

1 **Concentrations of prioritized pharmaceuticals in effluents from 50 large wastewater**
2 **treatment plants in the US and implications for risk estimation.**

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23 **ABSTRACT**

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25 We measured concentrations of 56 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in effluent samples
26 from 50 large wastewater treatment plants across the US. Hydrochlorothiazide was found in
27 every sample. Metoprolol, atenolol, and carbamazepine were found in over 90% of the samples.
28 Valsartan had the highest concentration (5300 ng/L), and also had the highest average
29 concentration (1600 ng/L) across all 50 samples. Estimates of potential risks to healthy human
30 adults were greatest for six anti-hypertensive APIs (lisinopril, hydrochlorothiazide, valsartan,
31 atenolol, enalaprilat, and metoprolol), but nevertheless suggest risks of exposure to individual
32 APIs as well as their mixtures are generally very low. Estimates of potential risks to aquatic life
33 were also low for most APIs, but suggest more detailed study of potential ecological impacts
34 from four analytes (sertraline, propranolol, desmethylsertraline, and valsartan).

35

36 **Key words:** pharmaceuticals; risk; wastewater; aquatic; drinking water

37

38 **Capsule:**

39 Measurements of pharmaceuticals in municipal effluent suggest risks of exposure to healthy
40 human adults are low, but suggest the need for study of potential impacts on aquatic life.

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45 **INTRODUCTION**

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47 Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) have been frequently detected in surface waters
48 of developed nations (Halling-Sorensen et al., 1998), raising concerns about potential risks to
49 humans and the environment (Daughton and Ternes, 1999). The primary route of APIs into
50 surface waters is believed to be excretion by patients into wastewater collection systems, survival
51 of wastewater treatment, and subsequent introduction into the aquatic environment as a
52 component of the treated wastewater flow (Fent et al., 2006).

53 Estimating risks from APIs requires characterizing their environmental occurrence, but
54 this is complicated by the number and variety of APIs in common use: over 1000 APIs are
55 approved for use in the US (US Food and Drug Administration, 2009), but most studies
56 examining environmental occurrence only report concentrations of a handful of analytes.
57 Differences in analytical methods and reporting formats have limited the potential of combining
58 individual studies to generate a more complete picture of API occurrence. Furthermore, little or
59 no measured concentration data are available for a number of widely prescribed APIs (Kostich et
60 al, 2010).

61 In order to efficiently explore potential risks from this broad class of contaminants, our
62 group conducted a preliminary risk assessment of human prescription pharmaceuticals available
63 in the US to identify a manageable subset with the highest estimated potential for environmental
64 impact (Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008). We then developed an analytical method targeting these
65 priority APIs (Batt et al., 2008). Here we report the measured concentrations of 56 APIs and 7
66 API metabolites in effluent samples from fifty very large (15 to 660 MGD) wastewater treatment

67 plants (WWTPs) located across the US. We use these results, in combination with a previously
68 described risk assessment approach and summary of published occurrence data (Kostich et al.,
69 2010), to draw tentative conclusions about risks from aquatic exposure for all human prescription
70 pharmaceuticals, including those that have never been surveyed.

71

72 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

73

74 **Plant selection**

75

76 The Clean Watershed Needs Survey (CWNS; US Environmental Protection Agency,
77 2004) lists the size of the population served and the flow rate for most WWTPs in the US, as
78 reported by plant operators. The survey includes data on 22,795 WWTPs with discharges,
79 including 13,819 WWTPs that discharge into surface waters (which does not include ocean
80 discharge). WWTPs listed in CWNS were incorporated into our selection process if they
81 discharged to surface water, served a population greater than 100 people, had at least 75% of
82 their flow originating from municipal (as opposed to industrial or storm water) sources, served a
83 population consisting of at least 75% local residents, and reported per capita wastewater
84 production between 50 to 1000 liters per person per day. This process produced a subset of
85 11,040 WWTPs. The largest (based on daily flow rate) 50 plants meeting the criteria were
86 selected for the present survey. Five of these plants declined to participate. The next five largest
87 plants, ordered by flow-rate, were selected to take their place. In aggregate, the 50 plants we
88 sampled serve over 46 million people and discharge a total of 6.0 billion GPD (22.7 million m³),

89 or about 17% of all the wastewater produced by WWTPs in the US. These WWTPs are located
90 in 20 out of 50 US States, and 8 out of 10 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions
91 (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2013). Regions 1 and 10 did not have WWTPs included
92 in the sample.

