

Pharmaceuticals and other micropollutants in wastewater pose a new challenge to wastewater professionals as well as to the pharmaceutical industry. Although few technologies for the separate treatment of urine have been developed to date, the 100–500 times higher concentrations of micropollutants promise more efficient conditions for all removal technologies known from conventional wastewater treatment. Although there is a great deal of uncertainty concerning the possible detrimental effects on the aquatic ecosystems, the precautionary principle – or possibly new scientific evidence – may give rise to more stringent demands on wastewater treatment in the future.