

October 2, 2020

JUNHONG CHEN

Lead Water Strategist and Senior Scientist, Argonne National Laboratory, Crown Family Professor of Molecular Engineering, University of Chicago (Moderator)



Junhong Chen is lead water strategist at Argonne National Laboratory and a Professor of Molecular Engineering at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering. Prior to coming to Chicago, Chen served as a program director for the Engineering Research Centers (ERC) program of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). He also served as a co-chair of the NSF-wide ERC Working Group to design the ERC Planning Grants program and the Gen-4 ERC program.

Chen received his doctorate in mechanical engineering from University of Minnesota in 2002 and was a postdoctoral scholar in chemical engineering at California Institute of Technology from 2002 to 2003. Chen is an elected fellow of National Academy of Inventors and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He is a recipient of the International Association of Advanced Materials Medal.





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FRANK CASSOU Co-Founder & CEO, Cyclopure



Frank is an entrepreneurial leader who has worked as executive and advisor to technology companies in Silicon Valley, San Diego, New York, and Washington, D.C. He has spent his career suiting up to help technology companies grow their businesses, and is a recognized expert in technology development, finance, IP and government affairs. Frank received his Doctor of Law and a Bachelor of Science from University of California, Berkeley.





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PETER FISKE

Executive Director, National Alliance for Water Innovation



Peter S. Fiske is the founder and Executive Director of NAWI and the Director of the Water-Energy Resilience Research Institute (WERRI) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Prior to joining Berkeley Lab, Fiske was the Chief Executive Officer of PAX Water Technologies, Inc. from 2008 until January 2017 when it was acquired by UGSI Inc. PAX Water pioneered the use of biomimicry to develop innovative and energy-efficient technologies for the water industry. PAX Water won a number of national water industry awards, and its iconic Lily impeller technology was featured in a major design exhibit at the New York Museum of Modern Art.





October 2, 2020

ALAINA HARKNESS Executive Director. Current



Alaina leads Current's work to build collaborations that advance innovative solutions to water challenges. She most recently served as managing director for the economic development firm RW Ventures, where she helped launch and lead the New Growth Innovation Network and developed inclusive growth strategies for cities and metropolitan regions. Prior, she held a research fellowship in urban governance at the Brookings Institution, led urban development strategy for the John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and staffed civic collaboratives: The Partnership for New Communities and 2016 Fund for Chicago Neighborhoods. Harkness is a nonresident fellow in the Global Cities program at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and has published research and commentary for the Brookings Institution, the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, and CityLab. She holds a B.A. in political science and art history from the University of Rochester, and master's degrees in public policy and Latin American Studies from the University of Chicago. Harkness serves on the boards of the CityTech Collaborative, Urban Initiatives, and Margaret's Village. She is a 2014 fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago.





October 2, 2020

MELISSA KLEMBARA

Technology Manager for the RAPID Institute and the Energy-Water Desalination Hub, U.S. Department of Energy



Melissa Klembara is a Technology Manager at the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office, where she is currently managing the National Alliance for Water Innovations (NAWI), a \$100 million early stage R&D consortium focused on developing clean water technologies. NAWI is led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory with NREL, ORNL and NETL along with over 180 alliance members. Klembara is also co-leading jointly funded efforts in AMO and BETO as part of the Plastics Innovation Challenge, including the Bio-Optimized Technologies to keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment (BOTTLE) consortium led by NREL with ANL, SLAC, ORNL, and LANL. Previously, she managed the Manufacturing USA Institute in process intensification called RAPID, led by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Prior to joining AMO, Klembara spent 4 years as the Chief of Staff for both the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Renewable Power. She holds a B.S. in chemical engineer from the University of Maryland as well as two master's degrees from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.





October 2, 2020

KATIE KOLLHOFF Co-Founder & CEO. NUMiX Materials



While completing a Master of Engineering Management degree at Northwestern University, Katie Kollhoff leads the NUMiX Materials team in business development, external partnerships, and company management. She is a chemical engineer with over a decade of experience in chemical process safety and process performance analysis for clients ranging from chemical process industries to major food processing to research and development at the lab scale. Her career has been built around protecting communities and the environment through safe handling of toxic materials. She is known for developing reasonable solutions to compliance with complicated federal, state and local rules while meeting business goals and keeping workers safe. Tackling big, worthwhile problems with a notable effect on people and the planet is her passion.





October 2, 2020

PAUL WESTERHOFF

Regents Professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, Arizona State University



Paul Westerhoff is a Regents Professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, and member of the civil, environmental and sustainable engineering faculty, at Arizona State University. Professor Westerhoff joined ASU in August 1995 and was promoted to full professor as a University Exemplar in 2007. He served as department chair in civil and environmental engineering and was the founding director for the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment.

Professor Westerhoff has a strong publication and research record, has garnered wide recognition for his work related to treatment and occurrence of emerging contaminants in water, and has been active in multidisciplinary research. He has led research investigating the fate of nanomaterials in water, use of nanomaterial-based technologies for water and reuse treatment, reactions and fate of oxo-anions (bromate, nitrate, arsenate) during water treatment, characterization, treatment and oxidation of natural organic matter in watersheds, formation of disinfection by-products, removal of taste and odor micropollutants. He currently is co-chair of the U.S.-European Exposure Community of Researchers. Westerhoff has received several research awards including the 2018 WEF Fair Distinguished Engineering Educator Medal, in 2018 became an International Water Association (IWA) Fellow, 2017 Sustainable Nanotechnology Organization (SNO) Achievement Award, the 2006 WEF Paul L. Busch Award. He is currently the deputy director of the NSF-funded Nanosystems Engineering Research Center for Nanotechnology Enabled Water Treatment (NEWT).



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October 2, 2020

JEFFREY WILBUR

RO/NF Membrane Chemistry Manager, DuPont Water Solutions



Jeff Wilbur is R&D Manager for the RO & NF Membrane Chemistry group in DuPont Water Solutions. He was previously a Core R&D scientist and Program Leader at The Dow Chemical Company. At Dow, he worked with the Energy and Water Solutions, Dow Coating Materials, Dow Performance Materials, and Dow Plastic Additives businesses, supporting product development with fundamental materials science and polymer physics. Wilbur has been a chair of the AIChE International Society for Water Solutions since 2018, and has been the recipient of two R&D 100 awards, a Bronze Edison Award, an ICIS Innovation Award, and a Business Intelligence Group Sustainability Award. He received a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Nitash Balsara's group at UC Berkeley in 2008 and a BS in Chemical Engineering from Yale University in 2002.

