

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ANNOUNCING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
MICROBIAL TRANSPORT AND SURVIVAL IN POROUS MEDIA**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – Many outbreaks of waterborne illness caused by viral and bacterial agents can be attributed to subsurface contamination. However, satisfactory mitigation strategies to reduce the likelihood of subsurface contamination by pathogens are still lacking in part because their transport and survival must be better understood.

The Canadian Water Network, Brace Centre for Water Resources Management, and National Water Research Institute (U.S.) will hold the “First International Conference on Microbial Transport and Survival in Porous Media” to advance our understanding of the transport and survival of microorganisms (particularly, pathogens) in subsurface environments and the associated risk of pathogen contamination in groundwater.

The Conference will be held on May 10-13, 2009, at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, Canada. Regulators, academics, stakeholders, and others interested in microbial fate and transport are invited to attend.

Plenary Speakers include:

- Dr. Charles O’Melia, Johns Hopkins University, *Particle and Pathogen Passage through Porous Media*
- Dr. Menachem Elimelech, Yale University, *Deposition of Motile/Non-Motile Bacteria onto Conditioning Films*
- Dr. Ronald Harvey, U.S. Geological Survey, *Bacterial Chemotaxis Relative to Advective Subsurface Transport and Dispersion in Bioremediation*
- Dr. Charles Gerba, University of Arizona, *Molecular Mechanisms Involved in the Survival and Transport of Viruses through the Subsurface*
- Dr. Joan Rose, Michigan State University, *Water Quality and Health in the Rural Environment*

(MORE)

Sessions include presentations on: the transport of colloids and microorganisms in granular, unsaturated, and fractured media; groundwater under the direct influence; microscale investigations of colloid and microbe transport; and a regulatory roundtable discussion, among others.

Early registration ends April 3, 2009. For more information about the conference (including the preliminary program) or to register, please visit www.regonline.com/microbialtransport.

A 501c3 nonprofit, the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) was founded in 1991 by a group of California water and wastewater agencies in partnership with the Joan Irvine Smith and Athalie R. Clarke Foundation to promote the protection, maintenance, and restoration of water supplies and to protect the freshwater and marine environments through the development of cooperative research work. NWRI's member agencies include Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Irvine Ranch Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Water District, and West Basin Municipal Water District.

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