93

94 **Effluent sample collection**

95

96 Effluent samples were collected between January 11th and April 5th, 2011. Sample
97 collection containers (1 L, amber glass) were washed in hot water with Alconox, rinsed in hot
98 water, rinsed three times with distilled water, rinsed three times with acetone, and then baked in
99 a heated oven at 250°C for a minimum of four hours. A 24-hour composite sample (500 mL of
100 effluent) was collected by WWTP operators from each WWTP, using their own equipment, and
101 2 mL of a solution containing 5.0 g/L of Na₂EDTA and 25 mg/L of ascorbic acid was added at
102 the time of collection. The samples were shipped overnight on wet ice, and stored at 4°C until
103 extraction.

104 Because of the large number of sampling sites and chemical analytes, it was logistically
105 too difficult and expensive to collect and analyze field blanks as well as duplicates from each
106 location. Field blanks were collected from 20% of the sampling sites, with the field blanks being
107 prepared from laboratory distilled water that was transferred into sampling containers and
108 preserved at the time of collection. Duplicates were collected and analyzed for 10% of the
109 sample sites.

110

111 **Sample preparation and analysis**

112

113 Effluent samples were extracted and analyzed using two previously reported methods
114 (Batt and Aga, 2005; Batt et al., 2008). All samples were extracted within two days of collection
115 and extracts were stored in silanized glass vials at -10°C until analysis. A laboratory blank
116 consisting of distilled water, a spiked distilled water control sample, and a matrix spike control
117 sample were also included in each extraction batch along with the wastewater effluent samples.
118 Five hundred mL of each sample was filtered through a 0.7 µm filter and then spiked with
119 respective isotopically labeled procedural internal standards (at a concentration of 1 µg/L) prior
120 to extraction.

121 For Method 1 (Batt et al., 2008) analytes (see Supplemental File 1), samples were
122 extracted with 150 mg Oasis HLB MCX cartridges at an unadjusted pH. Acidic and neutral
123 analytes were eluted by acetonitrile and basic analytes were eluted by 95% acetonitrile and 5%
124 ammonium hydroxide into separate silanized glass tubes. The extracts were then concentrated to
125 dryness under a constant flow of nitrogen at 40°C prior to reconstitution. Reconstituted extracts
126 were transferred to polypropylene vials for immediate liquid chromatography-tandem mass
127 spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) analysis. Extracts were analyzed for 54 APIs using a Waters Aquity
128 ultra performance liquid chromatograph coupled to a Micromass Quattro Micro triple-
129 quadrupole mass spectrometer with an electrospray ionization source operated using multiple
130 reaction monitoring (MRM). Analytes were separated on a BEH C18 column (1.0 x 100 mm
131 1.7µm) equipped with 0.2 µm inline filter. Four separate injections were used to cover the range
132 of analytes, in accordance with LC-MS/MS conditions described in Batt et al., 2008.

