

**EUROqCHARM**

EUROpean quality Controlled Harmonization Assuring Reproducible Monitoring and  
assessment of plastic pollution



## Final Conference Speaker Biographies

**Wednesday-Thursday, 11-12 October 2023**



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## About EUROqCHARM

This document is part of a project that has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action programme under Grant Agreement 101003805 (EUROqCHARM).

Plastic pollution has become a global environmental and societal concern in recent years. Numerous protocols have been developed to monitor plastic debris, but these are rarely comparable. This has hindered gathering of knowledge regarding pollution sources, development of monitoring programmes and risk assessments and implementation of mitigation measures. To develop long-term solutions to reduce plastic pollution, it is essential to establish harmonised methodologies. EUROqCHARM will address this by critically reviewing state-of-the-art analytical methods and, taking harmonisation one step further, validating them through an interlaboratory comparison (ILC) study. This will bring together prominent laboratories in environmental plastics analysis and will produce certified reference materials to be marketed for at least three of the four target matrices (water, soil/sediment, biota, air), during and after project completion.

EUROqCHARM recognises that harmonisation for large scale monitoring requires flexibility, comparability and reliability. We will identify Reproducible Analytical Pipelines (RAP), resulting in a catalogue of RAP procedures for nano-, micro- and macro-plastics for the four target matrices. Each RAP will be validated in terms of Technology Readiness Level to decide if further validation is needed (by ILC).

Blueprints for standards, recommendations for policy and legislation and support for the establishment of acceptable reference levels and environmental targets will be given. This will include a roadmap for harmonised data collection and management, where policy analysis and coherence will be integral parts. To maximise impact, EUROqCHARM will also establish and consolidate an operational network for plastic monitoring, stimulating Transnational Joint Actions built on existing and future European and international initiatives.

The multi-stakeholder composition of EUROqCHARM puts the group in a unique position to achieve these ambitious goals.

More information on the project can be found at: [www.EUROqCHARM.eu](http://www.EUROqCHARM.eu)

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## 1. Day 1 – Wednesday, 11 October 2023

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### 1.1. Speakers

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**Anders Eide**

Ambassador of Norway to the European Union

**Arnoldas MILUKAS**

Head of Unit REA.B.3 "Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment"

Since April 2021, Mr Milukas is leading Unit B.3 "Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment" at REA. The unit implements, on behalf of the European Commission, part of Horizon Europe Cluster 6, in particular "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, Agriculture and Environment", mainly under Destination 1 "Biodiversity and ecosystems", Destination 3 "Circular economy and bioeconomy", and Destination 4 "Clean environment and zero pollution".

In addition, the unit manages, on behalf of European Commission, the majority of Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 "Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials", a part of Societal Challenge 2 "Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the Bioeconomy" and parts of the H2020 Work Programme related to various Cross-Cutting issues.

From January 2014 to April 2021, Arnoldas Milukas was leading Unit B.2 "H2020 Environment and Resources" at the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), which main task was implementation of the Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 5. The unit was also collaborating with other relevant parts of the Horizon 2020 and LIFE programmes, as well as provides the European Commission with input and support for its policy making to underpin sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Europe.

Before that period, Mr Milukas was seconded to EASME from DG Research and Innovation (DG R&I), where – since 2005 – he worked as an official of the EU. He started as a Head of Unit responsible for Strategy and Policy in the Transport Directorate, and five years later, he became Head of Unit for Management of Natural Resources in the Environment Directorate.

Arnoldas Milukas completed mechanical engineering studies at Lithuanian Agriculture Academy and holds Master degree in International trade from Vilnius University.



**Martin Policar**

Policy Officer at Circular Economy & Bio-based Systems unit, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Martin works in the Unit’s Circular Economy team and is leading the process of multi-annual programming for the priority sectors of the Circular Economy Action Plan (i.e., plastics, textiles, construction, electronics, etc.). He contributes to the programming of Horizon Europe calls in the Intervention area 7 of Cluster 6 within the context of circular economy. The main area of research focus is societal change through targeted R&I funding via calls on territorial deployment, integrated value chains, and the involvement of consumers and civil society. Before joining the European Commission DG R&I, Martin worked in the plastics converting and recycling industry where he focused on sustainability of construction products and food contact packaging.



