

**Dr. Asli Aslan**

**Professor | Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health**

**Director | Institute for Water and Health**

**Georgia Southern University**

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### **Professional Summary**

Dr. Asli Aslan is a Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and the Director of the Institute for Water and Health at Georgia Southern University. With a PhD in Marine Biology specializing in Water Microbiology, her work focuses on microbial and chemical hazards in water environments, rapid water quality detection, and public education using community based participatory research methods. Dr. Aslan has extensive leadership experience in developing new research initiatives, policy advancement, and interdisciplinary collaborations, making her an ideal candidate for the SECOORA Advisory Board.

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### **Education**

- **PhD in Marine Biology (Water Microbiology)** – Istanbul University, Turkiye (2008)
  - **MSc in Marine Biology (Coastal Water Quality)** – Istanbul University, Turkiye (2002)
  - **BSc in Biology (Microbiology Concentration)** – Istanbul University, Turkiye (1999)
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### **Professional Experience-Highlights**

- **Director, Institute for Water and Health (2021–Present)**
    - Leads multidisciplinary research on water quality and public health.
    - Established a Coastal Water Quality Laboratory for environmental diagnostics.
    - Develops partnerships with public and private stakeholders for science to action.
  - **Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Georgia Southern University (2024–Present)**
    - Conducts research on microbial hazards in coastal and freshwater systems.
    - Guides undergraduate and graduate research in water sciences.
  - **Provost Fellow for Research, Georgia Southern University (2019–2021)**
    - As the first research fellow in the history of GS, reporting directly to the Vice President for Research and the Provost, she developed and implemented several institutional programs to improve GS' research agenda. Georgia Southern is now moving towards to become a R1 institution.
  - **Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Michigan State University (2008–2011)**
    - Developed rapid tools for water quality research in the Great Lakes region.
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### **Research Program and Focus Areas**

- Rapid Water Quality Monitoring & Microbial Source Tracking
  - Climate Change & Coastal Resilience
  - Public Health & Waterborne Disease Prevention
  - Sustainable Water Resource Management
  - Community-Engaged Water Research & Policy Development
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### **Selected Recent Grants & Projects (Total 19 Grants)**

- **Safe Water Together** (US Congress, \$2.04M, PI, 2025–2029)
- **Developing Pathways for Water Stewards** (Partnership for Inclusive Innovation, \$157K, PI, 2024–2025)
- **Suwannee Watershed Assessment & Monitoring Project** (National Academies of Sciences, \$465K, co-PI, 2023–2026)

- **A Feasibility Study for Adopting Rapid Molecular Methods to Monitor Enterococci at Georgia Beaches** (Georgia DNR, \$158K, PI, 2019-2022)
  - **Molecular Identification of Non-Point Pollution Sources** (Georgia DNR, \$139K, PI, 2017–2019)
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#### Overview of Major Publications & Reports

- **Over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports** on coastal water quality, environmental factors and hazards. **Over 150 presentations and invited talks** during international and national meetings.
  - Co-authored **EPA policy recommendations for emerging drinking water contaminants**.
  - Co-authored **American Public Health Association policy paper** on the state of the drinking water quality at USA.
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#### Selected Leadership & Advisory Roles

- **Founder & past Co-Chair**, Water and Health Committee, American Public Health Association (APHA) (2016-present)
  - **Journal Editorial Board**, PLOS One (2022-present)
  - **USEPA Science Advisory Board Augmented Committee Member** (2019)
  - **Co-directed** the International Water Associations' special consortium (**IC-Sewage**) that included 41 laboratories across the globe on advancing water quality detection methods (2009-2013).
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#### Selected Workshop Organization and other Outreach Activities

- Climate Change Adaptation for Coastal Communities, July 16-16, 2024, Savannah, GA (in partnership with NOAA)
  - Healthy Beaches, Healthy People: Waterborne Pathogens Workshop, March 25, 2015, Savannah, GA.
  - A 100 year study in the Great Lakes: Assessing Transboundary Pollution Sources, February 20, 2013, Chicago, IL.
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#### Selected Professional Affiliations

- American Public Health Association (APHA)
  - International Water Association (IWA)
  - Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership
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#### Selected Professional Development Activities and Awards

- ❖ Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership Fellowship (2021-2023)
  - ❖ JPHCOPH Faculty Award Recipient for Excellence in Scholarship (2020)
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#### Why SECOORA?

Dr. Aslan's expertise in **coastal water quality, microbial source tracking, and climate resilience** aligns with SECOORA's mission. Her leadership in **multidisciplinary research collaborations, community-based water initiatives, and public health policy** will enhance SECOORA's advisory efforts in monitoring, forecasting, and managing coastal water resources.

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