133 For Method 2 analytes (Supplemental File 1), a previously reported method (Batt and
134 Aga, 2005) was adapted for the analysis of human and veterinary antibiotics. Sample pH was
135 adjusted to between 2.8 and 3.0 using a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid. Samples were
136 extracted with 200 mg Oasis HLB cartridges and collected in silanized glass vials with a single
137 elution using acetonitrile. The extracts were then concentrated to dryness under a constant flow
138 of nitrogen at 40°C, and reconstituted in 20% acetonitrile. Reconstituted extracts were then
139 transferred to polypropylene vials for immediate LC-MS/MS analysis. Extracts were analyzed
140 for 14 pharmaceuticals in a single LC-MS/MS analysis with an electrospray ionization source
141 operated in positive ion mode using MRM. Analytes were separated on a BEH Phenyl column
142 (1.0 x 100 mm 1.7µm) equipped with 0.2 µm inline filter. The LC-MS/MS methodology is
143 described in detail in the supporting information section (Supplemental File 2; see also Batt and
144 Aga, 2005).

145 Percent recovery for each analyte was calculated in a laboratory fortified distilled water
146 blank and the matrix spike control sample, which were included with each extraction batch for a
147 total of thirteen distilled water and matrix spike samples. Due to the complexity of the sample
148 matrix, the acceptable target recoveries were set between 70% and 130% for compounds with an
149 exact match isotopic standard and 50% and 150% for compounds without an exact match
150 isotopic procedural internal standard. Reported data was not corrected using matrix spike
151 recovery, instead the addition of isotopically labeled procedural internal standards was used to
152 account for sample-to-sample matrix variations. Cimetidine, betamethasone, 2-
153 hydroxyibuprofen, glipizide, and glyburide were excluded from data analysis since, in the vast
154 majority of samples, these analytes failed method quality standards. Any analyte detected in

155 either a field blank or laboratory blank were treated as estimated (flagged with a “B” flag) if the
156 concentration of the analyte in the sample was less than ten times the blank concentration. The
157 average of duplicate concentration measurements from an individual site was used in the
158 reported data analysis.

159

160 **Data analysis**

161

162 Data analysis was performed using R 2.14.2 (R Development Core Team, 2012), using
163 built-in functions and functions from the standard base packages. Effect level parameters of
164 minimum daily dose (DdMin), maximum plasma concentration after a minimum dose (Cmax),
165 fraction bound to plasma proteins (Fb), lowest minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC), and
166 antibiotic breakpoint (BP), as well as the modes of action (MOAs), and predicted environmental
167 concentration (PEC) listed in Supplemental File 1 were adapted from Kostich and Lazorchak,
168 2008; or from Batt et al., 2008.

169

170 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

171

172 **Measured concentrations**

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174 A summary of occurrence data is presented in Table 1. Detailed plant-by-plant data for
175 each analyte, including quality control flags is provided in Supplemental File 3. Of the 63
176 analytes measured, 43 were detected at least once. The 20 analytes we did not detect include 14

177 that were targeted because they appeared in our previous prioritization. That prioritization was
178 driven by marketing data, and did not incorporate estimates of wastewater removal rates since
179 that parameter is uncharacterized for the vast majority of pharmaceuticals. The absence of these
180 analytes in effluent suggests that they are readily degraded within wastewater treatment facilities,
181 diverted into the biosolids waste stream, or their usage rates are overestimated by the marketing
182 data-based model. One API (hydrochlorothiazide, a diuretic used for the treatment of
183 hypertension whose aquatic concentration has rarely been reported) was detected in all 50
184 effluents examined. In addition, metoprolol (an antihypertensive), atenolol (another
185 antihypertensive), and carbamazepine (an anticonvulsant also used for other neurological and
186 psychiatric conditions) were detected in more than 90% of effluents examined.

187 Our summaries of concentration data incorporated only data that was not flagged as
188 estimated (see Supplemental File 3). The highest concentration measured for any API was 5300
189 ng/L (see Table 1) for valsartan (an antihypertensive), which also had the highest average
190 concentration (1600 ng/L) across all 50 samples. The peak concentrations we saw for several
191 analytes (i.e. ibuprofen) were somewhat lower than the highest concentrations reported in some
192 other studies (reviewed in Kostich et al., 2010), but as we describe in the following sections, the
193 conclusions from this study and from our previous summary of literature results (Kostich et al.,
194 2010) are consistent with one another. In part, differences in concentrations reported here and
195 those reported elsewhere in the literature may reflect differences in sampling locations or
196 analytical methodologies. They may also reflect the contrast between our 24-hour composites,
197 versus the grab samples used in some other studies. In addition, we only sampled plants once,
198 during the colder months of the year. This may prove advantageous for detecting analytes from