**Marianne Olsen**

Research Director, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)



**Bert van Bavel**

Chief Scientist, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)

Professor Bert van Bavel is a chief scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) and internationally leading researcher in the field of chemical analysis of environmental pollutants and quality control. He is the co-author of more than 300 publications in environmental chemistry including several key articles on brominated flame retardants, organic fluorine compounds, microplastics in the environment and QA/QC. He has worked for UNEP as an expert leading UN laboratory inspection to assess existing capacity and building needs to analyze POPs in

developing countries. He has led numerous national and international projects and EU projects, most recently he is coordinator of the EU project EUROqCHARM (European Quality Controlled Harmonization Assuring Reproducible Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Pollution), interlaboratory comparison studies on microplastics for the QASIMEME program and Norway's national monitoring of microplastic in the Norwegian environment. He is furthermore a board member of the NORMAN network and Norway's representative of ISO technical committee 147/SC 2JWG 1.

**Carla Friedrich Medina**

Programme Management Officer for Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Carla Friedrich joined UNEP's Source to Sea Pollution Unit in May of 2021, working primarily on marine litter and plastic pollution. Since 2012, she had coordinated the North America Office's work on ecosystems and on chemicals and waste. Before joining UNEP, she worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water and previously served as the environmental coordinator of the "Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña," a waterway restoration and urban/social development initiative of the government of Puerto Rico. Carla has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico and two Master's degrees, the first in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, and the second in International Health from the Charité Medical School of Humboldt University and Free University in Berlin, Germany.

**François Galgani**

Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la MER (IFREMER)

François Galgani is project manager at Ifremer, specializing in the marine environment and ocean pollution. He has worked in various laboratories (Tokyo University of Fisheries, Stanford University, CNRS, IFREMER), and has coordinated the work of many international expert groups for scientific institutions ( ICES, CIESM), the United Nations and regional Sea conventions (IOC/GESAMP; OSPAR/ ICGML Sea turtles expert group; UNEP MAP/ CORMON), and the European commission (EU/MSFD/ TG ML, 2010-2022). He participated in many global initiatives ( G7, G20, UNEA Science Advisory committee for Plastic pollution), and has been board member (2019-2021) for the EU /Horizon Europe mission "Restore our oceans and waters". He has authored more than 185 scientific papers, is acting as editor in chief for the international journal Marine Pollution Bulletin, and was responsible for the chapter "marine Litter" of the United Nations Ocean Assessment (WOA II) in 2021.

**Georg Hanke**

European Commission Joint Research Centre

**Dr. Amy Lusher**

Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)

Dr. Amy Lusher is a Senior Researcher Scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA). She is the Scientific Project Manager of EUROqCHARM. Amy's core research focuses on method optimisation and harmonisation to generate comparable data. Her scientific expertise in EUROqCHARM has therefore been directed towards WP1 (methods) and WP3 (harmonisation). More broadly, she works across environmental matrices, with a vested interest in Arctic regions and ensuring methods for monitoring are accessible for all interested users. Dr Lusher has been engaged in method harmonisation activities across EU and global actions, including OSPAR, ICES, AMAP, FAO and GESAMP working groups. Currently, she is an expertise advisor for activities under the Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Dr Lusher's influence and expertise in microplastics has been demonstrated through being awarded Highly Cited Researcher by Clarivate for the last three years.

**Amy V. Uhrin, Ph.D.**

NOAA Marine Debris Program

Dr. Uhrin is a marine ecologist with over 20 years of experience in science and government. She received a B.S. in biology from St. Bonaventure University, a M.S. in biological oceanography from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, and a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is known for her work on disturbance dynamics and restoration in seagrass landscapes as well as the prevalence and impacts of derelict fishing gear in marine and coastal habitats. Dr. Uhrin serves as the Chief Scientist of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She is responsible for developing and implementing the Program's Strategic Research Plan, overseeing the Program's diverse research portfolio, and leading internal research projects as well as overseeing external research projects funded by the Program. Dr. Uhrin has served on several national and international expert working groups about plastic pollution and is regularly asked to provide scientific input and support to a number of national and international agencies and intergovernmental organizations which have included the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, US State Department, US Agency for International Development, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science & Technology, European

Union Technical Group on Marine Litter, EUROqCHARM Consortium and the UN Environment Programme.



**Noriko TAMIYA-HASE**

Deputy Director, Office of Policies against Marine Plastics Pollution, Marine Environment Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

She received a doctor's degree in Law at Environmental Study. She has served at various organizations, including a non-governmental organization, UN organization, and the governmental organizations working for environmental protection.

She is currently in charge of policies and measures against marine plastics pollution, including a monitoring, an inventory development, and an impact assessment of marine litters and plastics in environment.



