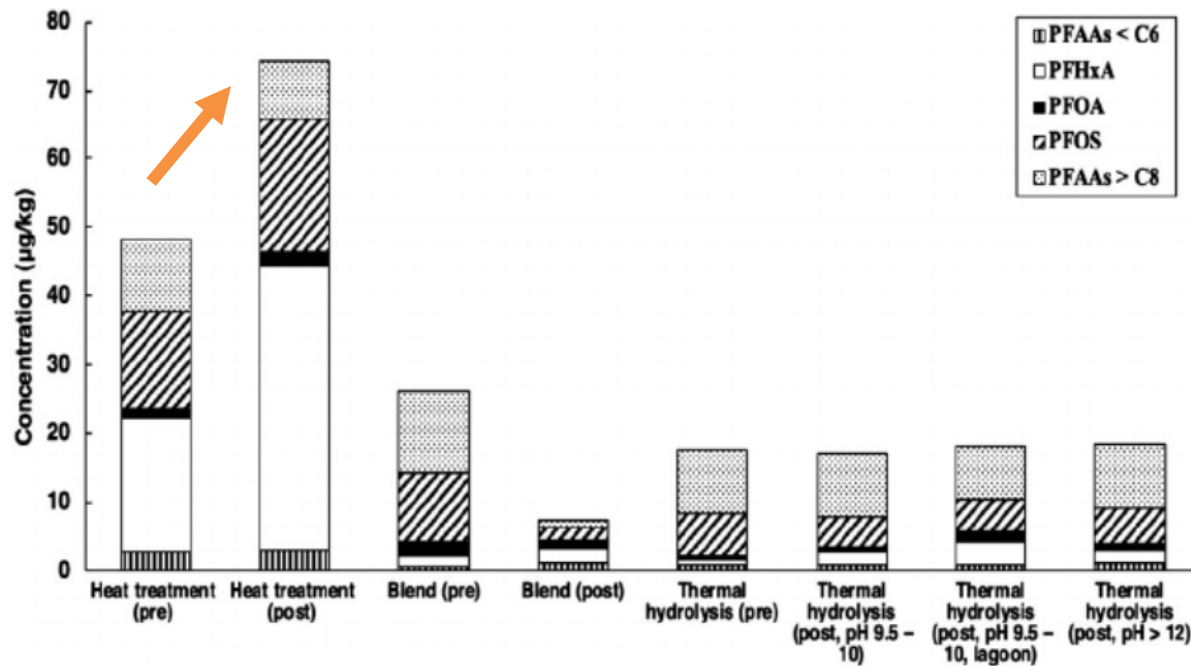


Figure 1. PFAA loads ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, dry wt.) for the <2 mm particle size fraction of the samples. Pre: before post-treatment process (the Class A or B biosolids) and post: after post-treatment process. PFAAs $<C6$ include PFBA and PFBS, and PFAAs $>C8$ include PFNA, PFDA, PFUDA, PFDOA, PFTrDA, and PFTeDA.

