



Abdul Latif Jameel
Water & Food Systems Lab

Securing humankind's vital resources



WORLD WATER DAY 2023

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



WORLD WATER DAY 2023

**Accelerating change to
solve water issues**

J-WAFS strives to solve water challenges

J-WAFS is bringing attention to the worldwide water crisis & highlighting our work to help solve water issues.

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MIT News profiles J-WAFS PI studying drought

César Terrer and his lab are using satellites to monitor & predict effects of drought on plants.

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MIT Earth Day Student Poster Session

J-WAFS, MITEI, and ESI seek student research projects on water, food, energy, and the environment for an



MIT EARTH MONTH
STUDENT POSTER SESSION
"MIT RESEARCH FOR
A CHANGING PLANET"

APPLY TO PRESENT BY MARCH 24



LEARN MORE

WATER TRIVIA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF WATER-RELATED FACTS

True or False

Today, one in four people around the world lack safe drinking water.

ANSWER

How much

of all liquid freshwater on Earth is considered groundwater?

ANSWER

What percent

of water withdrawals are used for agriculture?

ANSWER

What year

was the first World Water Day observed?

ANSWER

J-WAFS students come together for a World Water Day event

To celebrate World Water Day, J-WAFS hosted a student research workshop earlier this week. MIT students in the J-WAFS community gathered for a networking lunch and to listen to presentations from three of their peers. The event was well attended by mostly PhD students. Many of the students reported that they value these opportunities to learn from one another and to engage with those doing research in other disciplines who are also motivated to address the world's water challenges.



The three student speakers were:

- Gokul Sampath, PhD student in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning working on water access and quality in developing countries
- Carolyn Sheline, PhD student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering working on drip irrigation
- Jonathan Bessette, PhD student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering working on desalination

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PFAS: Forever Chemicals

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals characterized by a strong bond between fluorine and carbon.

Also called "forever chemicals" because they take 1,000 years to break down in nature.

Products that may contain PFAS

- Stain-resistant fabric
- Waterproof clothing
- Non-stick cookware
- Fast food packaging
- Firefighting foam

What can we do?

- Avoid products w/ PFAS
- Limit or ban PFAS
- Phase out PFAS
- Educate others on PFAS

Why Should I care?

Health Problems Linked to PFAS

- Developmental delays
- Infertility & low birth weight
- Certain types of cancer
- Decreased vaccine response
- Thyroid & heart issues

What is J-WAFS Doing?

J-WAFS PI **Ariel Furst** is:

- Identifying molecular platforms for the degradation of PFAS based on biologically-scaffolded enzymes
- Developing pilot-scale systems for degrading these prevalent environmental pollutants & comparing performance with commercially available alternatives

PFAS: explanation, risks, and solutions

Learn more about PFAS and a J-WAFS PI who is working to address this threat.

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INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING J-WAFS?

When you make a gift, you are making an investment in both the future of J-WAFS and our Institute-wide work to improve the productivity, accessibility, and sustainability of the world's water and food systems.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

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J-WAFS is an Institute-wide effort that brings MIT's unique strengths to bear on the many challenges our food and water systems face.

Our program catalyzes MIT research, innovation, and technology for ensuring safe and resilient supplies of water and food while reducing environmental impact, to meet the local and global needs of a rapidly expanding and evolving population on a changing planet.



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