**Inger Lise Nerland Bråte**

Norwegian Environment Agency

Inger Lise works at the Norwegian Environment Agency with waste related issues, with a special focus on plastic waste, monitoring and how to translate the scientific knowledge into regulations and mitigation actions. She has a background from science being an ecotoxicologist from the University of Oslo and has for the last ten years worked with plastic related issues. She holds a Ph.D. in effects and occurrence of microplastics in the marine environment, where also standardisation and harmonisation of plastic and microplastic research has been a key component.

## 1.2. Moderators

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**Bavo De Witte**

Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)



**Stefano Aliani**

Institute Marine Science (CNR)

Stefano Aliani is Research Director at the Institute of Marine Science of CNR in Lerici, Italy and is the Leader of the Group on Environmental Plastics. He also is one of the vice presidents of SCOR and the Italian representative.

His research covers aspects of physical oceanography and ecology and focuses on how physical patterns affect the functioning of marine ecosystems. He has been studying the abundance of distribution of marine debris and their ecological processes since 90ties. He also serves in many scientific panels on marine plastics as well as editor of scientific journals. He wrote the first paper in the world on marine litter and ocean modelling ([doi.org/10.1023/B:HYDR.0000008480.95045.26](https://doi.org/10.1023/B:HYDR.0000008480.95045.26)). In he was awarded with the prize “Change the world one article at the time”: the Editors-in-Chief of Springer Nature journals across disciplines selected the scientific findings published in 2016 that they believe could have the greatest impact on society’s most urgent problems.

He has been involved in many panels and steering committees at national, European and global level and is one of the first prospers of IMDOS. He regularly communicated scientific results with media and was author and presenter of TV documentaries and science dissemination programs.

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## 2. Day 2 – Thursday, 12 October 2023

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### 2.1. Speakers

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**Håkan Emteborg**

Scientific/Technical Project Manager, European Commission,  
Directorate General Joint Research Centre

Håkan Emteborg has a PhD in analytical chemistry from Umeå University, Sweden (1995). As of 1996 onwards, he gained experience from both academia and research institutes following postdocs in Belgium and Spain. He also worked for LECO Corporation and ABB Corporate Research in Sweden for a number of years. In 2003, he joined the Reference Material Unit at the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre in Geel, Belgium on a permanent basis. Since 2005, he is managing the reference material processing facility and since 2018 the Reference Material Production Laboratory. His main research interests are focussed on the development of new innovative types of reference materials and process analytical techniques. During the last years, microplastics Reference Materials have been among such innovative materials developments encompassing both

processing techniques and measurement techniques. Emteborg is author/ co-author of more than 80 scientific publications.



**Kamel Labibes, Ph.D.**

Ayam Sailing Europe AISBL (ASE)

Dr. Kamel Labibes is the Founder and Chairman of Ayam Sailing Europe, an NGO dedicated to youth empowerment through sailing. With a background in science, he has extensive involvement in large-scale research projects spanning various disciplines and EU countries. He holds four international patents used for co-founding a JRC spin-off in Ispra, Italy, where he served as a laboratory manager. Dr. Kamel Labibes is the initiator of the citizen science initiative Erasmus Maris, focusing on empowering science teachers in upper-secondary schools to co-create knowledge related to marine conservation and engage their students in citizen science campaigns. He led and coordinated two EC-funded projects in which the Erasmus Maris concept was tested and demonstrated, addressing the critical issue of microplastic pollution. In view of implementing the concept EU-wide, Kamel pioneered collaborative efforts with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre to address the issue of Quality Assurance and Quality Control within the citizen science paradigm.



**Florian Lahrouch**

AFNOR Normalisation

After completing a PhD in chemistry, Lahrouch was in charge of a research project focused on the characterization of uranium in mining soils and waste, having a uranium contamination. Currently, Lahrouch works as project manager in standardization in charge of committees at the international (ISO), European (CEN) and French levels developing standards for environmental testing methods related to ecotoxicological, physical and chemical analyses.



**Nizar Benismail**

Head of Nestlé Quality Assurance Center Vittel

Nizar Benismail hold a PhD in physical chemistry and Executive MBA in France. He has more than 25 years’ experience leading teams in the field of analytical sciences, R&D and contaminants applying across different industries, such as petrochemical, food, feed, hospital health, animal health, environment and water domains.

Since 2013, Nizar has held the position of Head of the Nestlé Quality Assurance Center (NQAC) Vittel, the central laboratory of Nestle Waters in the field of water, beverage & packaging quality.