Influent PFAS Load Matters

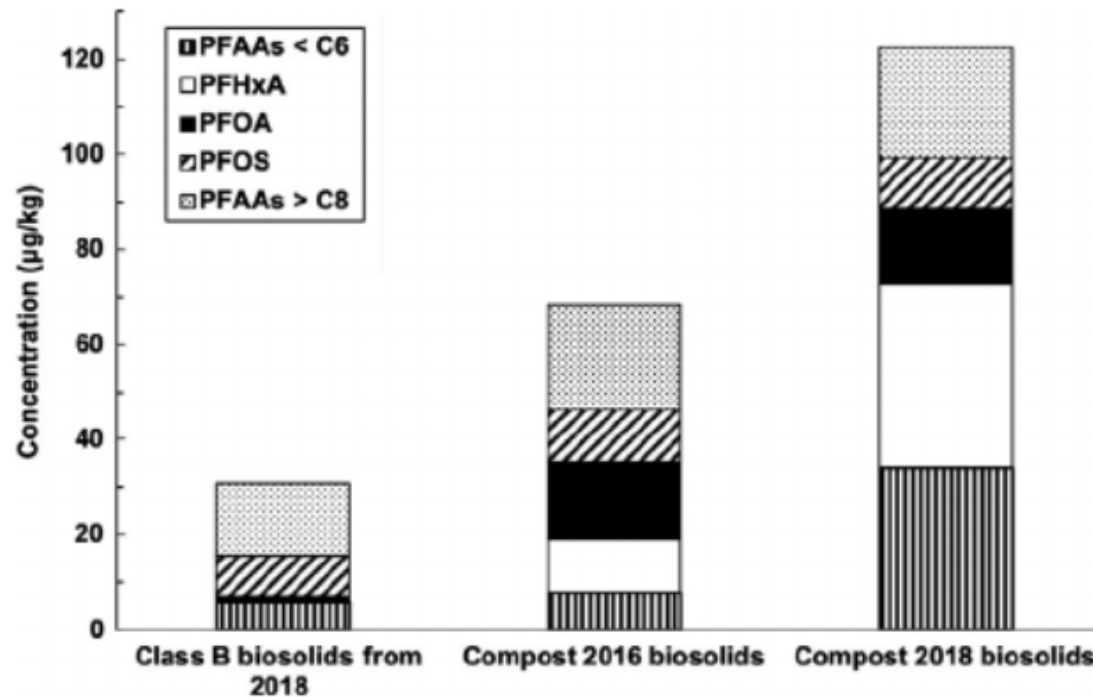


Figure 4. PFAA loads ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, dry wt.) for the <2 mm particle size fraction of the Class B biosolids from 2018 from one municipal water resource recovery facility (WRRF) and final composted 2016 and 2018 fertilizer products that contained Class B biosolids from four different WRRFs. Only one source of the Class B biosolids from 2018 was obtained and analyzed. PFAAs $<C6$ include PFBA and PFBS, and PFAAs $>C8$ include PFNA, PFDA, PFUdA, PFDoA, PFTTrDA, and PFTTeDA.

- **Practitioner points**

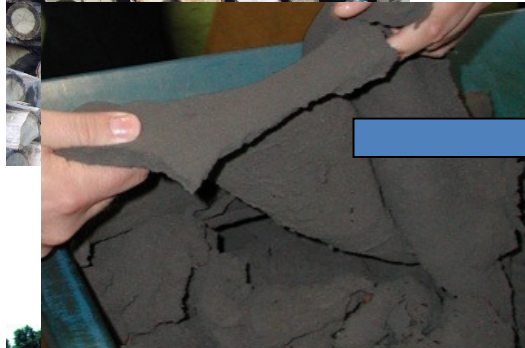
- Heat treatment and composting increased perfluoroalkyl acid (PFAA) concentrations.
- Only dilution from blending with non-PFAS material decreased PFAA concentrations.
- Thermal hydrolysis process had no apparent effect on PFAA concentrations.
- PFAS sources are a greater driver of PFAS loads in biosolid-based products than treatment processes.

We know micropollutants are in biosolids – are there technologies to get rid of them?

Pyrolysis: Heating Without Oxygen

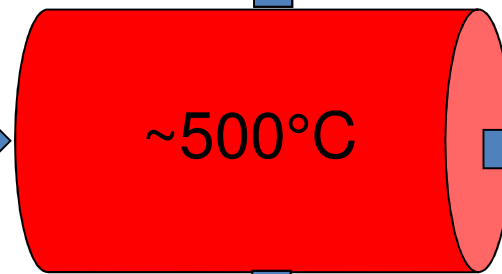
Biomass

- Wood
- Switchgrass
- Biosolids



Py-gas (5-30%)

H_2 , CO , CH_4



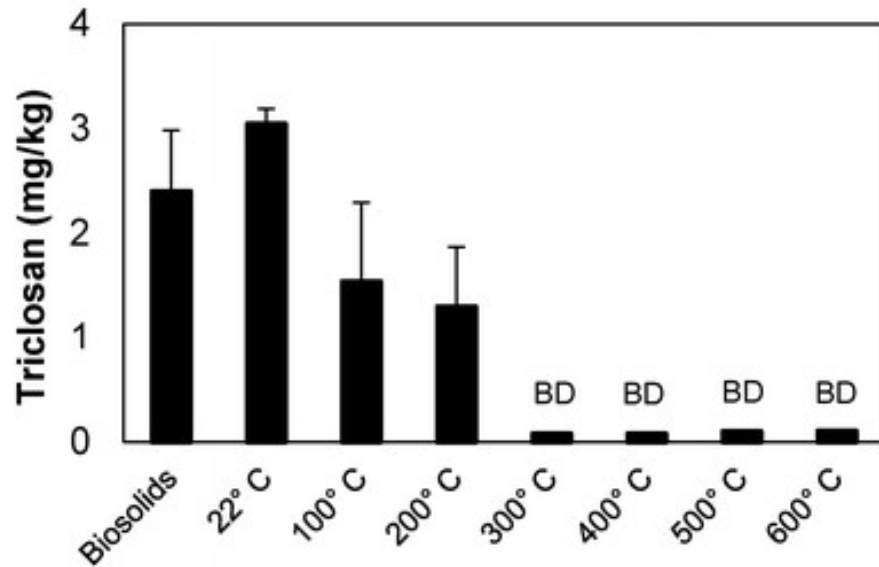
Bio-oil (20-50%)