199 pharmaceuticals with higher usage rates during winter months (i.e. antipyretics), and
200 pharmaceuticals which are less efficiently removed during wastewater treatment in winter
201 weather (see, for instance, Nelson et al., 2010). Conversely, it may lead to our study
202 underestimating peak concentrations of pharmaceuticals that are used more in warmer weather
203 (i.e. antihistamines). More detailed studies on the daily and seasonal profiles of effluent
204 concentrations would be helpful for understanding the temporal dynamics of contaminant
205 loading.

206 Previously, our group attempted to conservatively estimate annual average concentrations
207 for the entire US (Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008). Subsequent efforts to estimate geographic and
208 seasonal variations in pharmaceutical prescribing practices, together with a review of variations
209 from study to study in peak concentrations reported in the literature (Kostich et al., 2010), led us
210 to suggest a 10-fold 'assessment factor' (uncertainty factor) on predictions of national averages to
211 capture the upper limits of spatial and temporal variation. Comparing measured concentrations to
212 national average predicted environmental concentrations (PECs) reveals the highest ratio of
213 measured concentrations to predicted concentrations is about five (Table 1), well within our
214 anticipated 10-fold assessment factor.

215

216 **Potential toxicity**

217

218 Although good estimates of no-effect levels of APIs are not typically available for either
219 humans or other taxa, clinical data can offer some guidance on expected potency. Previously
220 (Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008), we used minimum daily therapeutic dose rate (DdMin) as a

221 semi-standardized estimate of effective concentrations for humans (originally proposed in
222 Richardson and Bowron, 1985; also suggested by Webb et al., 2003), and the free plasma
223 concentration after therapeutic dosing (C_{max} -free), which was intended as a more conservative
224 semi-standardized estimate of potentially bioactive concentrations intended for estimating
225 potential for effects in non-human taxa. Plasma concentrations have previously been proposed
226 for this purpose in: Lange and Dietrich, 2002; Huggett et al., 2003; and Owen et al., 2007.
227 Plasma concentrations have been previously used as a toxicity metric in: Brown et al., 2007; Fick
228 et al., 2010; Mehinto et al., 2010; Cuklev et al., 2011; and Lahti et al., 2011. In this approach,
229 one assumes a very pessimistic pharmacokinetic scenario where APIs readily enter an organism,
230 but the organism lacks the ability to actively rid itself of the API. This conservatively accounts
231 for uncertainties in pharmacokinetic parameters across the many organisms that may be exposed
232 to components from the effluent stream. In this circumstance, responses are entirely determined
233 by pharmacodynamic parameters, which are assumed similar to those in humans. Both Dd_{Min}
234 and C_{max} -free reference effect levels clearly above a traditional NOEC or LOEC. Instead they
235 correspond to levels inducing a clinically useful (although usually not overtly toxic)
236 physiological effect. This API comparison scheme also has the shortcoming of not
237 discriminating between different endpoints elicited by different APIs (for instance, mixing the
238 often toxic effects of anticancer drugs, with the typically more benign physiological effects of
239 compounds such as antipyretics). In addition, for many APIs, therapeutic dosage rates are not
240 established for pregnant women, small children, those with severe liver or kidney disorders, or
241 those with allergies to the API. Therefore this approach does not extend to these potentially more
242 sensitive subpopulations. Despite these issues, given the absence of traditional NOEC and LOEC

243 estimates for pharmaceuticals, and the fact that DdMin and Cmax-free are typically well
244 established in the course of API regulatory approval for clinical use, we believe these
245 benchmarks may represent the best generally available potency data for prioritizing APIs and
246 estimating the likelihood of eliciting some sort of biological effects. We adapted parameter
247 values for DdMin and Cmax-free (listed in Supplemental File 1) from Kostich and Lazorchak,
248 2008; and Batt et al., 2008. DdMin values were originally derived from prescribing information
249 and represent the minimum daily dose for any approved use in healthy adults.

