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Current Launches 'Third Coast Water Seminar' Series

Five Local Institutions Partner to Propel the Region's Blue Economy:

Argonne National Laboratory, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and University of Illinois Chicago

Chicago, IL, September 14, 2020 — Current — in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Illinois Chicago — announces the launch of a monthly water research and innovation seminar series.

"There's an exciting momentum building in this region around the topic of water," said Seth Darling, director of the Center for Molecular Engineering at Argonne National Laboratory.

To spur collaboration and solve pressing water challenges, the Third Coast Water Seminars engage national and international leaders to share the latest research on water science and technologies with researchers and industry professionals in the Midwest.

"Improving connections among the academic community and entrepreneurs is a critical next step to realizing greater gains from the water knowledge and talent in the area," said Aaron Packman, director of Northwestern's Center for Water Research and a professor of civil and environmental engineering in the McCormick School of Engineering.

This new regional seminar reflects a conviction that Chicago's potential as a global leader in water innovation can only be fully realized through deep collaboration. The partner institutions are home to many leading water and wastewater researchers. The series will help build the capacity of the local water and wastewater communities to solve persistent challenges, including water quality, water scarcity and flooding at a time when climate fluctuations are testing the resilience of water infrastructure in the region.

"Record high water-levels in Lake Michigan provide a continuous challenge to the resilience of Chicago's coastline against wave action and erosion while making it more difficult to manage the Chicago River and the rest of the waterways during extreme storm events," said Marcelo Garcia, Director of the Ven Te Chow Hydrosystems Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The series launches during the first-ever Chicago Water Week (https://www.currentwater.org/chicago-water-week), a citywide celebration of Chicago's cross-sector water leadership organized by Current, Chicago's water innovation hub. "Current exists to spark and sustain these powerful problem solving partnerships," said Alaina Harkness, Executive Director of Current. "The Third Coast Water Seminars will become an anchor of our efforts to connect leading-edge water research to real-world applications."

Anyone interested in attending the September 30 seminar can register at https://third-coast-water-seminar-waterborne-disease.eventbrite.com. The series is free, but registration is required. Upcoming events and speakers in the series can be found at https://www.currentwater.org/events.

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ABOUT CURRENT Current's mission is to grow Chicago and Illinois' blue economy – the companies developing innovative water technologies and industries that use them – to build solutions that will solve the world's water challenges. Launched in 2016 as a nonprofit water innovation hub, Current is headquartered in Chicago, IL. We're a collaborative that leverages partnerships with the state's world-class utilities, research institutions, industries, and innovation community for global environmental and economic impacts. As a cross-sector connector of local and global water sector stakeholders, we build networks, organize events and convenings, and help develop pilot projects in real-world settings to solve persistent local water challenges.

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