



IN THE NEWS

APRIL 2020



J-WAFS-funded Researchers on Covid-19

Instead of our regular water and food news, this month we are highlighting how members of the J-WAFS research community are contributing their expertise to solve the coronavirus epidemic.

Water Equity Challenges Posted by Coronavirus

J-WAFS reflects on the potential public health consequences that can occur in communities around the world affected by Covid-19 when they don't have access to clean water.

[READ MORE](#)

Targeted Social Distancing for a Rapid Return to Work

Prof. Retsef Levi's *Boston Globe* op-ed recommends strategies to re-activate the economy while managing Covid-19.

[READ MORE](#)

Bulldoze the Curve or Let Covid-19 Simmer?

MIT Sloan's Chintan Vaishnav describes the potential for a continuum of mitigation approaches to the spread of the novel coronavirus in this opinion

Is it Really Hospitals vs. the Economy?

Prof. Retsef Levi reflects on how to manage the economic impacts of Covid-19 while still supporting the healthcare system in this *Boston Globe*

piece.

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op-ed.

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J-WAFS Solutions PI Susan Murcott on Covid-19

"My hope is that we can learn from this pandemic that we are all in this together. We must think globally if we are going to thrive."



Funding Opportunity: J-WAFS Grant for Transforming Animal Ag

Up to \$20K for MIT projects addressing problems of industrial animal food production. Deadline: 5/18 (*MIT only*)

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IN-DEPTH LOOK

CONVERGENCE RESEARCH FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

J-WAFS Convenes an International and Multi-Institutional Team of Researchers to Speed Food Systems Research Toward Climate Resilience

In 2019, J-WAFS launched the Alliance for Climate Change and Food Systems research, a multi-institutional and interdisciplinary collaboration. The Alliance now includes international representation across twelve research institutions that are leaders in food systems, agriculture, and innovation. The goal of the Alliance is to engage stakeholders along food systems value chains in order to better

understand the knowledge gaps and research and innovation needs at the nexus of climate and food systems.



Alliance members bring expertise across a wide range of complementary research areas, including agriculture, bioengineering, nutrition, climate science and modeling, engineering, social science, policy, and innovation systems. Combining their collective research strengths to identify concrete pathways for discovery and innovation will give stakeholders and funders a source of trusted science to inform their decision making, now and in a climate-changed future.

Find out more about the twelve institutions that are represented, and read about how the Alliance will support the resilience of the world's agriculture and food systems by generating meaningful knowledge and innovation aimed at mitigation as well as adaptation.

[READ MORE](#)

EVENTS

FOOD & WATER

Join the MIT Water Club's Virtual Event: The 2020 Water Innovation Prize Pitch Night

[Apr. 22 / 3 - 4:45 PM / *Online*](#)

The MIT Water Innovation Prize annual pitch competition is the culminating event of this year-long innovation competition. Seven student teams will present startup ideas aimed at solving a variety of significant water sector challenges. These teams will pitch to a panel of judges and compete for \$35,000 in cash awards. The event is **free**, and [registration is required](#).

Finalist teams include:

- **Aquagga:** Water treatment technology to remove toxic contaminants
- **Blue Tap:** 3D printing for low-cost water purification
- **Floe, LLC:** Energy efficient strategy to reduce water damage on roofs
- **Atailia Technologies:** Improving wastewater recycling and reuse
- **H2OK Innovations:** Machine learning for micro-contaminant monitoring
- **Preemar:** Improving aquaculture practices through machine learning
- **Aqualumos:** Leveraging light to clean drinking water
- **Harmony Water:** Improving desalination through better brine management
- **Purific:** Revolutionizing RO membrane cleaning practices

[MORE INFO and REGISTRATION](#)



Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize Pitch Night

Apr. 29 / 5 - 7:30 PM / *Private Online Event*

The concluding event of this annual student business plan competition, produced by the MIT Food and Agriculture Club, will gather eight finalist teams to pitch their food and agribusiness startup ideas to a panel of judges. Winners will receive up to \$30,000 in cash awards as well as unique networking opportunities with the prize sponsor, [Rabobank](#). Awardees to be announced next month.

Finalist teams include:

- **Antithesis Foods:** Tasty and sustainable alternative protein-based foods
- **BioEnergy Project:** Converting food waste to local, sustainable renewable energy
- **BIOMILQ:** Improving infant nutrition through cultured breastmilk
- **Motor Cortex:** Leveraging robotics and AI for horticultural labor
- **NAICHA:** Ready-to-drink organic probiotic boba milk tea
- **Purific:** Revolutionizing RO membrane cleaning practices
- **SHWAY:** Innovating bottled water with a closed-loop, plastic-free solution
- **SuperPet Foods:** Producing sustainable pet foods using alternative proteins

[MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING
AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Fellowships for Water Solutions

Deadline: Apr. 17, 2020

(Open to all MIT PhD Students)

MIT faculty: nominate an advanced PhD student pursuing exciting water sector research. These fellowships provide one-semester of funding.

[MORE INFO](#)

J-WAFS Grant for Transforming Animal Agriculture Systems

Deadline: May 18

(MIT Only)

Grants of up to \$20,000 to support innovative research solutions that will reduce problems associated with industrial animal food production.

[MORE INFO](#)

Water Resource Recovery Prize

Deadline: Apr. 28

(Open to All)

The US Department of Energy seeks proposals for projects that recover resources from municipal wastewater across the US. Up to \$1 million available.

[MORE INFO](#)

Millennium Fellowship

Deadline: Apr. 30

(Open to All Students)

This student leadership development program supports students working to implement UN sustainable development goals locally, among them: zero hunger, clean water, and climate action.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Solve Global Challenge: Sustainable Food Systems

Deadline: Jun. 18

(Open to All)

Submit your ideas for tech-based solutions for a low-carbon global food system providing nutrition with minimal environmental impact. Up to US \$1 million available.

[MORE INFO](#)

Sustainability Internship with Watts Water

Rolling Deadline

(Open to All)

Interns for this international water technology company will perform research and analysis focused on sustainable manufacturing processes.

For more information, contact Keith Kreyling:

keith.kreyling@wattswater.com

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.

DONATE ONLINE

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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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