

# Environmental Side Effects of Human and Veterinary Medicines



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We will probably all use pharmaceuticals at some stage in our life. Following use, pharmaceuticals are excreted into the sewage system and can then pass through sewage treatment plants into surface waters. As pharmaceuticals are biologically active molecules, in recent years there has been increasing interest from scientists and the general public over the potential impacts of pharmaceuticals on aquatic organisms and on humans that consume drinking water containing pharmaceuticals. In this talk, I will explain how pharmaceuticals move from humans to surface waters and drinking water supplies and discuss the implications of the presence of pharmaceuticals in water bodies for ecological and human health. Solutions to minimize the impacts of pharmaceuticals on the environment will also be presented.

## About the Speaker

Dr. Boxall is Professor in Environmental Science in the Environment Department at the University of York. Alistair's research focuses on understanding emerging and future ecological and health risks posed by chemical contaminants in the natural environment. Alistair is a past member of the Defra Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances and was Chair of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Group of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. He is co-ordinator of the 3.5 M Euro CAPACITIE project on pollution in cities and academic co-ordinator of the 9.8 M Euro iPiE project on intelligent assessment of pharmaceuticals in the environment. He regularly advises national and international organizations on issues relating to chemical impacts on the environment and has published extensively on the topic of pharmaceuticals in the environment.

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