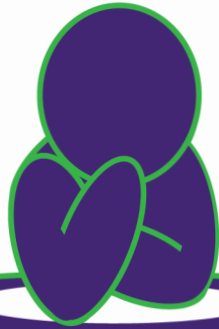


SUNY POTSDAM

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



**SEMINAR SERIES**  
DISCIPLINED INQUIRY IN EDUCATION

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017, Noon**  
**Literacy Center Balcony**

*Dr. Fadi Bou-Abdallah*  
*Department of Chemistry*

## **There's What in My Drinking Water?**

**Abstract:** The water we are drinking really deserves a closer look. According to a poll taken by the Associated Press, less than 50% of Americans believe their tap water is safe. Only 91 contaminants are regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, yet more than 60,000 chemicals are used in the United States for various purposes, according to Environmental Protection Agency estimates. A large majority of these chemicals are agricultural pesticides and herbicides that end up in our water supply but not a single one has been added to the watch list since 2009.

This presentation will examine the consequences of heavy metals, discarded antibiotics, toxic chemicals, and infectious parasites that may be hidden in our drinking water and that can, over time, lead to degenerative diseases, debilitating chronic pain, and even cancer! The presentation will end up with a recent project from my lab that tested several water samples (tap, natural, and wastewater from several towns in Upstate New York) as well as water samples from the Raquette River stretching from Potsdam to Tupper Lake.