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Cover features and new Associate Editors of the Journal of Environmental Sciences

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We are very pleased to announce that five Associate Editors have joined the editorial team of the *Journal of Environmental Sciences (JES)*. Professors/Drs. Yong Cai, Paul Lam, Jonathan Martin, Michael Plewa, and Po Keung Wong bring a wealth of expertise in environmental sciences. As preeminent scientists in their chosen areas of research, they have made outstanding contributions to the discipline of environmental sciences. Their tremendous expertise and dedication to *JES* will contribute to the continuing success of the journal in achieving high-quality scientific communication of environmental research. Their close collaboration with environmental science researchers, authors, reviewers, and the editorial team of advisors, editors, and editorial board members will further strengthen *JES*.



Dr. Yong Cai is a Professor and Chair in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Southeast Environmental Research Center (SERC) at Florida International University (FIU). He directs the Environmental Bioinorganic Chemistry Research Group within FIU. He conducts research in the broad field of chemistry and environmental science, focusing on speciation analysis of toxic metals and met-

alloids in the environment and biological systems, studies of their fate and transport, and assessment of their environmental and public health impact. In particular, the research programme in his laboratory addresses many interrelated molecular-level questions regarding the environmental fate and health effect of mercury (Yin et al., 2014; Wang et al.,

2016) and arsenic (Li and Cai, 2015; Liu et al., 2011). He has published two books (Cai and Braids, 2002; Liu et al., 2012) and more than 120 papers in peer-reviewed journals and over 10 contributed chapters in major professional monographs, and delivered numerous conference presentations. Serving as an Associate Editor of *JES*, Dr. Cai recently highlighted the work on toxic metals in sediment (Li and Cai, 2015) and mercury emission to the atmosphere (Wang et al., 2016).



Dr. Paul K.S. Lam is the Chief-of-Staff (Vice-President) and Chair Professor of Biology at the City University of Hong Kong, with research interests in the areas of ecology, eco-toxicology, environmental toxicology, and risk assessment (Cheung et al., 2001; Lam et al., 2009; Lin et al., 2015; Loi et al., 2011; Lyu et al., 2015; So et al., 2004). He is also the Director of the State Key Laboratory in Marine Pollution. He was an Associate Editor of

the “Environmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment” section of *Chemosphere* (2004–2008). He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Environmental Science and Technology* (since 2010). Professor Lam actively participates in community service. He is currently the Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Environment. He was appointed as a Justice of the Peace by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2008. He was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) in 2014. Dr. Lam and Dr. Leo Yeung of Örebro University (Sweden) are jointly editing a special issue on the topic of “emerging chemical contaminants of concern”, scheduled for publication in 2017 in *JES*.

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Dr. Jonathan W. Martin is a Professor of Analytical Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology. His ongoing research at the University of Alberta, Canada, includes untargeted methods for contaminant discovery (Liu et al., 2015a; Martin and Pereira, 2015), studies of exposure sources and pathways (Zhang et al., 2016), investigations of pharmacokinetics and transformation for emerging contaminants (Beesoon and Martin, 2015), and

the effects of early-life chemical exposures on human development and health (Webster et al., 2014; Ye et al., 2016). The results of these studies have been highly cited (H-index 48) and have influenced chemical regulatory decisions in Canada and on the international stage. He is an elected member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists and was recently named as one of the most Influential Scientific Minds by Thomson Reuters (2014). He has served on journal editorial boards for *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* and *Science of the Total Environment* and has been acknowledged for his 'Excellence in Review' by *Environmental Science & Technology*.



Dr. Michael J. Plewa is an Emeritus Professor of Genetics and University Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Associate Director of the Safe Global Water Institute in the College of Engineering. Working with colleagues to integrate analytical biology with

analytical chemistry, he developed the largest database on the *in vitro* toxicology of water disinfection by-products (DBPs). His research interest involves identifying the molecular mechanisms of DBP toxicity and defining the forcing factors that lead to toxicity in disinfected water (Pals et al., 2013; Plewa et al., 2010; Plewa et al., 2004; Plewa and Wagner, 2009, 2015; Wagner et al., 2012). Dr. Plewa has over 230 publications in environmental and molecular mutagenesis and genetic toxicology. He is a past president of the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society and was the Chair of the 2015 Gordon Research Conference on DBPs. Dr. Plewa is currently organizing and editing a special issue on "water treatment and disinfection by-products". This special issue will be published in *JES* before the 2017 Gordon Research Conference on DBPs (<https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=14983>).