Biochar (~50%)

Pyrolysis removes micropollutants from biosolids

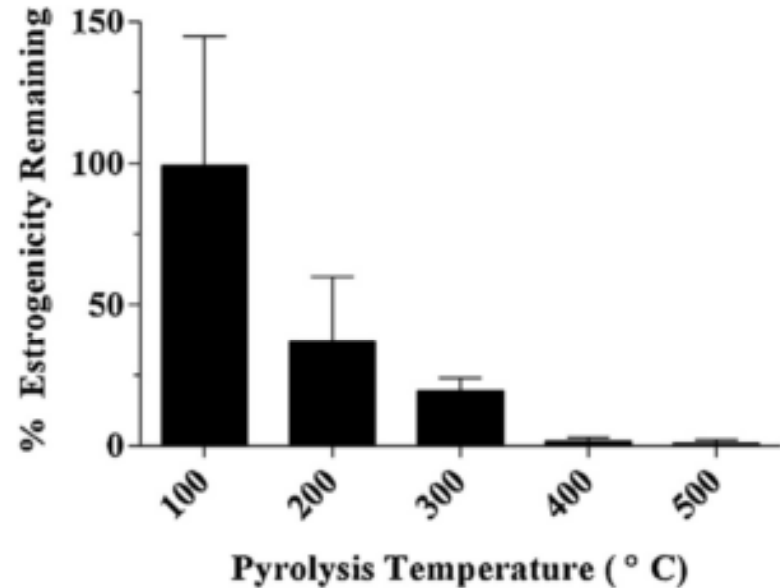
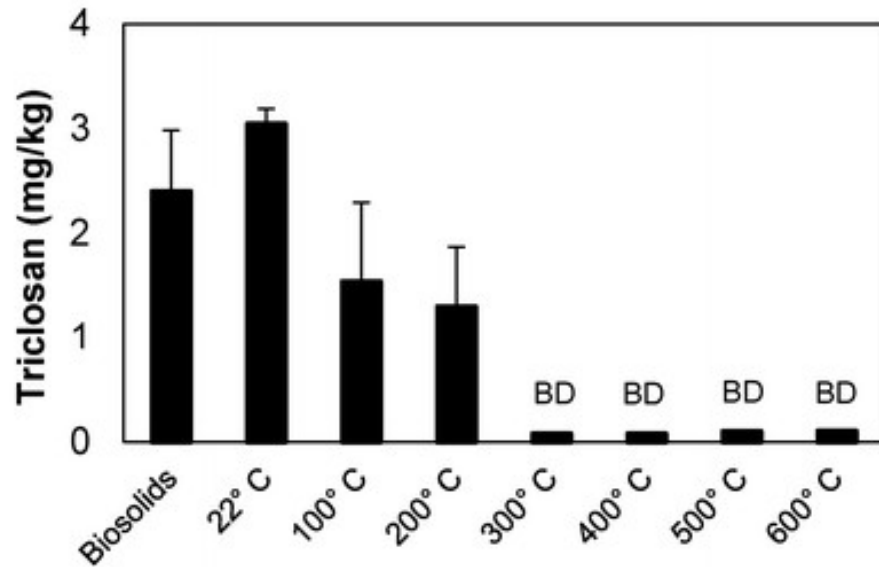
Pyrolysis removes micropollutants from biosolids



BD: Below Detection Limit

Ross J.J., Zitomer, D.H., Miller, T.R., Weirich, C.A., McNamara, P.J. 2016. Emerging investigators series: pyrolysis removes common microconstituents triclocarban, triclosan, and nonylphenol from biosolids. *Environ. Sci.: Water Res. Technol* (2) 282-289.

Pyrolysis removes micropollutants from biosolids



BD: Below Detection Limit

Ross J.J., Zitomer, D.H., Miller, T.R., Weirich, C.A., McNamara, P.J. 2016. Emerging investigators series: pyrolysis removes common microconstituents triclocarban, triclosan, and nonylphenol from biosolids. *Environ. Sci.: Water Res. Technol* (2) 282-289.