250 For all individual APIs we looked at, measured concentrations were consistently well
251 below the DdMin. Lisinopril (an antihypertensive) showed the highest ratio of concentration
252 (3300 ng/L) to DdMin (2.5 mg/day). Assuming someone was drinking two liters per day of water
253 at this concentration, that person would consume slightly less than one minimum daily dose of
254 lisinopril per year. The next highest ratio of concentration to daily dose was seen for
255 hydrochlorothiazide (another antihypertensive), corresponding to one dose every six years. For
256 all other APIs we investigated, the ratio of maximum measured concentration to daily dose
257 equated to a potential dose rate of less than one daily dose equivalent per decade. These results
258 are consistent with an analysis based on data reported elsewhere in the literature (summarized in
259 Kostich et al., 2010), as well as our initial model predictions (Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008). It is
260 worth keeping in mind that all the measurements are of treated wastewater, and people do not
261 drink or typically even come in direct contact with wastewater effluent. Concentrations for most
262 analytes in ambient waters and in finished drinking water are expected to be considerably lower
263 than the effluent concentrations we report here due to in-stream dilution, natural degradation, and
264 drinking water treatment. Therefore, this analysis should be thought of as putting an upper limit

265 on concentrations (and potential risks) that might be encountered in ambient water rather than
266 predicting most likely exposure rates. On the other hand, treatment of wastewater and drinking
267 water can occasionally result in the production of byproducts that are more toxic than the parent.
268 Our analysis does not address this possibility because, for the compounds we measured, there is
269 insufficient information available on what byproducts might be produced and their
270 corresponding toxicity profiles. Generally, our data suggest that, based on comparison between
271 measured concentrations and minimum therapeutic dosage rates, risks to healthy human adults
272 from wastewater derived APIs appearing in drinking water are very low.

273 For most analytes we looked at, peak concentrations were also well below the C_{max} -free,
274 with only 4 analytes having maximum concentrations above one tenth of the C_{max} -free. The
275 ratio of maximum measured effluent concentration to C_{max} -free was 0.71 for the antidepressant
276 sertraline, 0.65 for the anti-hypertensive ingredient propranolol, 0.24 for the sertraline metabolite
277 desmethyl-sertraline, and 0.18 for the anti-hypertensive valsartan, suggesting the effluent
278 concentrations of these analytes are close to plasma concentrations which are known to cause
279 readily measurable responses in patients and lab animals. Assuming the validity of a
280 concentration addition model (Loewe and Muischnek, 1926) within modes of action for mixtures
281 of analytes, this suggests hazard ratios of about 1 for both anti-hypertensives and for anti-
282 depressants, further emphasizing the potential for physiological effects. The connection between
283 this simple mechanistic model for predicting toxicity and actual real-world toxicological
284 responses is not completely established, but the limited available data suggests, for instance, that
285 the plasma concentration of propranolol in fish continuously exposed to propranolol in the water
286 at a variety of concentrations reaches steady state concentrations similar to what is in the water

287 (Owen et al., 2007). Similar results have been obtained for other APIs (Lahti et al., 2011). Other
288 work has demonstrated that at least some APIs induce measurable changes in fish gene
289 expression when present in fish plasma at concentrations similar to the human therapeutic
290 plasma concentration (Cuklev et al., 2011). Together these results corroborate the plausibility of
291 this model for initial conservative screening for potential risks from APIs where more detailed
292 concentration response data are lacking. Combined with the measurement data presented here
293 and elsewhere, these results suggest closer examination of risks to fish and other aquatic life are
294 justified for a handful of APIs.

