

£7M study to cut drugs in waste water

Medicines can damage aquatic eco-systems

EXCLUSIVE

By **CATRIONA STEWART**

RESEARCHERS at Glasgow Caledonian University have begun a £7million study to test levels of medicines in waste water.

The scheme will look at ways to reduce the presence of drug residues which, although not harmful to humans, can affect aquatic life.

The noPILLS project, funded by the European Union, will raise awareness of the residue medicines leave in water supply once they pass through the human body.

Dr Ole Pahl, an environmental engineer from GCU's School of Engineering and Built Environment, will lead the study.

He said: "The project addresses the need to reduce pharmaceutical and other micro-pollutants in the water cycle.

"It will investigate whether, and how, pharmaceutical product input may be reduced by raising awareness, encouraging different consumption or prescription practices, and promoting better disposal."

GCU's noPILLS team will collaborate with four other groups across Europe, including water companies and universities.

The GCU team will work on detecting pharmaceuticals and their biological effects in a

We aim to reduce the levels of drugs entering the water system

field study area in central Scotland.

Professor Lynne Bailie, who will lead the technology-focused part of the group, added: "We will build innovative mobile applications that will aim to communicate to people how they can reduce the levels of drugs product entering the waste water system."

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