

Dr. Tarun Anumol, Environmental Segment Market Manager at Agilent Technologies, Visits Capitol Hill with ACIL PFAS Congressional Taskforce

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Agilent is helping the U.S. Congress craft legislation that will drive the monitoring, standardization, and accreditation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the United States.

Tarun Anumol, Global Environmental Segment market manager, recently traveled to Washington, DC, where he joined the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) PFAS Congressional Taskforce for a day of briefings. Staffs representing nine Senators and five members of the House of Representatives are developing the PFAS legislation.

PFAS are synthetic man-made chemicals used in many products, such as Teflon coatings, fire-fighting foams and clothing. PFAS don't break down and have been accumulating in the environment. They are found in drinking water, surface and ground waters, and soil. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that human exposure to PFAS -- even at low levels -- may cause cancer and other diseases.

Congress is considering an impressive slate of legislation for PFAS regulations, monitoring and enforcement as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA has been approved by the House and Senate and will go to the president for his signature after the congressional recess.

Key contributions

Most of the lawmakers and their staffs were especially interested to know how PFAS testing is done, how laboratory testing might be built out in the United States, whether testing could be implemented quickly, and the cost of testing technology.

As the only member of the ACIL Task Force with deep technical laboratory-based expertise in the analysis of PFAS, Tarun made key contributions to these discussions, and his expertise and credibility reflected very well on Agilent. Agilent is the only mass spectrometry instrument vendor on the task force.

Tarun says he also gleaned a great deal of intelligence through these discussions and is already communicating with product line and marketing partners to ensure that Agilent is well-positioned to enable our customers and to support PFAS regulatory compliance.

After a full day in Washington, Tarun shared a train ride back to Wilmington, DE with Senator Tom Carper (R-DE), who has visited the Agilent Little Falls site in the past and expressed a desire to visit again.



Photo Caption 1: ACIL PFAS Task Force at the Capitol

Photo Caption 2: Meeting with legislative staff

Photo Caption 3: Tarun and Sen. Carper riding the train from DC to Wilmington, DE