295

296 **Contributions to antibiotic resistance**

297

298 In addition to direct toxicological risks, concern has been raised about the potential for
299 antibiotic residues in wastewater giving rise to antibiotic resistant human pathogens (Webb et al.,
300 2003). Microbial sensitivity to antibiotics is typically expressed as the minimum inhibitory
301 concentration (MIC) of the antibiotic, which is the lowest concentration of antibiotic, in a
302 standard in vitro test system, causing reliable inhibition of microbial growth. Clinically
303 significant antibiotic resistance is defined in terms of the concentrations of antibiotic that can be
304 safely maintained in a target tissue in a patient without causing excessive adverse side-effects.
305 This concentration is termed a 'breakpoint' concentration (BP). Microbes whose MIC is greater
306 than the BP for a given antibiotic are considered to have clinically significant resistance to the
307 antibiotic in question. One way to estimate the selective pressure for development of clinically
308 significant antibiotic resistance is comparison of MECs to the MIC and BP (Webb et al., 2003;

309 Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008). The highest MEC to BP ratio we observed was 0.0003, for the
310 antibiotic ofloxacin (maximum MEC = 660 ng/L, BP = 2 µg/mL, or 2 million ng/L), suggesting
311 no real risk of direct selection of clinically significant resistance. On the other hand, the highest
312 MEC to MIC ratio, 0.66 was also for ofloxacin (MIC = 0.001 µg/mL), and the second highest
313 ratio (0.26) was for ciprofloxacin (MIC = 0.001 µg/mL). Because these ratios are close to one,
314 they suggest the possibility for growth inhibition of some naturally occurring (and potentially
315 beneficial) bacteria, and perhaps for initial acquisition of low level antibiotic resistance by
316 exposed pathogens, particularly if assuming a concentration addition model for mixtures of
317 antibiotics with common modes of action. Such low level antibiotic resistance would not be
318 directly clinically relevant, but it may facilitate faster development of clinically significant
319 resistance when further selection with higher concentrations of antibiotics is applied, for instance
320 in a treated patient.

321

322 **Implications for risk assessment**

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324 In principle, if our prioritization is perfect, our sampling representative, and our
325 measurements exact, this work would allow us to put upper limits on the hazard posed to humans
326 and aquatic life by any API, not just the ones measured in the present study. This follows from
327 the fact that we prioritized the analyte list based on potential risk, so the APIs we did not
328 measure should present lower risks than the ones we did measure. Furthermore, our
329 measurements suggest the maximum locally measured concentrations of APIs do not exceed
330 predicted national average concentrations by more than a 10-fold assessment factor. Assuming

331 the same assessment factor is applicable to the many pharmaceuticals that have never been
332 measured in the aquatic environment, it should be possible to put a ceiling on potential risks for
333 any API. For instance, the highest priority pharmaceutical we did not measure was doxepin.
334 Based on marketing data, we estimated that no more than 4,333,023,418 daily dose equivalents
335 of doxepin are dispensed in the US each year (Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008). After multiplying
336 by our proposed 10-fold assessment factor, this would result in highest possible local
337 concentrations corresponding to a worst-case potential human exposure rate of 4.4 daily doses
338 per decade for this API, and lower daily dose equivalents for the remaining thousand or so lower
339 priority APIs.

340 Our prioritization was based on market data and wastewater production data which are
341 both incomplete and of uncharacterized accuracy. Nevertheless, measurement data presented
342 here, as well as published by other groups (summarized in Kostich et al., 2010), generally
343 corroborate our model predictions. Although our sampling is not perfectly representative of all
344 US wastewater, it comes close to representing the widest swath of wastewater possible with 50
345 samples. Nevertheless, it remains possible that concentration profiles at smaller WWTPs
346 (including household septic systems) may be different than the large facilities we sampled.

347 We expect the greatest weakness of our approach to stem from the sparseness of available
348 dose response data for non-human taxa. Although the use of C_{max}-free as a surrogate for non-
349 human dose response has some experimental support, more work will be required to test its
350 broader applicability. In addition, comprehensive risk assessment requires further measurements
351 on biosolids, sediments, and biota, including human food sources. Also, our work only looked at
352 human use of pharmaceuticals as a source of APIs. Additional characterization of agricultural

353 and industrial sources of APIs is needed for a comprehensive risk estimate.

354

355 **CONCLUSIONS**

356

357 Based on the data presented, risks of direct toxicity to humans, particularly healthy
358 adults, from APIs released into the aquatic environment appear low. Residual risks to susceptible
359 human subpopulations are hard to evaluate without effect level data for these groups, which is
360 typically not available. Risks to aquatic life are still a significant concern for a handful of APIs,
361 but further work will be required to explore this possibility. Risks of direct selection for
362 clinically significant antibiotic resistance appear low, but antibiotic concentrations may inhibit
363 the growth of some naturally occurring beneficial microbes, and may facilitate early steps in the
364 acquisition of clinically significant resistance. These conclusions can be tentatively extended to
365 all prescription pharmaceuticals in current use. Our conclusions are limited to potential exposure
366 through the water column. Additional work will be required to evaluate exposure routes
367 involving biosolids, sediments, exposure within food webs, and agricultural as well as industrial
368 sources of pharmaceutical residues.

369

370 **Author contributions**

371

372 MK initiated the project, organized the work, designed the sampling regime, analyzed the
373 finished measurement data, and coordinated manuscript preparation. All three authors cooperated
374 in developing the experimental design and writing the manuscript. AB managed sample

375 extraction, and performed chemical analysis, including method adaptation, instrument runs, as
376 well as analysis of LC-MS/MS data. JL negotiated, coordinated, and participated in sample
377 collection with EPA Regional personnel, State environmental managers, and WWTP operators.
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379

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381

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391

392 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

393

394 Supplement1.xls: Information on analytes, including method employed for measurement, mode
395 of action classes, potency benchmarks, predicted concentrations, and selected physiochemical
396 parameters.

397

398 Supplement2.doc: Adaptation of a previously described method (Batt and Aga, 2005) for the
399 present study.

400

401 Supplement3.xls: Detailed measurement data for each WWTP sampled. Includes QA flags for
402 each data point. Key to QA flags is in the second sheet.

403

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485 **Table 1:** Concentrations across all 50 effluent samples.

