Organic micropollutants in New York inland lakes: A statewide survey and a case study

Abstract
Many contaminants are the subject of regulations that protect our water resources, but many more fall into the category of substances for which we do not know the answer to basic questions such as “how will these contaminants affect aquatic life”. Over the past two decades, the focus of water quality research in the U.S. has partly shifted towards organic micropollutants that are not typically targeted by pollution reduction initiatives and regulatory monitoring. The first half of this presentation will cover results and lessons learned from a citizen science-based survey of organic micropollutants in inland lakes across the New York State. The second half of this presentation will focus on a case investigation of organic micropollutants in Onondaga Lake, once the most polluted urban lake in the U.S., and its downstream river network.

About the Speaker: Dr. Teng Zeng is an assistant professor in the Department Civil and Environmental Engineering at Syracuse University. His group combines field sampling, organic trace analytics, and fate process modeling to study the behavior of organic pollutants in natural aquatic systems and water treatment facilities. He teaches drinking water/wastewater treatment, water quality modeling, and environmental organic chemistry at Syracuse. Dr. Zeng obtained his Ph.D. degree in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota.