

Virtual  
**Seminar**  
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11 am MT, January 21, 2026

**Rhizoremediation of organic  
contaminants**



## ABSTRACT

Plants can stimulate root-associated microorganisms to degrade soil organic contaminants. One of the key aspects is the structural similarity between plant secondary metabolites and many organic contaminants, which results in an enrichment and activation of the rhizosphere microorganisms capable of degrading these molecules. In this seminar, I will draw on examples from previous work on rhizoremediation to discuss and put in perspective our recent results related to the rhizoremediation of naphthenic acids by aquatic plants. Our findings highlight the importance of plant selection, microbial diversity, anaerobic microorganisms, and the phenylacetate degradation pathway, furthering our understanding of this plant-microbe endeavour.

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