Analyte	CasNumber	Method ^a	RL ^b (ng/L)	Number of measurements	Number of detections	PEC ^c (ng/L)	Mean ^d (ng/L)	Max ^d (ng/L)
10-hydroxy-amitriptyline	64520-05-4	1	5	50	6	5029	<RL	<RL
acetaminophen	103-90-2	1	5	50	7	306955	79 (300)	1500 (4500)
albuterol	18559-94-9	1	9.7	50	27	471	14	35
alprazolam	28981-97-7	1	9.1	50	15	103	10	31
amitriptyline	549-18-8	1	5	50	20	5029	11	110
amlodipine	111470-99-6	1	5	50	11	94	6.9	18
amphetamine	51-63-8	1	1.6	50	5	387	3.5	40
atenolol	29122-68-7	1	6	50	48	4137	940	3000
atorvastatin	134523-00-5	1	38	48	4	2906	<RL	<RL
benztropine	86-13-5	1	10	50	0	33	ND	ND
carbamazepine	298-46-4	1	4.4	50	48	5607	97 (140)	240 (460)
ciprofloxacin	85721-33-1	2	10	49	30	NA	67 (72)	260 (320)
clonidine	4205-91-8	1	35	50	0	43	ND	ND
desmethylsertraline	79902-63-9	1	9.4	50	9	615	9.9 (10)	24
diltiazem	33286-22-5	1	2.8	49	41	3343	85	340
diltiazem-desmethyl	130606-60-9	1	1.6	50	34	3343	24	100
enalapril	76095-16-4	1	1	50	9	369	4.6	38
enalapril	76095-16-4	2	11	49	13	369	13	32
enalaprilat	76420-72-9	2	9	49	5	369	14 (18)	150
florfenicol	73231-34-2	2	60	49	0	NA	ND	ND
fluocinonide	356-12-7	1	10	50	0	12	ND	ND
fluoxetine	59333-67-4	1	2.8	48	18	NA	8.7	31
fluticasone	57-83-0	1	19	50	0	4.2	ND	ND
furosemide	54-31-9	1	38	50	45	7283	280 (350)	810 (2100)
gemfibrozil	25812-30-0	1	10	50	38	NA	420 (480)	2300
hydrochlorothiazide	58-93-5	1	10	50	50	13947	1100 (1200)	2800
hydrocodone	143-71-5	1	3.8	50	22	2561	22 (24)	92 (100)
hydrocortisone	50-23-7	1	25	50	0	2368	ND	ND
ibuprofen	15687-27-1	1	12	50	23	20257	460 (690)	4200 (4600)
lincomycin	859-18-7	2	8	49	0	NA	ND	ND
lisinopril	83915-83-7	2	45	49	23	814	180 (1700)	3300 (13000)
melengestrol acetate	2919-66-6	2	9	49	0	NA	ND	ND
methylprednisolone	83-43-2	1	25	50	0	250	ND	ND
metoprolol	56392-17-7	1	14	50	49	1451	410 (450)	660 (1200)
norethindrone	68-22-4	1	6.9	50	0	111	ND	ND
norfluoxetine	83891-03-6	1	7.2	46	8	NA	7.7	15
norverapamil	67814-42-4	1	4.4	48	25	5328	5.8	20

ofloxacin	82419-36-1	2	10	49	44	NA	160	660
oxycodone	124-90-3	1	2.5	50	30	NA	53	310
paroxetine	110429-35-1	1	5	50	0	NA	ND	ND
prednisolone	50-24-8	1	11	50	0	1421	ND	ND
prednisone	53-03-2	1	30	50	0	2194	ND	ND
progesterone	80474-14-2	1	188	50	2	NA	<RL	<RL
progesterone	80474-14-2	2	9	49	0	NA	ND	ND
promethazine	58-33-3	1	5	50	0	1668	ND	ND
propoxyphene	1639-60-7	1	16	48	12	8300	17	34 (46)
propranolol	318-98-9	1	4.4	50	44	991	33	260
ranitidine	66357-59-3	1	11	50	19	NA	120	1400
sertraline	79559-97-0	1	5	50	32	615	21	71
simvastatin	79902-63-9	1	41	50	12	548	<RL	<RL
sulfadimethoxine	122-11-2	2	1	49	0	NA	ND	ND
sulfamethazine	57-68-1	2	10	49	1	NA	12	87
sulfamethoxazole	723-46-6	1	1.6	50	40	NA	910	2900
sulfamethoxazole	723-46-6	2	1	49	44	NA	330	1000
testosterone	58-55-9	1	3.5	50	0	NA	ND	ND
testosterone	58-55-9	2	1	49	0	NA	ND	ND
theophylline	58-55-9	1	88	50	4	5696	<RL (88)	<RL (100)
triamterene	396-01-0	1	1.3	50	35	4504	37	170
trimethoprim	738-70-5	1	2.5	43	37	NA	170	370
trimethoprim	738-70-5	2	1	49	40	NA	90	210
valsartan	396-01-0	1	11	41	40	2628	1600 (1700)	5300 (8200)
verapamil	137862-53-4	1	2.5	49	39	5328	26	97
warfarin	81-81-2	1	11	50	0	28	ND	ND

486 ^aMethod employed. ^bReporting limit, defined as 3X the EPA MDL (method detection limit) or
487 the lowest calibration point, whichever is greater. ^cPredicted national average concentration from
488 Kostich and Lazorchak, 2008. ^dNumbers in parentheses include estimated concentrations from
489 samples that failed quantification criteria.

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