Helen K. White, Ph.D.

Research Interests

Understanding the sources, sinks and cycling of organic matter in marine sediments, in particular :

- · Compound specific radiocarbon and stable carbon analysis of sedimentary biomarkers
- · The recalcitrance of natural organic compounds in sediments
- The fate of fossil fuel-derived contaminants and their physical and chemical associations with sedimentary organic matter
- · The role of microorganisms in the cycling of both natural and anthropogenic organic compounds
- · Harnessing energy from the microbial metabolism of carbon in marine sediments

Education

2006	Ph.D. Chemical Oceanography	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) / Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), MA, U.S.A. Advisors: T.I. Eglinton and C.M. Reddy Thesis Committee: J.M. Hayes, P.M. Gschwend
2003	Microbial Diversity Course Participant	Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) Woods Hole, MA, U.S.A.
2000	M.Chem. Chemistry (1st Class Honors)	University of Sussex, U.K.
1998/9	Visiting Student	Reed College, Portland, OR, U.S.A.
Appointments	;	
2006 - Present	Postdoctoral Fellow	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.
2006 - Present	Guest Investigator	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), MA, U.S.A.
2006	Lecturer	Department of Earth Science, Boston University, Boston, MA, U.S.A.
Honors and A	wards	
2007 2005 2002 2001 2000	Microbial Science Initiative Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University Invited Participant, DISCO XIX (Dissertations Symposium on Chemical Oceanography) American Chemical Society - The Division of Environmental Chemistry, Award of Excellence Charles Davis Hollister Fellowship, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Louise Gross / Merck Prize for graduating top of senior year, University of Sussex	
Field Experier	ice	

Research Cruises

R/V Point Lobos: Monterey Canyon, CA, (02/28/07) - Collection of sedimentary microbial fuel cell

R/V Atlantis & D.S.V Alvin: Juan de Fuca Ridge, (08/23/06-09/11/06) - Recovered & sampled microbial incubators & osmosamplers from vents R/V Clifford Barnes: Seattle, WA to Seattle, WA, (08/01/03-08/08/03) - Collection of sediment freeze cores and water samples R/V New Horizon: Redwood City, CA to San Diego, CA, (05/27/01-06/10/01) - Collection of various sediment cores and water samples

Other

West Falmouth Harbor, MA (11/04, 06/04, 11/03, 03/01) - Collection of sediment cores and nutrient porewater profiling Pawtuxet River, RI (February 2003) - Collection of sediment cores

Sippewissett Marsh and Cedar Swamp, MA (July 2003) - Sampling of microbial mats and collection of environmental samples for microbial analyses

Teaching Experience

2006	Lecturer in the Department of Earth Science, Boston University (Boston, MA) Marine Biogeochemistry (Spring Semester), Oceanography (Fall Semester), Natural Disasters (Guest Lecturer)		
2006 - present	Supervisor to Harvard University undergraduates and Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School students (Cambridge, MA)		
2006	Senior Thesis Advisor, Terra Hittson, Boston University Academy (Boston, MA)		
2006	Research Project Advisor, Naomi Wells, Wellesley College (Wellesley, MA)		
2004 - 2005	Supervised summer student fellow, Heather Bischel and high school student, Brittany Thomas (Woods Hole, MA)		
2000 - 2002	Mathematics and Physics tutor for high school students (Boston, MA)		

Published Journal Articles

- White, H.K., L. Xu, A. L. Lima, T.I. Eglinton and C.M. Reddy (2005) Abundance, composition, and vertical transport of PAHs in marsh sediments. *Environmental Science and Technology* 39: 8273-8280.
- White, H.K., C.M. Reddy and T.I. Eglinton (2005) Isotopic constraints on the fate of petroleum residues sequestered in salt marsh sediments. *Environmental Science and Technology* 39: 2545-2551.
- Slater, G.F., H.K. White, T.I. Eglinton and C. M. Reddy (2005) Determination of microbial carbon sources in petroleum contaminated sediments using molecular radiocarbon analysis. *Environmental Science & Technology* 39: 2552-2558.
- Reddy, C.M., T.I. Eglinton, A.H. Hounshell, H.K. White, L. Xu, R.B. Gaines and G.S. Frysinger (2002) The West Falmouth oil spill after thirty years: The persistence of petroleum hydrocarbons in marsh sediments. *Environmental Science and Technology* 36: 4754-4760.

