

Environmental Engineering Seminar

The Astani Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering presents



Issam Najm, PhD, PE
President
Water Quality Treatment Solutions, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019
Time: 4 – 5 pm
Place: MCB 102

Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water

Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic bacteria that form large blooms on surfaces of lakes and water bodies. They are commonly referred to as blue-green algae, though they are not algae. Unfortunately, cyanobacteria generate trace levels of chemicals, referred to as *cyanotoxins*, which are highly toxic to humans and animals at low microgram per liter levels. Since a 2014 cyanobacterial bloom in Lake Erie resulted in excessive cyanotoxin levels in the City of Toledo's drinking water, there has been a strong interest in understanding the fate of cyanotoxins through water treatment plants. This presentation will introduce cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins and will discuss how effective different water treatment processes are at removing different cyanotoxins from water.

About the Speaker: Issam Najm is the founder and president of Water Quality & Treatment Solutions, Inc. (WQTS), with 29 years of experience in environmental engineering and science. He specializes in the evaluation of water treatment technologies and their applications for specific water quality goals. He is a recognized national expert in the science and engineering of water treatment technologies. Dr. Najm is also an Adjunct Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UCLA where he teaches a class on physical and chemical processes in water treatment.