Hoffman TC., Zitomer, D.J. McNamara, P.J. 2016. Pyrolysis of wastewater biosolids significantly reduces estrogenicity. *J. Haz. Mat.* 317, 579-584

Pyrolysis for removal of PFAS

Environmental
Science
Water Research & Technology



PAPER

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Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/d0ew00763c

Removal of PFASs from biosolids using a semi-pilot scale pyrolysis reactor and the application of biosolids derived biochar for the removal of PFASs from contaminated water†

Sazal Kundu, ^a Savankumar Patel, ^a Pobitra Halder, ^a Tejas Patel, ^a Mojtaba Hedayati Marzbali, ^a Biplob Kumar Pramanik, ^b Jorge Paz-Ferreiro, ^a Cícero Célio de Figueiredo, ^c David Bergmann,^d Aravind Surapaneni, ^{de} Mallavarapu Megharaj ^{fg} and Kalpit Shah *^{ae}

Pyrolysis removes PFAS to below detection limit in biochar

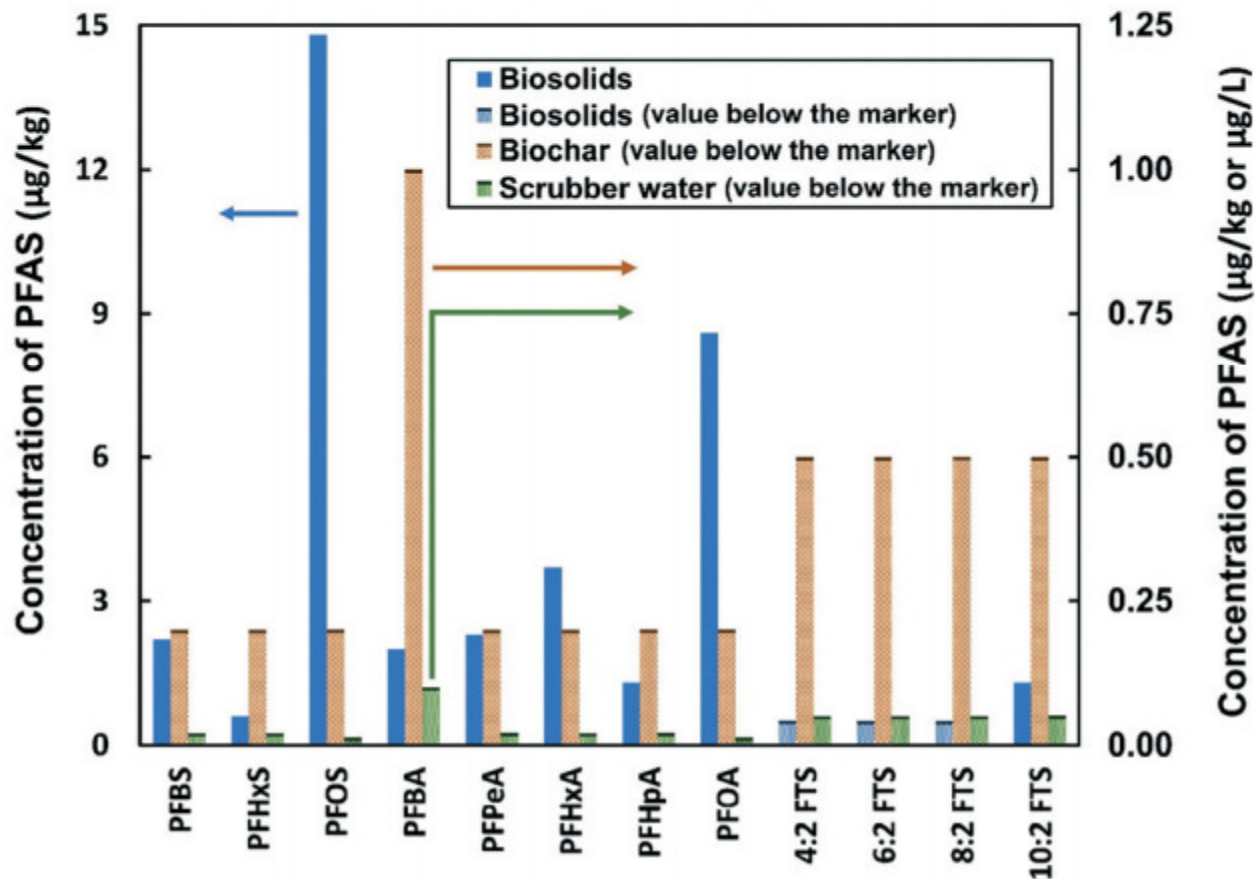


Fig. 8 PFAS concentration data for biosolids ($\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$), biochar ($\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$) and scrubber water ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$). Columns with markers represent values less than the marker values (see detailed data in Table S1†).

Can changes be made to conventional treatment to improve removal?

