

Tapping In

WATER INDUSTRY NEWS, AWARDS, AND TRAINING

RIVERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

River Studies Aim to Curb Drug-Resistant “Superbug” Infections



A new £1.2 million research project announced by the University of Birmingham is focused on the release of antibiotics into India’s rivers by manufacturers and the effects of these discharges on the spread of potentially fatal drug-resistant infections, according to a 6 Aug. 2020 article (<https://bit.ly/3kWMQSZ>) in the *Hindustan Times*.

To be conducted and funded jointly with experts from the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, and other participating UK universities, the project is part of a £8 million package of UK–India government-backed research aimed at furthering existing scientific research collaboration, including five new programs, to curb the presence of antimicrobial resistance. An estimated 58,000 infants die in India each year from “superbug” infections passed on from their mothers, according to the article.

Supported by the UK’s Natural Environment Research Council and India’s Department of Biotechnology, the cross-disciplinary team will sample and model the two contrasting river networks in India: the Musi River in Hyderabad, which has high concentrations of antibiotics released from production facilities, and the less-polluted Adyar River in Chennai. The team aims to learn how far resistant bacteria travel before they die or are eaten by other organisms in a unique combination of experiments, field sampling, and mathematical modelling of resistance dynamics and water flows.

AWWA

Smart Water Event Goes Virtual

AWWA announced its 9–11 Nov. 2020 AWWA | SWAN International Smart Water Symposium will proceed on schedule as a virtual event, according to a 13 Aug. letter (<https://news.awwa.org/326FTGj>) addressed to members from AWWA CEO David B. LaFrance. Originally scheduled to be held in Austin, Texas, the symposium will now be delivered “using a first-rate virtual platform,” states LaFrance’s letter, noting the learning approach is “a fitting way to deliver content on data-driven, digital solutions.” He acknowledged those who “worked very hard to develop what would have been a superb in-person event in Austin” and thanked all involved “for their commitment, professionalism, and perseverance in these difficult circumstances.” More details are available at <https://news.awwa.org/smart2020>.

SEA-LEVEL RISE

Study: Low-Lying Areas at Increasing Risk from Storm Surges

Much of the economic risk this century from sea-level rise, which scientists predict will engulf many low-lying coastal areas, will come from an accelerating threat: extreme high tides and storm surges with breaking waves that will reach farther inland, according to a new study published 30 July 2020 in *Scientific Reports* (<https://go.nature.com/34d9Lnq>). This risk of periodic flooding will affect tens of millions of people and trillions of dollars in assets around the world.

The study calculated that up to 171 million people living today face at least some risk of coastal flooding from high tides or storm surges created when strong winds from cyclones or other major storms pile up ocean water and push it onshore. Areas at particular risk include the Indian states West Bengal and Gujarat, along with Bangladesh, several US mid-Atlantic states, parts of northern Europe, and China’s southeastern coast.

EVENTS

Education and Training Opportunities

AWWA events set the industry standard in continuing education and cover the full spectrum of water industry topics. For more information, visit www.awwa.org.

CONFERENCES

- 23–24 Sept. **AWWA Virtual Summit**, <https://news.awwa.org/vsummit20>
- 10–11 Nov. **AWWA | SWAN International Smart Water Symposium**, <https://news.awwa.org/smart2020>

WEBINARS

- On Demand **AWWA COVID-19 Webinars**, <https://news.awwa.org/33A6aNG>
- 9 Sept. **Inland Desalination and Concentrate Management**
- 15 Sept. **Simple Cloud-based Strategies for Managing Asset Performance**
- 16 Sept. **Smart Water 2020: Building a Resilient Water Future**
- 29 Sept. **Metering Without a Hitch**
- 30 Sept. **Water Reuse: Back to the Basics**

ONLINE LEARNING

- On Demand Visit www.awwa.org/onlinecourses to see all learning options, including training and professional development, and CEU opportunities