

# FEATURED MEMBERS

## 1. *My career path?*

I joined Notre Dame in 2015. Prior to joining Notre Dame, I was an assistant professor in the University of Pittsburg from 2014-2015, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign from 2011-2013. I received my bachelor's degree from Sichuan University, China, and earned my master's and doctorate degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 2008 and 2011 respectively.

## 2. *Current research areas, interests, and projects?*

The overarching theme of our research is to understand and manipulate microbial systems at the molecular level for beneficial applications towards environmental sustainability. Our research lies at the interface of environmental engineering and molecular and synthetic biology, with current interests in the following directions/projects: (1) Waste-to-energy and value-added biotransformation, (2) Renewable biocatalysis for water reclamation and reuse, (3) Biological effects of emerging and persistent pollutants, and (4) Vector control to prevent infectious disease outbreaks .

Also, I am interested in citizen science as an educator, and have an on-going project on "Smart Water Sensing for Sustainable and Connected Communities Using Citizen Science".

More about my research can be found at the Lab webpage: <http://www3.nd.edu/~nwei/index.html>

## 3. *Courses you normally teach?*

I have been teaching "Introduction to Environmental Engineering" to sophomore/junior undergraduates for the past three years. Also, I offer an advanced graduate-level course "Environmental Molecular Biology and Biotechnology". I have also taught "Environmental Chemistry" for graduate students.

## 4. *My professional activities?*

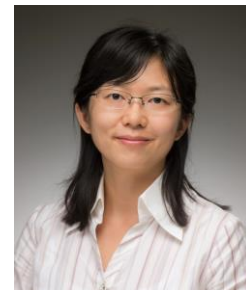
I am a member of American Society for Microbiology (ASM), American Chemical Society (ACS), Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

## 5. *Major attractions and cultural environment of your area and/or community?*

The University of Notre Dame has a beautiful campus with two lakes and swans; it is refreshing to take a walk by the lake or around campus during work break. South Bend is a small city that is convenient for simple life, but it is close to Lake Michigan beach area and Chicago for occasional fun.

## 6. *Key factors that lead to your career today?*

Passion in what you choose to do and persistence in pursuing it. I am grateful for having good mentors (various, not only advisors) along my career path, so I am trying to be a good mentor to my students.



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Moring Mist over the St. Joseph's Lake in the University