Dr. Po Keung (P.K.) Wong has more than 35 years working experience on environmental technology/biotechnology and photocatalysis. He received his Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of California at Davis (UCD) in 1983. Currently, he is a Professor in the School of Life Sciences and the Associate Director of the Environmental Science Programme, Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He also serves as a visiting

professor for Nankai University, South China University of Technology, Central China Normal University, Guangdong University of Technology, and Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, and an adjunct professor for Clemson University, USA. He is an Associate Editor of *JES* and a Coordinating Editor of *Environmental Geochemistry and Health*. Professor Wong has recently (2015) received a Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Award (Science and Technology) in the category of Natural Sciences (Second Class) of Ministry of Education, China, for his contribution to the field of photocatalytic treatment of drinking water and wastewater. He has published more than 200 articles on various aspects of environmental technology/biotechnology and photocatalysis (Li et al., 2009, 2011; Ng et al., 2016; Xia et al., 2016; Xiang et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2009, 2010). According to the Essential Science indicators, many of his papers are "highly cited" (Li et al., 2009; Xiang et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2009, 2010). His recent work on the development of photocatalysts and mechanistic studies of photocatalytic disinfection of bacteria (Wang et al., 2015) has been featured on a cover of *JES*.

Professional journal covers can attract readers' attention and generate further interest. The cover of each print issue of *JES* features a particular topic or a paper published in that issue. *JES* publishes twelve issues a year on a monthly basis, although the accepted and edited manuscripts are published online, usually several months ahead of the monthly print issues. Typically 25–30 papers are published in each issue, for a total yearly publication of approximately 300 papers. These papers are selected from about 3000 manuscripts submitted to *JES* each year. The eventual publication of the small fraction of the submitted manuscripts is a result of vigorous peer reviews and necessary revisions that involve collaborative efforts of authors, reviewers, editors, and publisher(s).

Several covers of *JES* have featured research on arsenic (Zan et al., 2014; Hao et al., 2015) and mercury (Cheng et al., 2015), because of their environmental significance. Arsenic consistently ranks on top of the priority list of toxic substances, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR). More than 900 Superfund sites in the United States list arsenic contamination as a concern. More than 100 million people around the world are at risk of exposure to arsenic at levels exceeding the World Health Organization guidelines (Nordstrom, 2002; WHO, 2011). Appropriately, *JES* has featured new analytical methods for the detection of arsenic (Hao et al., 2015), studies on its environmental fate and behaviour (Zan et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2014),

minimizing potential human exposure (Newbigging et al., 2015), and removal technologies (Du et al., 2014).

In addition to the environmental contaminants that have been known and studied extensively for many years, emerging contaminants such as perfluorinated compounds (Beesoon and Martin, 2015; Liu et al., 2015b), nanomaterials (Yin et al., 2015; Popowich et al., 2015), and DBPs (Richardson and Kimura, 2016; Zeng et al., 2016), have received much attention. For example, recycling of electronic waste (Li et al., 2014; Tang et al., 2015; Peng et al., 2015) can result in the release and environmental contamination of heavy metals as well as emerging persistent organic contaminants, such as polybrominated compounds.

Much recent research deals with a group of emerging contaminants that are byproducts formed during the water disinfection process (Richardson and Kimura, 2016; Zeng et al., 2016). Water disinfection is the most effective public health measure to prevent waterborne infectious disease. Multiple barrier removal strategies are usually implemented to reduce microbial risk (Zhang et al., 2015a, 2015b). In addition, disinfection processes are necessary for drinking water. While water disinfection reduces microbial risk, the DBPs formed between the disinfectants and the natural organic matter in water are undesirable. Recent research on the water disinfection (Mi et al., 2015; Ng et al., 2015) and the formation of DBPs (Zhang et al., 2015b) has been highlighted.

Research involving all environmental media, including air quality and haze/smog formation (Han et al., 2015; L. Zhou et al., 2014; Lee, 2015), release of greenhouse gas (Chen et al., 2014), water quality and nutrients (Sharpley and Wang, 2014; Ye et al., 2014; Gao et al., 2015), and soil and remediation (Qi et al., 2014), has been featured on the covers of JES. As an inclusive environmental research publication, JES showcases all aspects of environmental sciences, ranging from molecular-level studies of environmental contaminants and their potential health risks (Lee et al., 2015; Zhou, 2015), to monitoring and treatment technologies (Gao et al., 2015; Cui and Luan, 2015), and to the global issues of energy and climate (Y. Zhou et al., 2014; Yu et al., 2015).

With the support of environmental science researchers, authors and readers, reviewers, and the editorial team, JES strives to best serve the environmental science community by communicating pertinent research findings of significant impact.

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