

Instructor Biographies

Method Update and Tools for Evaluation of PFAS, 1,4-Dioxane, and Inorganics Analytical Data

May 12, 2022, 11am - 2:15pm - via Zoom Webinar

Susan Chapnick is President and Principal Scientist of New Environmental Horizons, Inc. (NEH), an environmental chemistry consulting firm specializing in the planning and evaluation of environmental data. She is recognized as a technical expert in analytical chemistry and quality assurance of metals and wet chemistry environmental measurements with over 25 years of experience in support of Natural Resource Damage Assessments, USEPA Superfund, US Army Corps of Engineers, and state-led contaminant investigations. Ms. Chapnick serves on the Science Advisory Committee for the MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup where she champions scientific integrity in the development of environmental regulations and technical guidance for site cleanups in the Commonwealth. She also leads local policy changes towards Climate Change Resilience and adaptation planning in wetland resource areas as the Chair of the Conservation Commission in the Town of Arlington, MA. Ms. Chapnick holds a Master's of Science in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina and a BA in Biological Sciences from Barnard College, Columbia University, NYC.

Elizabeth Denly serves as TRC's per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Initiative Leader & Chemistry Director. As a project QA chemist at TRC, Ms. Denly is responsible for providing quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC) oversight in support of different environmental investigations, including remediation programs, ambient air monitoring, and human health/ecological risk assessments. Ms. Denly is currently serving on the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) PFAS team, is a co-leader on the PFAS Naming Conventions sub-team, and won the 2017 ITRC Industry Affiliates Award for her contributions to this team. She currently works on many different types of PFAS investigations with a specific focus on chemistry, sampling procedures, data interpretation, forensics, QA/QC, and analytical methodologies. She has recently collaborated with laboratories on research activities including (1) evaluation of the leachability of PFAS from environmental sampling products; (2) evaluation of analytical approaches (isotope dilution liquid chromatography/dual mass spectrometry, total oxidizable precursor assay, and total fluorine) on samples collected from aqueous film forming foam sources and paper mill sources; (3) evaluation of the solubility of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid; and (4) evaluation of sampling/analytical approaches for the measurement of PFAS in ambient air. Her major areas of expertise include emerging contaminants, data evaluation, quality assurance project plans, data usability assessments, field and laboratory audits, and consulting for regulatory agencies.

James Occhialini is a Vice President with Alpha Analytical and he serves as the practice leader for the laboratory's specialty analytical services group. Mr. Occhialini has over 40 years of environmental analytical and consulting experience working on a wide range of projects. He is very active with a number of regulatory workgroups and industry associations where he has given numerous technical presentations and training programs.

Nancy C. Rothman, Ph.D., is CEO and a Principal Scientist of New Environmental Horizons, Inc. and has over 30 years of experience in the development of methods, analysis, and data evaluation for organic compounds in the environment. Dr. Rothman applies her depth of experience to evaluate usability of current and historical data and in the development and review of project-specific Quality Assurance Project Plans for environmental investigations in support of NOAA Natural Resource Damage Assessments, USEPA Superfund, US Army Corps of Engineers, and state-led programs. She is an appointed member of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Science Advisory Board and serves on two ITRC teams developing technical guidance related to PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane.