

I have long admired ITRC's dedication to producing consensus, science-based resources representing the dedication of members spanning multiple sectors and disciplines. I started with ITRC 15 years ago as a young environmental professional hoping to find his footing in the regulatory community. As my feeling of belonging and purpose grew, my participation in ITRC evolved from silent observer, to subgroup writer, to trainer, to team co-lead and unprompted brand ambassador. I've come to believe in the transformative power of collaboration and knowledge-sharing to solve today's environmental challenges. My professional journey has been deeply influenced by ITRC involvement and motivates my advocacy for initiatives that enhance ITRC's impact across states and alignment with the priorities of our diverse membership base. I would like to continue to serve the ITRC and the greater environmental regulatory community as a Board of Advisors Co-Chair and bring energy, dedication, and perspective to advance ITRC's mission.

I am committed to helping evaluate new project proposals through the lens of relevance and impact, while offering practical insights to enhance the effectiveness of ITRC's deliverables. I prioritize open feedback and inclusive collaboration to ensure that our efforts address pressing environmental concerns, as demonstrated when co-leading the BioCEC Team. I co-authored the Team proposal to align with State priorities, had several audiences with the BOA in consideration of its selection, and brought new membership and expertise into ITRC. My passion for ITRC technical work spurred me to push its historical boundaries and actively recruit new members with backgrounds in infectious disease, toxicology, and risk assessment. With an extensive professional network spanning government agencies, academia, and the private sector, I will continue to actively identify and recruit a diverse array of environmental professionals whose perspectives and expertise can enrich our programs and sustain innovation within the organization. I'd continue to champion ITRC's collective work, promoting the application of tools, encouraging broader external participation in their review, and supporting outreach and training.

Support for science research and communication at the federal level has been notably curtailed. The current reduction in regulatory oversight and investigation at the federal level creates a void that ITRC can help fill. Over its three decades ITRC has assembled teams of experts to create consensus guidance and training in a timeframe that Federal agencies and States can't or won't deliver. I see ITRC providing not just a means for continued access and engagement for interested parties, but potentially mitigating attrition of professionals from the field of environmental science by offering continuing education, professional development and a peer network to maintain engagement and dignity in our field.

These experiences strengthen my resolve and prospects to support the ITRC Director and BOA in defining strategic goals that anticipate emerging environmental challenges. With two decades of experience practicing regulatory toxicology and risk assessment, I bring a strong technical background, collaborative spirit, and a commitment to helping both ITRC and its membership maximize their collective potential. Thank you for considering my candidacy for ITRC BOA Co-Chair.

My upbringing in Queens, New York near incredible city parks instilled a value for public access to nature. From the Junior Ranger program in grade school to high school internships and summer employment, the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation taught me that the built and natural worlds could coexist harmoniously and thrive in the biggest city in the country. I spent as much time in the dirt and sediment of city parks across the five boroughs as I did on the subway. The mentorship and dedication of the NYC Park Rangers first inspired me to seek a profession in the environmental field. My summers spent backpacking the Appalachian Trail and canoeing New England rivers raised my appreciation for the outdoors as a refuge and the importance of environmental stewardship.

I came to California to study chemistry at Caltech in Pasadena. Considering a path in environmental health sciences and already enjoying the kitchen, the practical lab component of chemistry appealed to me. As a student and teaching assistant, I was constantly handling and breathing laboratory chemicals, and many afternoons were dictated by nausea and exhaustion. While the San Gabriel Mountains were a gorgeous backdrop on clear winter days, they were nowhere to be seen on smoggy ones. Caltech sent me to West Bengal, India, as a summer research fellow to sample and characterize arsenic concentrations in village groundwater wells. There I witnessed how the consumption of contaminated water adversely affected the lives and livelihoods of the regional population.

After graduation, I needed a break from my studies and had a bucket-list item to cross off. Ten days after commencement, I flew to Morocco to serve as an environmental educator in the US Peace Corps. I was stationed in the cedar forests of the Middle Atlas Mountains, about two hours south of Fez. There, I collaborated with the local Ministry of Waters and Forests outpost, middle and high school teachers, and councilmembers to develop and co-lead community projects. These projects included an Earth Day stream cleanup, landscaping at local schools, and community programs for cultural exchange. My time overseas gave me insight into working for a government program and led me to pay closer attention to national politics.

The 9/11 attacks changed U.S. security, foreign policies, and Peace Corps country operations. After serving for 17 months and accomplishing some good work, I felt it was time to move on and submit my grad school applications, biding my time by traveling around the US and India. I joined an inhalation toxicology lab at UC Davis that investigated mechanisms of asthma and lung fibrosis. While a grad student, I also met my wife and had our daughter. With a family to support and a baby at home, I had to heavily weigh job prospects for a PhD in Pharmacology & Toxicology. State government offered the work-life balance and clear conscience I sought at the time, and I have been a toxicologist for CalEPA ever since, helping make communities safer and usable for the public.

I was fortunate that my Branch Chief encouraged me to get Board-certified and join the ITRC to benefit my professional growth and technical knowledge base. The ITRC has provided a forum to learn from experts and disciplines that my DTSC duty statement does not stipulate. The camaraderie, shared values, and professional growth the ITRC offers make the work my favorite professional activity. Serving as BOA Co-Chair would be my way of giving back to the organization, promoting its mission, and championing membership growth and development, just as it did for me.