

Dr. P. Lee Ferguson

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Dr. P. Lee Ferguson is a Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at Duke University in Durham, NC. He received B.S. degrees from the University of South Carolina in Chemistry and Marine Science in 1997 before earning a Ph.D. in Coastal Oceanography at State University of New York – Stony Brook in 2002. His postdoctoral research was conducted in the area of proteomics at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. Before joining Duke, Dr. Ferguson was an Assistant and Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of South Carolina.



Research in the Ferguson laboratory is focused on Environmental Analytical Chemistry. Specifically, a major thrust of research in the lab involves the application of high-resolution mass spectrometry to detect, identify, and quantify emerging contaminants in wastewater and drinking water. His recent work has centered on the development of non-targeted analysis workflows and methods, assessment of polyfluorinated alkyl substances in water and wastewater, and leaching and bioaccessibility of polymer-associated chemicals from microplastic particles in the aquatic environment. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed research papers, serves on advisory councils for several organizations focused on emerging pollutants in the environment, and has testified before the U.S. Senate and the North Carolina General Assembly on environmental health concerns related to water quality and emerging contaminants. In North Carolina, he helped lead the formation of the NC PFAS Testing Network to assess statewide drinking water contamination from PFAS chemicals.