

The colloquium titled, "Global Issues in Microbiological Water Quality for the Next Century," focused on the needs—from policy and scientific viewpoints—concerning microbial risks in drinking water. Recognizing that the world's population continues to lack access to microbiologically safe drinking water, the colloquium concluded:

- The list of waterborne pathogens is increasing;

- Development, implementation, and maintenance of low-cost, low-technology water treatment systems are critical for reduction of global disease;

- Waterborne disease must be made reportable with active surveillance systems implemented;

- Improved risk assessment methodology and database development are needed;

- Individuals and officials must be educated about the social and economic burden of waterborne diseases; and

- Policies related to waterborne disease must be initiated to enable implementation of water treatment.

Inherent in these conclusions are multiple opportunities for the water treatment industry to take part in the reduction of widespread morbidity and mortality due to infectious diseases. Through product development and induced awareness, we may play an important role in focusing on the need to offer the world access to safe drinking water. G

References

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About the author

- Dr. Kelly A. Reynolds is a research scientist at the University of Arizona with a focus on the development of rapid methods for detecting human pathogenic viruses in drinking water. She also is a member of the WC&P Technical Review Committee.

If you have questions concerning this column or if there is a topic you would like addressed, please let us know. Contact Editors, WC&P, 2800 E. Fort Lowell, Tucson, AZ 85716; (520) 323-6144, (520) 323-7412 (fax); email: publico@azstarnet.com