Additionally, he is an ISO17025 laboratory auditor for national accreditation bodies for more than 15 years. His involvement as an international expert in ISO/TC 147, specifically in the "Water Quality" normalization committees, encompasses a wide range of regulated and emerging contaminants. Furthermore, he serves as the Convenor of the ISO/TC 147/SC 2/JWG 1 on Microplastics topic and as project leader for the forthcoming ISO 16094-2 standard which pertains to the analysis of microplastics in water through spectroscopic methods.

**Marie-Louise Tambo Magni**

Chiron AS

Marie-Louise Tambo Magni is a Research Scientist at Chiron AS, currently working on multiple microplastic projects: EUROqCHARM and MicroPRefs. Magni joined Chiron in 2021 and has since worked on a broad spectrum of microplastic certification aspects; development, production, analysis, and quality control, as well as certification of both clean room environments and reference materials (ISO 17025/17034). Within EUROqCHARM, Magni is working towards certifying microplastic standards, both as neat material and in the form of effervescent tablets.

Magni has a master's degree in analytical chemistry of natural polymers, in which she explored the use of pyrolysis-GC/MS on complex natural samples. Parts of her five-year integrated degree was carried out at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), and she graduated from the Norwegian University of Technology and Science (NTNU) in 2020.

Recently, Magni contributed to a "Paper in Forefront" in the journal of Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry: *Innovative reference materials for method validation in microplastic analysis including interlaboratory comparison exercises* (Martínez-Francés et.al., 2023).

**Alessandra Giorgetti**

National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS)

**Guillaume Drillet**

Regional Manager for Marine Services at SGS

Guillaume Drillet draws from his life experiences in building teams and coordinating projects related to coastal and marine activities to support governments and industries in defining and meeting their environmental health and safety targets. He is the Asia-Pacific Manager for the Global Marine Services at SGS (Industries & Environments).

His portfolio includes environmental monitoring and environmental risk (coastal waters and sediments, microplastics, aquaculture), monitoring of discharges incidental to shipping (ballast water, gray, bilge, washwater...); as well as monitoring services to support optimal living conditions onboard ships (indoor air, drinking water, noise, hygiene...etc). Guillaume is the chair of the Global TestNet since 2016 (NGO with consultative status at IMO) and occasionally acts a consultant to the IMO/WMU/Regional bodies on projects dealing with port surveys, risk management, ballast water, and Anti-Fouling System. In 2016, Guillaume was elected President of the World Aquaculture Society for Asia-Pacific and recently shifted to seat in the WAS board of Director.

He keeps as a priority to support the development of programs and sharing of information to encourage the sustainable use of oceans. In 2018 and 2020 he chaired roundtables on plastics management and micro-plastics studies (in Shipping and Aquaculture, respectively). Guillaume holds a PhD in life sciences from Denmark and received the Young Elite Scientist Award from the Danish Ministry of Independent Research in 2011. He continues to deliver lectures in academia and to global organization. He is an ambassador to the Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau for his commitment to the organization of international scientific/technical events (e.g. ICBWM, WAS, SETAC...).

**Gábor BORDÓS**

Eurofins Analytical Services Hungary

Gábor Bordós started his scientific career back in 2011 with the investigation of the degradation of different plastic films. During 2013-2015 he was working as a health, safety & environmental coordinator for a multinational company employing over 1000 workers. In 2015 he started to work in the former Wessling Hungary Ltd, currently known as Eurofins Analytical Services Hungary as project manager for different environmental remediation and water quality monitoring projects. Parallel to his daily work during a PhD course in environmental sciences his research was focusing on microplastics, especially in the freshwater systems of the Danube Region. He built up microplastic sampling and analysis capacity in Hungary step by step. As a result, he developed know-hows for sampling and

sample preparation and he built up a team working currently in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Since then, he presented their work on several international conferences and published many of their results in top rated journals. He is committed towards high quality services and standardisation on the field of microplastic sampling and analysis.

**Camilla Carteny**

Plastics Europe

Camilla Carteny is Technical Project Manager at Plastics Europe, the pan-European trade association of plastics manufacturers. Her main topic of expertise within the association is nano- and microplastics, both in a human health and environmental context. She joined Plastics Europe in 2021, having previously worked in academia on a number of international publicly funded scientific research projects related to microplastics.

Camilla is a Marine Biologist with a background in Aquatic Toxicology. She performed her PhD research at the University of Antwerp, within a project dedicated to microplastics and conventional and biodegradable polymers' behaviour in the marine environment.

