

Profiles of Professionals

John Fawell, Managing Principal of *The Sapphire Group™*, has provided professional evaluation of the health implications and toxicology of contaminants in the aquatic environment since 1979. He was previously technical advisor to the team preparing environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the European Community, the UK Department of the Environment and the Environmental Agency. He has led research programs on the toxicology of halogenated by-products of disinfection for government and water suppliers since 1982.

He has also been involved in research on a wide range of drinking water contaminants including the toxicology and risk to health of toxins from blue-green algae. He is currently involved in research on endocrine disrupters, and disinfection by-products. His team provides advice to water purveyors and government departments in the UK on the consequences of chemical spills and pollution affecting drinking water and the aquatic environment. Mr. Fawell has served as a member of committees advising government and regulatory bodies such as the sub-committee on Pesticides and continues to serve on others such as the Environment Agency National Advisory Group for Classifying Substances for the EC Groundwater Directive.

He has been involved in a number of international seminars and conferences as a member of the organizing group and has close contacts with regulators and water suppliers in many parts of the world including the USA and Canada. He has also acted as a consultant in other regions, including the Gulf. Mr. Fawell has served on a number of WHO working groups and committees and was a member of the co-ordination team to revise the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

He was also actively involved in the preparation of scientific documentation for this revision. He acted as co-ordinator for inorganics and substances which affect acceptability to consumers, and was rapporteur for organics, pesticides, and disinfection by-products. He organized the working group meetings on radioactivity, and treatment and analysis. He is involved with a number of WHO initiatives including the continued rolling revision of the Drinking Water Guidelines and has prepared working documents on chemical contamination for the working group on bathing water. Mr. Fawell is the author of over 50 published articles and numerous reports prepared for a range of different organizations.

Mr. Fawell has completed degrees in Sc Applied Biology, Animal Physiology Special, MIBiol CBiol, MCIWEM from the University of Bath and a Diploma in Toxicology from the Royal College of Pathologists.