31ST ANNUAL SERIES

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Monthly Conference Series | Dialogue No. 205

Friday, September 23, 2022, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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Meeting ID: 989 1185 8297 Passcode: 742925

Sewer Science: Wastewater Analysis for Public Health

Christopher Mason, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, and
Helena Solo-Gabriele, PhD, University of Miami

Detection of poliovirus in New York's wastewater has refocused interest in the value of such sampling in public health surveillance. The University of Miami and Weill Cornell Medicine are partners on one of several NIH-funded initiatives to study the utility of wastewater sampling as both an early-warning system and ongoing monitoring tool for contagion management, especially regarding COVID-19. The Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) project links wastewater analysis and bioinformatics and has led to useful data on UM campuses and in the larger community. The project raises numerous issues related to privacy, the responsible conduct of research and public communication about science.

Dr. Mason is Professor of Computational Genomics in Computational Biomedicine in the Institute for Computational Biomedicine at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York and an Affiliate Fellow of Genomics, Ethics, and Law, Yale Law School. He is the author of *The Next 500 Years: Engineering Life to Reach New Worlds* (MIT Press). Dr. Solo-Gabriele is UM Professor of Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering. Her research has focused on the relationship between the environment and human health and included evaluating the effects of chemicals in the environment and of microbial contaminants. Drs. Mason and Solo-Gabriele are leaders of a key RADx study site.

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