



## OCACS Joint Local Section and Environmental Group Virtual Presentation

### COVID-19 RNA Surveillance in Wastewater: A novel application of wastewater epidemiology tracking Akin Babatola, Laboratory/Env Compliance Manager, City of Santa Cruz

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm

#### Biography

Mr. Akin Babatola is the Laboratory/Environmental Compliance Manager, at City of Santa Cruz, and the Chair of Central Coast Long Term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN), a California Regional Waterboard mandated effluent and nearshore monitoring program of Central Coast California's POTWs and other dischargers into the Monterey Bay area. Akin has guided the City of Santa Cruz Environmental Laboratory into an elite municipal environmental laboratory with significant achievements in NPDES methods development and collaboration with other organizations. Previously he worked as Research Microbiologist/Lab Section Manager, City of San Jose Environmental Services Department Laboratory from 1993-2002. He is the past Chair of Water Environment Foundation Laboratory Practices Committee, 2008-2011; and winner of the Crystal Crucible Awards for Environmental Laboratory Management in 2003 (WEF/CWEA Award for Exemplary Laboratory Management), Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers (5S) in 2007 (WEF/CWEA Award for "Outstanding meritorious service") and WEF Volunteer Award in 2019.



#### Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique opportunities to test and utilize evolving monitoring technologies to trace, and predict infection trends on local

and regional levels. While wastewater surveillance had been applied to monitor pharmaceutical and narcotic uses there was no previous documentation of its utility in public health monitoring until the recent pandemic.

The City of Santa Cruz Environmental Laboratory, in cooperation with the Biobot project deployed the Biobot sampling protocol to support the County's efforts at monitoring the epidemic at a local level.

Data is presented on these efforts with the dividends of developing axes of cooperation among the County; the UCSC and the City's Environmental Laboratory:

- In understanding the spread; distribution and trends of the pandemic at a local level;
- And to develop tools and resources for the granularity needed in identifying the respective local wastewater users' and transient wastewater RNA loads in the wastewater system;
- To develop data-driven resource allocation plans for suspect and identified congregate settings of COVID-19 spreading in the County.

## Location

This is a virtual presentation. Registration/login instructions are below. Look forward to your participation.

## To Register or for more information

To obtain the **Zoom link** you must pre-register to ensure that only legitimate attendees will have access. Send an email to **[OCACS@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:OCACS@SBCGLOBAL.NET)** BY **NOON on Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup>**. to request access (do it now if you wish!) and the link will be sent directly to you personally.

Contact Dr. Ganesh Rajagopalan at [RGanesh@KennedyJenks.com](mailto:RGanesh@KennedyJenks.com) for additional information.

6 <b>C</b> Carbon 12.0107	1 <b>H</b> Hydrogen 1.00794	99 <b>Es</b> Einsteinium (252)
12 <b>Mg</b> Magnesium 24.3050	53 <b>I</b> Iodine 126.90447	16 <b>S</b> Sulfur 32.066
22 <b>Ti</b> Titanium 47.867	88 <b>Ra</b> Radium (226)	39 <b>Y</b> Yttrium 88.90585

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We would love to hear from you!

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