Pending Journal Articles

- 5. White, H.K., C.M. Reddy and T.I. Eglinton. Relationships between carbon isotopic composition and mode of association of natural organic matter in coastal and continental margin sediments. *In revision for Organic Geochemistry.*
- 6. White, H.K., C.M. Reddy and T.I. Eglinton. The radiocarbon content of sedimentary organic matter: A global assessment and speculative synthesis. *In preparation for Global Biogeochemical Cycles*.
- 7. White, H.K., T.I. Eglinton and C.M. Reddy. Radiocarbon as an inverse tracer of fossil fuel-derived contaminants in sediments. *In preparation for Environmental Science & Technology.*
- 8. White, H.K., C.M. Reddy and T.I. Eglinton. Isotopic constraints on the provenance of individual biomarkers in salt marsh sediments.
- 9. White, H.K., L. Xu, J.G. Quinn and C.M. Reddy. The unresolved complex mixture (UCM) of hydrocarbons in urban sediments is derived from petroleum. *In preparation for Environmental Science & Technology.*
- 10. Reimers, C.E., H.A. Stecher III, J.C. Westall, Y. Alleau, K. Howell, L. Soule, P.R. Girguis, **H.K. White**. Substrate degradation kinetics and the Coulombic efficiency of microbial fuel cells supplied with marine plankton. *Submitted to Applied & Environmental Microbiology.*

Selected Professional Presentations & Abstracts

Invited Lectures

Boston University, Department of Earth Sciences, Boston, MA (March 16, 2006) Massachusetts Institute of Technology, E34 Chemical Oceanography Seminar Series, Cambridge, MA (March 17, 2006) Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Civil and Environmental, Cambridge, MA (April 26, 2006) Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ (April 19, 2007)

Contributed Lectures

American Chemical Society Fall National Meeting, Boston, MA (August 19, 2002)

European Meeting in Environmental Chemistry, Plymouth, UK (December 13, 2003)

Environmental Molecular Science Institute Second Annual Workshop, Columbus, OH (June 10, 2003)

DISCO XIX, Waikaloa, HI (May 6, 2005)

Ocean Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI (February 20, 2006)

American Chemical Society Fall National Meeting, Boston, MA (August 21, 2007)

Contributed Posters

North Atlantic Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Plymouth, MA (April, 2001) Gordon Research Conference in Organic Geochemistry, Holderness, NH (July 31, 2002) American Geophysical Union Ocean Sciences Meeting,Portland, OR (January, 2004) Gordon Research Conference in Organic Geochemistry, Holderness, NH (August 8, 2004) 22nd International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry, Seville, Spain (September 14, 2005) America Society of Microbiology Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada (May 21, 2006)

Published Abstracts

White, H.K., L. Xu, A. L. Lima, T.I. Eglinton and C.M. Reddy. Post-depositional transport and fate of PAHs 30 years after the West Falmouth oil spill. Abstracts of papers of the American Chemical Society: U519-U519 016-ENVR Part 1, AUG 18 2002

Funding Acquisitions & Contributions

NSF Collaborative Research (MIP): Microbial interactions at cold seeps: Characetrizing C_2 - C_4 hydrocarbon degradation and its influence on AMO & sulfate reduction (Awarded to Girguis and Joye. White contributed to the written proposal)

The Charles A. & Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation, "Developing microbial fuel cells as light systems for rural areas" (2007)

Professional Affiliations & Service

Member of American Geophysical Union (AGU), American Chemical Society (ACS), European Association of Organic Geochemists (EAOG), American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

Reviewer for Marine Chemistry, Earth & Planetary Science Letters, Environmental Chemistry Letters