



General Meeting

Date: 15-16 March, 2024
Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Location: Canaan Valley Resort

AC-WATCH 2024

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE ON WASTEWATER TESTING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

INFORMATION

Location

AC-WaTCH 2024 brings together leaders in the field of wastewater testing and community health from West Virginia and the surrounding region. The 2024 meeting will be held in March at the beautiful [Canaan Valley Resort & State Park](#), located in the Canaan Valley of West Virginia. Nestled within the Allegheny Mountains, this unique 13 mile long upland valley just outside of Davis, WV offers unrivaled [natural beauty and outdoor recreation](#), including the Blackwater River and Canyon, Weiss Knob, and the Dolly Sods. Trails abound for hiking, biking, and skiing. Davis and nearby Parsons, WV are home to renowned [breweries and eateries](#) to delight the palate. In addition, the resort offers on-site accommodations, rustic cabins, and a full service restaurant.

Travel

Canaan Valley Resort is located at:

[230 Main Lodge Road](#)
[Davis, WV 26260](#)

Flights: The resort is 38 miles from [Elkins-Randolph County Regional Airport](#) (KEKN), 156 miles from [Pittsburgh International Airport](#) (PIT), and 165 miles from [Washington Dulles International Airport](#) (IAD). *Driving:* The resort is approximately 2 hours from West Virginia University, 2.75 hours from Charleston, and 3.5 hours from Marshall University by car.

Accommodations

Canaan Valley Resort offers a discounted room rate of \$129.84/night for conference attendees. **Please reserve your room by March 10 to take advantage of this discount.** This applies to both Thursday and Friday night stays, and most room types.

To reserve your room online, please use the booking link below:

<https://www.canaanresort.com/book-now?pid=39452>

Be sure to adjust the dates of your stay if necessary, as the Web site defaults to a two-night stay. You may also reserve a room by calling the resort at [\(800\) 622-4121](tel:8006224121) or emailing them at reservations@canaanresort.com.

Use the group code **1053OU** to take advantage of the discount. (Note: the second to last character in the code is the letter O and not the number 0.)

Posters & Talks

Posters will be set up Friday morning and remain up all day. There will be two dedicated blocks of time where you are asked to be available at or near your poster to answer questions. Posters should be no more than 36" wide and 46" tall. We will have pushpins available for you to hang your posters.

Speakers will be given 15 minutes to present their topic. We recommend 10-12 minutes for a presentation followed by 3-5 minutes for questions; however, the format is up to the individual speaker. Moderators will be responsible for ensuring that sessions run on time – please be respectful of your colleagues' time during the session. We will provide a cloud folder for you to upload any slides that may accompany your talk. Please let us know if you have any accommodation requests.

Contact

If you have questions about your hotel reservations, please contact Canaan Valley Resort directly at [\(800\) 622-4121](tel:8006224121). If you have questions about the conference itself, please contact Lauren Kennell, WaTCH project manager (ldiremi2@mail.wvu.edu) or Timothy Driscoll, project lead (timothy.driscoll@mail.wvu.edu).

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FRIDAY 15-MAR

Time	Event	Location	Facilitator
8:00-9:00	Breakfast	Hickory Dining Room	NA
	Poster setup	Pine Room	Timothy Driscoll
9:00-9:15	Opening Remarks	Pine Room	Timothy Driscoll
9:20-10:20	Session I. 4 talks. The WaTCH Project: Past, Present, & Future.	Pine Room	David Neff
10:30-11:15	Posters	Pine Room	NA
11:15-12:30	Session II. 5 talks. Wastewater & Clinical Testing: Better Together.	Pine Room	Gordon Smith
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Hickory Dining Room	NA
1:30-2:15	Mobile Lab Demo	Resort Parking Lot	Brian Lemme; Gabriel Zenny
2:30-3:30	Session III. 4 talks. The Science Behind Wastewater Testing.	Pine Room	Emily Garner
3:30-4:00	Posters	Pine Room	NA
4:00-5:00	Session IV. 4 talks. Wastewater Testing: How We Learn What We Learn.	Pine Room	Dominique Wong

5:00-5:15	Wrap up of General Meeting	Pine Room	Timothy Driscoll
5:30-7:00	Social Time	Pine Room	NA

SATURDAY 16-MAR

Time	Event	Location	Facilitator
8:00-9:00	Breakfast	Hickory Dining Room	NA
9:00-9:50	Modeling & Prediction	Pine Room, Front	Gordon Smith
	Genetic Targets & Sequencing	Pine Room, Back	Dominique Wong
10:00-10:50	Field Operations	Pine Room, Front	David Neff
	Visualization & Communication	Pine Room, Back	Timothy Driscoll
11:00-11:50	Education & Training	Pine Room	TBD

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PRESENTATIONS (FRIDAY)

SESSION I

THE WATCH PROJECT: PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE.

9:20 AM – 10:20 AM.

Moderator: David Neff, Marshall University.

Time	Speaker	Title
9:20-9:35	Gordon Smith West Virginia University	WaTCH-WV: A Compelling Origin Story.
9:35-9:50	Timothy Driscoll Associate Professor of Biology West Virginia University	Where We Are with WaTCH-WV.
9:50-10:05	Erica Bentley West Virginia University	Funding for WaTCH-WV: Past and Future.
10:05-10:20	Dominique Wong	Linking WaTCH and Clinical Data.

SESSION II

WASTEWATER & CLINICAL TESTING: BETTER TOGETHER.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM.

Moderator: Gordon Smith, West Virginia University.

Time	Speaker	Title
11:15-11:30	Lee Orr Readiness Coordinator West Virginia Department of Health & Human Services	West Virginia Department of Health - Wastewater Testing.

11:30-11:45	TBD	<i>(Respiratory Illness Tracking in WV.)</i>
11:45-12:15	John Twist West Virginia University <i>and</i> Caroline Groth West Virginia University	An Analysis of Wastewater Viral Load and COVID Cases. <i>and</i> Bayesian Modeling: What, Where, and When?
12:15-12:30	Minu Kesheri Marshall University	Wastewater Surveillance as a Promising Treasure for Tracking Community Health.

SESSION III

THE SCIENCE BEHIND WASTEWATER TESTING.

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM.

Moderator: Emily Garner, West Virginia University.

Time	Speaker	Title
2:30-2:45	Emily Garner West Virginia University	Demonstrating a comprehensive wastewater-based surveillance approach that differentiates globally sourced resistomes.
2:45-3:00	Sarah Kane GT Molecular, Inc.	HIV: Model for Developing a Wastewater Assay.
3:00-3:15	Sayed Mosavi Ceres Nanosciences	<i>TBD.</i>
3:15-3:30	Jo Tremmel Marshall University	Effects of pH, TDS, turbidity, and WWTP flow in relation to dilution series controls.

SESSION IV

WASTEWATER TESTING: HOW WE LEARN WHAT WE LEARN.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

Moderator: Dominique Wong.

Time	Speaker	Title
4:00-4:15	Eric Johnson Bio-Rad Technologies	Droplet Digital PCR - Expanding Our Capabilities in Wastewater Surveillance.
4:15-4:30	David Neff Marshall University	Tracking SARS-CoV-2 Variants in Wastewater using ddPCR.
4:30-4:45	Amy Jones West Virginia University	Sequencing SARS-CoV-2 from Wastewater: Library Preparation for the MinION Platform.
4:55-5:00	Victoria Verhoeve West Virginia University	Pipeline Development for Genetic Analysis of Viral Pathogens from Wastewater.