Abstract: The treatment and disposal of sewage sludge (‘biosolids’) presents a major challenge in wastewater management and, consequently, there is a need to find a cost-effective and innovative solution for its disposal. Recycling to land is currently considered the most economical and beneficial way for sewage sludge management. While there are many advantages associated with the reuse of sludge in agriculture, there are also many issues. Many of these are issues of perception, but there is also considerable concern, which is scientifically based, over the presence of persistent and emerging contaminants in biosolids, the risk of contamination of soil and water, the presence of toxic metals and pharmaceuticals in the sludge, which may build up in the soil and enter the food chain following continuous applications to land. This presentation will detail the results of a recent study, conducted by NUI Galway, which measured the presence of contaminants in surface runoff following land application of three types of biosolids and the uptake of metals by the vegetation.

The talk will be streamed live and archived. Visit www.villanova.edu/vcase and go to Lecture Series to view all the previous talks.