**Artur Palacz**

International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project, Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences, Sopot, Poland

Artur holds a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Maine in Orono (USA). As an oceanographer, he took advantage of this transdisciplinary education to explore innovative approaches to combining multi-platform ocean observations with ecosystem model results while contributing to numerous international projects, and providing scientific advice. Since 2016, Artur has been working as a researcher at the Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences in Poland and Project Officer of the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project, providing coordination and communication support for the marine biogeochemistry observing community, and more broadly for the Global Ocean Observing System. Since 2019, Artur has also been contributing to the establishment of global coordination of marine debris monitoring, supporting efforts to implement the ambitious vision for an Integrated Marine Debris Observing System.

**Elena Stoica**

Senior Research Scientist, National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” (NIMRD), Constanta, Romania

Stoica holds a PhD in Biology (2003); main expertise in the field of marine biology, environmental monitoring, management and protection of Black Sea coastal ecosystem; has received several international grants and awards (e.g. SCOPES Grant 2011, 2003, ESF Exchange Grant 2009, CMORE-SOEST Fellowship 2008, Marie Curie IEF 2007, etc.); working on marine litter and microplastic related national and international projects, with important awareness-raising and educational activities in the past 5 years (EMBLAS, ANEMONE, LitOUTer, EMODnet CHEMISTRY, DOORS-Black Sea) as member team and PI.

Dr. Stoica is national responsible for Descriptor 10 - Marine Litter in Romania and is the leader of Marine Litter and Plastic Research Group at NIMRD. Since 2016 she was nominated as National Expert for the Black Sea Commission in marine litter. She also is expert of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter (MSFD TG ML), the Interest Group Plastics (IGP), and the EEA Marine Litter Watch community.

**Marinella Farré**

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

**Vladimir Nikiforov**

Senior Scientist, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)

Dr. Vladimir Nikiforov was born in St.Petersburg, Russia in 1965. He graduated from A.A. Zhdanoff Leningrad State University, Dept. of chemistry in 1986 and got a Ph.D from the same university in 1990. He is physical organic and synthetic organic chemist by background. He spent most of his carrier in the home university, then moved to St.Petersburg Center for ecological safety before he joined NILU in 2014. His research interests are emerging pollutants, development of analytical methods and, in general, organic chemistry from single molecule to planetary level.

**Joan Fabres**

Senior Scientist, SALT Lofoten AS



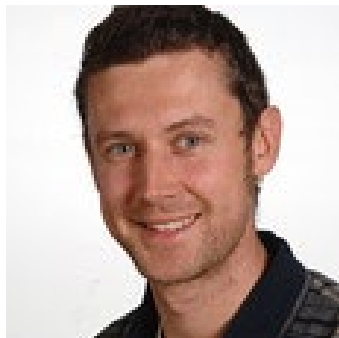
Joan has a Masters in Geology and a PhD in Marine Geology from the University of Barcelona. During the academic phase of his career, he participated in several international research projects within marine geology and chemical oceanography. He has used his researcher background working in the development cooperation arena and as consultant in knowledge-based organizations and companies. He has been one of the pioneers behind the inclusion of marine litter as a subject in the international development cooperation agenda.

Joan has extensively worked in promoting the policy uptake of research results in very different contexts, from the UN Environment Assembly, the EU Maritime Strategy Framework Directive, Arctic Council, to national regulations. He understands the importance of communicating technically complex information in easily understandable terms and of adapting the level of detail to the audience that is receiving it.

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**2.2. Moderators**

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**Ralf Kägi**

Eawag: Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology

Kägi holds a PhD in Geology and joined Eawag in 2006. Currently, Kägi serves as a Senior Scientist and Group Leader within the Department of Process Engineering at Eawag.

His research is centred on particulate contaminants in (waste)-water systems. To shed light on their fate and behaviour, my group utilizes a range of pilot managed waste facilities. These facilities, which encompass wastewater treatment and fluidized bed incineration facilities, serve as our laboratories, allowing us to mimic the behaviour of individual particulate contaminants within full-scale systems.

We integrate results from pilot- and lab-scale experiments with state-of-the-art analytical methods, including analytical electron microscopy and synchrotron spectroscopy to unravel underlying mechanisms leading to the transformation of particulate contaminants in managed waste facilities.

**Dorte Herzke**

Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)

Dr. Herzke is an environmental chemist, focusing her research on the measurement of microplastic and related chemicals. In the past 5 years she has been measuring MP in the atmosphere as well as using her expertise to understand the biological uptake of additives used in plastics. She has been working on tire wear particles for almost a decade, both improving our ability to measure them as well understanding their fate, transport and impact on the environment. Her new position at the Norwegian Institute for Public Health is enabling her to also include the impact of MP to human health into her work. Training and education of new generations of scientists is important to her, getting her to teach and supervise students at the Arctic University of Tromsø.





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