

Bringing Chemistry to Life podcast series

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Season 1: The 2019 C&EN's Talented 12 Episode 3: There's chemistry in the air!



Episode abstract

If you thought a career in science means spending your best years in a dark laboratory for long, boring hours doing routine experiments, think again! Dr. Cora Young, from York University in Toronto, does a significant part of her environmental chemistry work on the field. From measuring air quality in residential and business spaces, to going high altitude on airplanes, or doing measurements in forests and even in the Arctic.

In this episode, we discuss research in the growing field of environmental chemistry, how it differs from traditional analytical chemistry, and what it means bringing high precision analysis out of controlled laboratory environments. Dr. Young sheds light on how analyzing air quality can have a profound impact on international regulations and quality of life. From understanding emissions of worrisome pollutants such as polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), to how cooking at home can affect our health, this is a fascinating discovery of the chemistry of air.

About our guest

Cora J. Young, PhD

Associate Professor and Rogers Chair, Department of Chemistry, York University

Cora's group site:
<https://www.cjygroup.com/>

C&EN's Talented 12 profile of Cora:
<https://cen.acs.org/environment/pollution/Cora-Young/97/i33>

Recent Publications from Cora's Group:

- [Ice Core Record of Persistent Short-Chain Fluorinated Alkyl Acids: Evidence of the Impact From Global Environmental Regulations](#)
- [Quantitation of amino sugar stereoisomer and muramic acid biomarkers by hydrophilic interaction liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry](#)
- [A global atmospheric chemistry model for the fate and transport of PFCAs and their precursors](#)
- [Passive sampling capabilities for ultra-trace quantitation of atmospheric nitric acid \(HNO₃\) in remote environments](#)
- [Time-Resolved Measurements of Nitric Oxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, and Nitrous Acid in an Occupied New York Home](#)

Cora's Content Recommendations:

- [The Devil We Know](#) (a documentary by Stephanie Soechtig & Jeremy Seifert)
- [Caesar's Last Breath](#) (a book by Sam Kean)
- [Drilling Ice Cores with Alison Criscitiello](#) (an interview with Cora's colleague)
- [Indoor Chem website](#) (a website about indoor chemistry)
- [Slow Death by Rubber Duck](#) (a book by Rick Smith and Bruce Lourie)

This podcast series is available via the following links



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