The **upgrade** [from trickling filter to activated sludge] of the WWTF resulted in **improved removal efficiency** for many **endocrine-disrupting chemicals**, particularly 17 β -estradiol and estrone, and fish exposed to the postupgrade effluent indicated **reduction in endocrine disruption** relative to preupgrade conditions

Fish Endocrine Disruption Responses to a Major Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

Larry B. Barber,^{*,†} Alan M. Vajda,[‡] Chris Douville,[§] David O. Norris,^{||} and Jeffery H. Writer[†]

[†]U.S. Geological Survey, 3215 Marine Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303, United States

[‡]Department of Integrative Biology, University of Colorado, CB 171, Denver, Colorado 80217, United States

[§]City of Boulder, 4049 75th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80301, United States

^{||}Department of Integrative Physiology, University of Colorado, 354 UCB, Boulder, Colorado 80309, United States

What if we mitigate discharge?

Results from this whole-lake experiment demonstrate that **fish can recover from EE2 exposure** at the biochemical through population levels, although the timelines to do so are long for multigenerational exposures. These results suggest that **wastewater treatment facilities that reduce discharges of estrogens** and their mimics **can improve the health of resident fish populations** in their receiving environments.

Recovery of a Wild Fish Population from Whole-Lake Additions of a Synthetic Estrogen

Paul J. Blanchfield,^{*,†,‡} Karen A. Kidd,[§] Margaret F. Docker,[‡] Vince P. Palace,^{†,||} Brad J. Park,[†] and Lianne D. Postma[†]

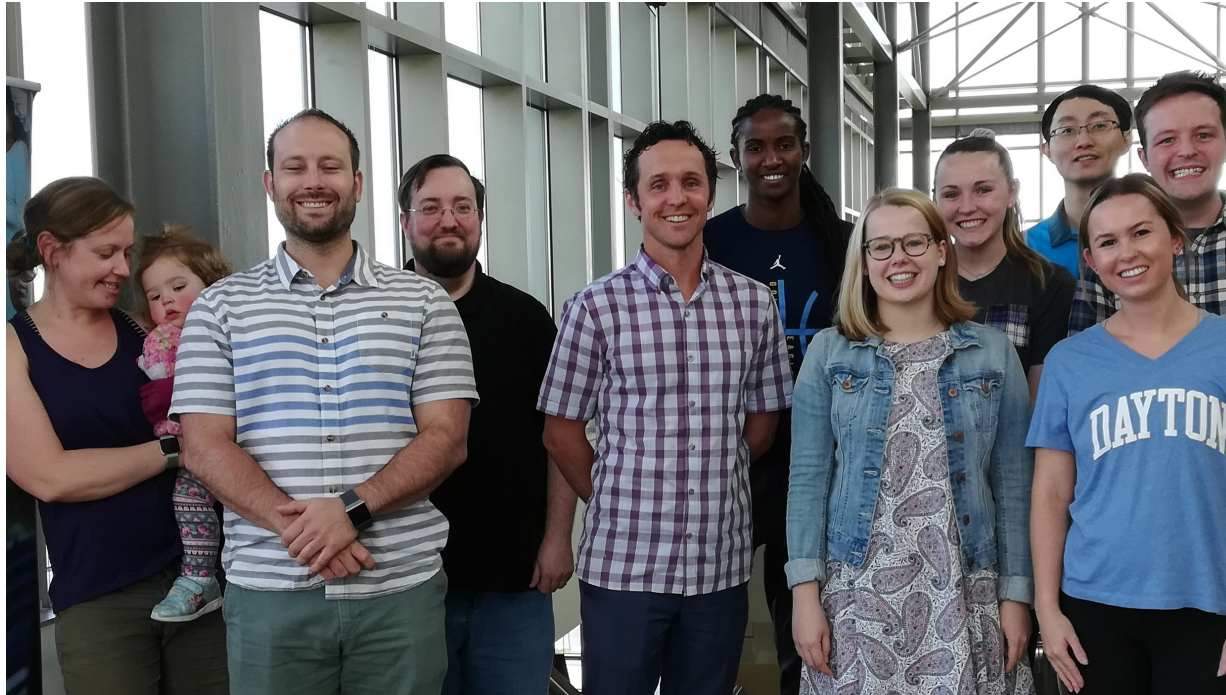
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Acknowledgements



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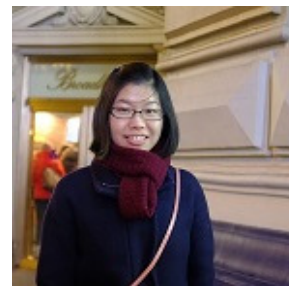
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Sponsoring Entities
Lafferty Foundation Grant
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Thank you

Questions?

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