

NEWS FROM IWH

IWH has a New Lab Manager

Meet Dr. Whitley Stewart!



It is a Breakthrough Year here at the Institute for Water and Health (IWH), with a full house of brilliant scientists and staff working to advance water research with innovative approaches. This work reflects the type of research we are committed to; water research that makes a tangible difference here at home and globally.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Whitley Stewart as our new Laboratory Manager for IWH's Environmental Research and Services Laboratory. This facility relies on a dedicated and highly skilled professional who oversees day-to-day operations, conducts research, provides analytical services to businesses and communities, and trains students, all while ensuring that everyone adheres to Biosafety Level 2 protocols and guidelines.

Dr. Stewart joined Georgia Southern University as a postdoctoral scholar in 2025, and brings extensive expertise to her new role. She holds a PhD in

Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Biomolecular Sciences from Florida A&M University (FAMU) and an MS in Biotechnology from Fort Valley State University. Her dissertation focused on environmental monitoring and detection of mercury, a highly toxic metal known to cause serious neurological, developmental, and cardiovascular health effects in humans and wildlife. Dr. Stewart's work led to the development of a highly sensitive microbial biosensor that fluoresces in the presence of even very low concentrations of mercury in water and soil.

We are excited to have Dr. Stewart onboard as she will continue in her new role advancing IWH's mission for safe water, sustainable environment, and resilient communities.