FRTR Fall 2024 Meeting Speaker Biographies

Dr. Janet Anderson is a Board-certified toxicologist under the American Board of Toxicology (ABT) and is Vice President and Principal Toxicologist at GSI Environmental, Inc., a global engineering and environmental science firm. She completed her graduate and postgraduate work at the University of Cincinnati and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, respectively. Dr. Anderson began her career helping guide the U.S. Department of Defense's strategy for unregulated chemicals, including the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at military sites around the country. Over the course of five years, she oversaw PFAS investigations at dozens of U.S. Air Force installations.



Since joining the consulting sector in 2015, Dr. Anderson has specialized in helping clients with chemical risk management, public policy analysis, compliance, and improving corporate environmental and public health stewardship. With a comprehensive background in evaluating the toxic properties of chemicals, she brings her specialized expertise to advise stakeholders on issues related to emerging chemicals such as PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, microplastics, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, and legacy chemicals such as metals and pesticides. Dr. Anderson is well-regarded for her work translating and guiding complex science policy. She works regularly with legal teams specializing in risk, compliance, process improvements, and safety, in various industries, including national security, energy, aerospace, advanced materials manufacturing, technology, and specialty chemicals. She equips clients with the technical foundation to navigate varied governmental actions across domestic and international jurisdictions. She also has extensive experience crafting due diligence support to clients assessing potential chemical liabilities across the full life-cycle of product manufacturing, use, and disposal. A skilled communicator, Dr. Anderson also serves as a testifying expert and supports clients in public and private stakeholder engagement.

Zachary Puchacz has a combined 22 years of airport management and aviation consulting experience. His career began as an intern at the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport while earning a degree in Aviation Science and Administration from Western Michigan University. After graduating, Zachary became an airport operations coordinator at Teterboro Airport and later an airport operations officer at the Capital Region International Airport in Lansing, Michigan.



His experience with aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) as an airport

firefighter while working in airport operations contributed to the research published in ACRP Research Report 173, Use and Potential Impacts of AFFF Containing PFASs at Airports, and ACRP Research Report 255, PFAS Source Differentiation Guide for Airports. Since the publication of these reports, Zachary has assisted airports nationwide in their strategies to address PFAS and transition to fluorine-free foams.

Cynthia Cash (PG) is a Program Manager with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) in San Antonio, TX. Ms. Cash has over 35 years of experience executing environmental restoration investigations and remediation projects nationwide. Ms. Cash has been detailed to AFCEC's Emerging Contaminant Team where she focusses on execution of AF programs, policies, and PFAS projects for installations across the United States. Ms. Cash's responsibilities include PFAS strategy planning, funding and programming of PFAS projects, tracking and managing PFAS data, and responding to Congressional, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment (ASD/EI&E), and Office of the Deputy Assistant for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure (SAF/IEE) request for



information. Ms. Cash is the Air Force Program Manager for the PFAS Fingerprint and Background study project being presented at this conference. Ms. Cash received her BS in Geology from the University of Missouri – Columbia and is a licensed professional geologist.

Dr. Kavitha Dasu is a technical lead for PFAS Research Program at Battelle. Dr. Dasu has over 16 years of professional and academic experience in studying fate and transport, and treatment of PFAS and other emerging contaminants (ECs) in complex environmental matrices. At Battelle, Dr. Dasu is a technical lead for projects involving innovative advanced analytical research in PFAS and manages several projects studying the fate and transport, and remediation of water and soil impacted with PFAS at aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) impacted sites. Dr. Dasu has published several peer-reviewed studies



on PFAS analytical methods, fate, and remediation technologies, holds several patents, and serves as a peer reviewer for scientific journals. Dr. Dasu is the recipient of Battelle's 2019 Emerging Scientist Achievement Award and 2022 Inventor of the Year Award. Denis LeBlanc is a Scientist Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey in Northborough, Mass. During his 48-year tenure at the USGS, Denis directed the USGS Cape Cod Toxic Substances Hydrology Research Site, coordinated USGS technical assistance to the groundwater cleanup at Joint Base Cape Cod, participated in nitrogen investigations in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, and conducted regional studies of the groundwater resources of Cape Cod. Denis received a B.S. in Hydrology from the University of New Hampshire and an M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT.

