



Second announcement of an upcoming conference
Karst, Groundwater Contamination, & Public Health: Moving Beyond Case Studies
 January 27-30, 2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

PURPOSE OF MEETING. This conference will bring together karst and public health scientists, regulators, and community groups to consider overlapping topics of concern. Public health issues for karst aquifers stem from the ease of introducing contaminants, the ubiquity of karst terrains worldwide, and pervasive use of karst groundwater for human consumption. The primary objective of the conference is to develop a systematic framework to address public health concerns arising from contaminant transport in karst groundwater. Specific aims for the meeting:

- (1) bring together experts from different fields for cross-fertilization;
- (2) develop a conceptual framework for how contaminants are transported in karst; and
- (3) identify particular adverse public-health outcomes and prevention strategies associated with acute and long-term exposures.

MEETING SCHEDULE.

Wednesday (1/27)	Opening reception, keynote talk
Thursday - Saturday (1/28-30)	Technical program with half-day field trip and closing banquet
Sunday – Monday (1/31-2/1)	Optional two-day field trip.

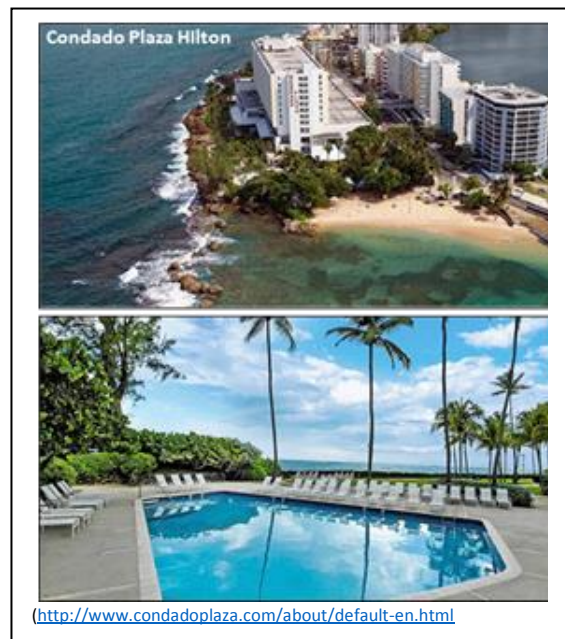
MEETING VENUE. The meeting will be held at the Condado Plaza Hilton (near Old San Juan and a short trip from the airport (12-15 min). A small public beach (Playita del Condado) adjacent to the hotel is known for snorkeling, quiet water, and access to the Condado Lagoon.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED. The talks will be a mixture of invited and volunteered presentations. Students/trainees are specifically encouraged to participate. In addition to talks, investigators may opt to participate in poster sessions or snap talks. Additional information available at karstwaters.org or by e-mail to publichealth@karstwaters.org.

Abstracts are due October 1, 2015 (online submission).

MAIN TOPICS

- The karst of Puerto Rico (keynote address by Dr. Tom Miller, UPRM Geology) & public health issues in the karst of Puerto Rico (Dr. Jose Cordero, Director of the Institute of Genomics and Public Health, UPR)
- The current state of knowledge regarding contaminants in karst
- Tools for investigating transport
- Specific contaminants and their remediation
- Assessing exposure concentrations and human health risk
- Karst-related health issues
- Regulatory framework for investigating and preventing exposure



POST-MEETING FIELD TRIP (Jan. 31 – Feb. 1). This field trip will give you a chance to see PR karst. Major stops are planned for Cueva Ventana, the Arecibo Observatory, and Camuy Cave with additional shorter stops in between. The trip will be two days long, with an overnight stop in the Arecibo-Aguadilla region, and will highlight some of Puerto Rico’s most spectacular karst settings.

REGISTRATION & LOGISTICS. The early meeting registration fee is \$475 for professionals and \$375 for students/K12 teachers by 11/15/2015. Registration includes the opening reception, coffee/tea breaks during the meeting, and the final night banquet. It also includes a mid-meeting field trip to learn about community involvement with the San Juan Bay Estuary Program.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Condado Plaza Hilton from 1/27 to 1/30/15 at the rate of \$189+tax/night for a double room. This group rate is good until 12/28/15. Please mention “Karst Waters Institute” when you make your reservation.

<http://www.condadoplaza.com/default-en.html>

The registration fee for the post-meeting 2-day field trip is \$375 for professionals and \$300 for students. Registration includes transportation, overnight hotel in the Arecibo/Aguadilla area (shared room), and entrance fees to the cave parks.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract deadline – 10/1/2015

Early registration – 11/15/2015

Reserve rooms - 12/28/15

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. Dr. Dorothy Vesper (West Virginia Univ.); Dr. Ellen Herman (Bucknell Univ.); Dr. William White (Penn State Univ.); Mr. William Jones (Karst Waters Institute); Dr. Janet Herman (Univ. of Virginia); Dr. Ingrid Padilla (Univ. PR Mayagüez); Dr. Tom Miller (Univ. PR Mayagüez); Dr. Sarah Carmichael (App. State Univ.); Dr. John Meeker (Univ. Michigan); Dr. Marian Rutigliano (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

SPONSORS. The conference is co-sponsored by Karst Waters Institute and the Puerto Rico Test Site for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT) project of the Superfund Research Program (SRP) of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).



Cueva Ventana
(I. Padilla, T. Miller)



Arecibo Observatory
(naic.edu/general/)



Camuy Cave
(D. Vesper)

To learn more about this meeting and to get regular updates, visit us at
<http://karstwaters.org/conferences/kgcph/>
or email us at publichealth@karstwaters.org