Pathogens 101

Every year, thousands of individuals become ill as a result of consuming contaminated drinking water; most of these outbreaks are caused by microorganisms. This presentation will introduce the bacteria, viruses, and parasites that are most commonly associated with waterborne disease in the United States. The means by which they contaminate sources of drinking water, the measures that are taken to try to prevent their presence in drinking water, and the applicable regulations will be presented. A brief description of some of the methods used to detect microorganisms in water will also be discussed.

About the Speaker

Dr. Marylynn Yates is the Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of California-Riverside. Dr. Yates conducts research in the area of water and wastewater microbiology. Her research focuses on assessing the potential for the contamination of water by human pathogenic microorganisms. As the intentional use of reclaimed water and biosolids (which may contain pathogenic microorganisms) increases, it is necessary to understand the potential impacts of these practices on public health.

Questions? Contact Dr. Erin Dreelin dreelin@msu.edu