



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
TELEPHONE (530) 752-0586
FAX (530) 752-7872

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-5294

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On behalf of *Water Research*, we would like to bring to your attention a Special Issue that will be published by the journal focusing on cross-validation of methods for the detection and quantification of microbial pathogens and indicators of fecal pollution. Microbial source identifiers are explicitly included among fecal indicators. The emphasis of the Special Issue is on the practicality of molecular-based methods and how they relate to one another and traditional methods that tend to focus on fecal indicator bacteria (FIB). *Water Research* plans to publish a second special issue in 2010 with field studies involving validated detection methods.

Submissions are invited for the present Special Issue that compare multiple methods in a given sample matrix including freshwater, seawater, and treated water. Also considered will be solid matrices that are in frequent contact with water like sediments and beach sand. As responsible editors we are now soliciting papers that cover topics including:

- **comparison** of newly-developed molecular methods to detect pathogens and indicators with traditional FIB-based methods in a variety of aqueous environments;
- **cross-comparison** of newly-developed and existing molecular methods to detect pathogens and indicators with traditional FIB-based methods in a variety of aqueous environments;
- **intercomparison studies** including different laboratories employing the same methods on a specific sample matrix, **one laboratory employing** different methods on the same matrix, or a combination of both; and
- **comparison** of molecular and other (e.g. growth-based, microscopic) methods to detect pathogens.

We strongly recommend that potential authors send abstracts to the editor listed below before submitting a full paper.

Stefan Wuertz
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
One Shields Avenue
University of California
Davis, CA 95616
swuertz@ucdavis.edu; fax +1 530-752-7872

Manuscripts will be reviewed with the same rigor as for all submissions to *Water Research*. Reviews must convey a significant synthesis of scientific and technological advances in the field. **Editor approved full manuscripts must be submitted to the Electronic Submission System (<http://ees.elsevier.com/wr/>) by March 1, 2009, to be considered.** Publication of the Special Issue is tentatively scheduled for October 2009. It is important to indicate in your cover letter that the paper is for the *Cross-validation of detection methods for pathogens and fecal indicators* special issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact **us** if you have questions about the special issue.

Sincerely,

Stefan Wuertz, UC Davis, U.S.A.

Maria Reis, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal