



Kevin Francesconi is a graduate from Curtin University of Technology (B.Appl.Sci.) and from the University of Western Australia (Ph.D., organic chemistry). He worked for 20 years at the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories, first as an analytical chemist and then as a research scientist in environmental chemistry. In 1996, Dr Francesconi moved to the Ecotoxicology group at the University of Southern Denmark, before moving to Graz University in 2002 where he is presently Professor of Analytical Chemistry. Dr Francesconi's research has focused on the development and application of chemical and analytical methods for studying fundamental processes of biotransformation of metals in the environment and in organisms including man.



Dr Jon Chorover received a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry at University of California, Berkeley (1993) and then completed an NSF International Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Chemistry at University of Geneva, Switzerland (1994–1995). He was appointed Assistant and then Associate Professor of Environmental Soil Chemistry at the Pennsylvania State University (1995–2001) before moving to the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science at the University of Arizona in 2001, where he is currently Professor of Environmental Chemistry. He is currently chair of the Soil Chemistry Division of the International Union of Soil Sciences, and is actively involved in interdisciplinary and international working groups in environmental and earth sciences. At Arizona, Dr Chorover maintains an active research and teaching program focusing on soil chemistry and biogeochemistry, with an emphasis on how mineral–organic interactions influence the weathering of soils and the speciation of pollutants.



Dr Peter Croot is a marine biogeochemist who focuses on links between trace metal speciation, redox, photochemistry, and phytoplankton productivity in the ocean, with special emphasis on the Southern Ocean and the oxygen minimum zones in the Atlantic and Pacific. Dr Croot undertook his Ph.D. studies in the Chemistry Department at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. This was followed by post-doctoral studies at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (USA), Gothenburg University (Sweden), and at the NIOZ (Netherlands). Since 2002 Dr Croot has been a researcher in the Marine Biogeochemistry department at the IFM-GEOMAR in Kiel, Germany.



Ralf Ebinghaus (<http://coast.gkss.de/aos/staff/ebinghaus/index.html>) is an analytical and environmental chemist and head of the Department for Environmental Chemistry of the Institute for Coastal Research at GKSS Research Centre in Geesthacht near Hamburg. He is also Professor (h.c.) at the Faculty of Environmental Science at Leuphana University of Lüneburg. His research fields include transport, deposition, and air/sea-gas exchange of atmospheric trace constituents, such as mercury and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) with special emphasis on substances of emerging concern for the coastal, marine, and polar environment.

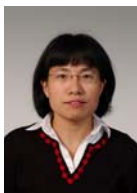


Jamie Lead is Professor of Environmental Nanoscience and Director of the UK national Facility for Environmental Nanoscience Analysis and Characterisation (FENAC) and is based at the University of Birmingham, UK. His research interests are in the fate, behaviour, and impacts of both natural and manufactured nanomaterials. In the former area he focuses on the structural and chemical relationship of nanomaterials to their effects on trace element chemistry. In the latter area, he is interested in manufactured nanomaterials as an important emerging pollutant and has interests that range from synthesis and characterization through to biouptake and toxicity to environmental biota and impacts on human health.



Kevin J. Wilkinson received a Ph.D. in Environmental Chemistry from the National Water Research Institute of the University of Quebec (INRS-Eau) in 1993. He continued his work at the University of Geneva as a post-doctoral fellow, lecturer, and senior lecturer prior to an

appointment at the University of Montreal in 2005. His research program is focused onto relating structure to function: both for environmental biopolymers and colloids and for trace element bioavailability/biouptake. His current research interests include: (i) relating (mechanistically) chemical speciation to bioavailability; (ii) developing and optimising novel analytical techniques for quantifying the bioavailability of contaminants; (iii) detecting, quantifying, and characterising nanoparticles in the environment; and (iv) determining the role of diffusion in complex environmental media (biofilms, flocs, sediments).



Dr Jian Zhen Yu is an atmospheric chemist in the Division of Environment and the Department of Chemistry at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology. She received a Ph.D. in Environmental Science & Technology (Atmospheric Chemistry program area) at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill in 1996. Her current research interests include: (i) developing analytical methods for atmospheric applications; (ii) characterising atmospheric aerosols, (iii) studying secondary organic aerosol formation mechanisms; and (iv) kinetic modelling of multi-phase atmospheric reactions.