

NEWS December 2025

Editorial

Dear colleagues,



At the beginning of December, TZW hosted its 30th Colloquium. We welcomed around 200 participants, both on-site and online. This underlines the value of our work and shows that our research, consulting, and testing services are at the cutting edge, enabling us to develop customized solutions for the future together with our customers.

Looking back, 2025 brought many opportunities for us, which we recognised and seized. Our work was particularly influenced by the implementation of European and national legal requirements for our customers in the water supply and industrial sectors. In addition, we initiated and successfully secured funding for new research projects covering a wide range of topics related to the water cycle.

As the year comes to a close, we look back with gratitude and forward with optimism. This outlook is more important than ever, especially in the current environment.

I wish you a pleasant New Year and a good start to 2026.

Dr. Josef Klinger



How do pharmaceutical residues get into drinking water?

The HuMeWaTri research project conducted by TZW focuses on a challenge that has received insufficient attention to date: the presence of human pharmaceuticals, and particularly their metabolites, in the water cycle. This project aims to identify these previously overlooked substances and assess their relevance for drinking water supplies. Using innovative analytics and targeted production of metabolites, the project provides a new data basis and valuable insights for environmental and health protection, making an important contribution to the implementation of the recast of the EU urban wastewater treatment directive.

[Read more](#)



30 years of micropollutant analysis: All issues resolved?

Micropollutant analysis has shaped our work since the first TZW colloquium in 1996. Many topics are more relevant today than ever before – and new challenges are emerging. A review and outlook on three decades of research and practice.

[Read more](#)



Wastewater reuse - ensuring microbiological quality

Periods of drought and rising water demand are making water reuse increasingly relevant in Germany as well. New EU regulations and the DWA information sheet M 1200 define clear quality standards for agricultural irrigation. In the BMBF project '*Nutzwasser*' (utility water), a pilot plant with a multi-barrier approach shows how bacteria, viruses and antibiotic resistance can be effectively reduced. An important step towards sustainable and safe water resources!

[Read more](#)



News in brief

Save the Date

32nd Drinking Water Colloquium Dresden - '*Future Issues in Water Supply*'

On 12 May 2026, the 32nd Drinking Water Colloquium will welcome experts from water supply companies, authorities, health authorities and universities to the plenary hall of Dresden City Hall. The focus will be on current and future challenges in drinking water supply: treatment, distribution, risk management, trace substances and digitalisation. The event offers a platform for exchange and discussion on innovative

solutions and practical approaches. The detailed programme will be published shortly (Event in German). Registration and flyers will be available on our [website](#) shortly. Take advantage of this opportunity to network early and gain inspiration for the future of water supply!

Congratulations on your doctorate

Cordula Witzig successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Augsburg in October 2025. In her thesis entitled '*Temporal Variability of Microplastic Concentration and Composition in Streams and Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluents: Mitigation of Cross-Contamination, Long-Term Mixed Sampling, and Representativity Assessment*,' she examined the temporal dynamics of microplastics in water bodies and sewage treatment plant effluents – a topical issue of great relevance to environmental and water research. We warmly congratulate her on this important milestone!

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