



INSTITUTION

Aquacycl, LLC

EDUCATION

University of Southern
California

University of Northern
Arizona

ORIANNA BRETSCHGER

A native of the Southwest, Orianna Bretschger grew up appreciating water issues. She received a B.S. in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Northern Arizona; and after a career in aerospace and government consulting, she subsequently found her way back to water while completing a Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. During her graduate work, she studied how microbes remove pollutants from water and produce electricity at the same time. Her time at USC also instilled a passion for education and mentorship. In 2008, Dr. Bretschger accepted a position at the J. Craig Venter Institute in San Diego where she continued her research and developed outreach programs highlighting microbiome activities in wastewater treatment and the importance of understanding the water cycle from a local and global perspective.

To-date, Dr. Bretschger's research has resulted in 31 publications, over 1000 citations, 3 book chapters, and 4 patents. Her research also led to technology development and in 2016, Dr. Bretschger founded Aquacycl LLC with her partners. Aquacycl is now commercializing sustainable wastewater treatment systems for industry, agriculture and emerging markets. Dr. Bretschger holds Adjunct Associate Professor positions at USC and San Diego State University to advance water research, technology, and education.