Linda Gaines is an environmental engineer and environmental health scientist. She has worked on environmental site assessments, water and wastewater work, air permits, and hazardous waste permits. After earning her Professional Engineer's license, she earned her Ph.D. focusing on environmental health. She maintains the Regional Screening Levels and is the Superfund subject matter expert for PFAS.

Paul Carroll is the Installation Program Manager/BRAC Environmental Coordinator for the BRAC Program Management Division at USGS. He manages all aspects of Base Realignment and Closure activities for five former Air Force installations, focusing on environmental cleanup, property transfer, community coordination, and public interaction. He holds a B.S. in Geology/Geophysics from Texas Tech University, which prepared him for the other various roles in environmental cleanup he's assumed, including Remedial Program Manager, Environmental Engineer, Site Manager, and Program Manager.

Julie Filosa is a senior human health risk assessor and risk assessment manager with over 23 years of experience in human health risk assessment, vapor intrusion assessment, exposure modeling, and data analysis/management. Julie has extensive experience performing and leading teams to perform multi-pathway and multi-media human health risk assessments under both state and federal guidelines for private and public clients and for sites throughout the U.S. She is one of AECOM's human health risk











assessment, vapor intrusion, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) practice and technical leaders.

Over the last several years, Julie has been involved in numerous PFAS investigations for which she has performed human health risk assessment and provided technical leadership in the development and execution of quality assurance plans and work plans. She routinely collaborates with multi-disciplinary teams, including clients, regulators, and internal project teams to develop and achieve project data quality objectives.

Jason Speicher worked as a risk assessor (Eco & Human Health) and sediment lead at former EFANE of Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) from 1998 to 2006. From 2006 to 2017, Jason worked for FirstEnergy Corp, an electric utility holding company for 10 electric utilities in PA, NJ, MD, WV, and OH, as well as generation assets formerly owned by the company. For FirstEnergy, he was a remedial project manager for 21 sites in all 5 states, managed environmental due diligence assessment (i.e., Phase I/Phase II) for real estate transactions, lead on aboveground/underground storage tank program in PA, NJ, and MD, and was Environmental lead on the demolition and remediation of several former power plant sites. Currently, Jason serves as a subject matter expert (SME)



for NAVFAC Atlantic in the fields of risk assessment, sediment assessment and cleanup, and PFAS investigation and remediation. Additionally, he serves as a Navy liaison and technical support representative to the DoD's SERDP and ESTCP research programs in the areas of contaminated sediment remediation, as well as PFAS investigation and remediation.

Dr. Jason Conder is a Principal at Geosyntec Consultants in Orange County, California. His research and consulting expertise is in environmental toxicology, risk assessment, contaminated sediment, and environmental chemistry. A key part of his focus during the last 20 years as a consultant has involved Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), including several product- and site-specific fate and risk assessments and authoring several review articles on PFAS use, fate, terminology, and bioaccumulation. Dr. Conder recently coauthored a "how to" guidance for conducting ecological risk assessments at PFAS sites for the US Department of Defense, and is currently involved in several ongoing research projects to understand



the fate, bioavailability, bioaccumulation, and effects of PFAS. In addition, he has conducted and completed several site-specific human health and ecological risk assessments for PFAS at in the US and abroad.

Dr. Natalie Karouna-Renier is a Research Ecologist and leader of the Molecular Toxicology Laboratory at the U.S. Geological Survey Eastern Ecological Science Center – Patuxent. Dr. Karouna-Renier's expertise and research focus on understanding, detecting, and predicting the effects of environmental stressors on wildlife using genomic, transcriptomic, metabolomic, endocrine, and biochemical tools. Her laboratory specializes in identification and application of novel biomarkers for assessing ecosystem and wildlife health. Current research projects focus on immune and endocrine system changes, susceptibility to disease, and health status of birds and reptiles exposed to environmental contaminants, such as PFAS, pesticides, and flame retardants.

