

PLASTIC CHEMICAL THREATS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT: Opportunities to Protect Children's Health and their Future in the Plastics Treaty

16 APRIL 2024 | 15:00-16:30 CEST | ONLINE (WEBEX)

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End Plastic Pollution: Looking forward



UNEA-5.2	INC-1	INC-3	INC-4	INC-5		
28 Feb – 2 Mar Nairobi, Kenya Adoption resolution 5/14 End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument	28 Nov - 2 Dec Punta del Este, Uruguay Preceeded by a multi- stakeholder forum	13 - 19 Nov Nairobi, Kenya	21-29 April Ottawa,Canada	25 Nov - Busan, R	1 Dec epublic of Korea	
2022	2023		2024		2025	
30 May - 1 Jun Dakar, Senegal	29 May - 2 June Paris, France	26 Feb Repor	- 1 Mar Nairobi, Ker t progress of the INC	ya	Mid 2025 For the purpose	of
OEWG	INC-2	UNE	A-6		adoption and opening for s the new instrument	signature

UNEA-5 resolution sets the ambition of Diplomatic Conference completing the INC work by the end of 2024 of Plenipotentiaries

GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft

Confédération suisse

Confederaziun svizra

Confederazione Svizzera



GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Global Criteria to Address Problematic, Unnecessary and Avoidable Plastic Products 01 FEB 2024 14:00 - 15:30 Online | Webex Nordic Council of Ministers, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Science
SDG12



VIRTUAL

Implementing a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: A Holistic Approach to Resource Mobilization & Financing for Systems Change & Just Transitions 07 FEB 2024 15:30 - 17:00 Online I Webex TESS, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Green Economy
SDG12

PlastChem State of the Science on Plastic Chemicals

identifying and addressing chemiand polymers of concern

VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | State of the Science on Plastic Chemicals: Identifying and Addressing Chemicals and Polymers of Concern 14 MAR 2024 14:00 - 15:30 Online | Webex PlastChem, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
SDG12

C.R.i.B.

VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Climate Impacts of Plastics: Global Actions to Stem Climate Change and End Plastic Pollution 20 MAR 2024 14:00 - 15:30 Online | Webex GRID-Arendal, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Climate | Plastics
SDG12 | SDG13

CONFERENCE

Biodiversity and the Global Plastics Treaty: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on "Biodiversity Aspects" in the Future Treaty 26 MAR 2024 13:00 - 14:30 International Environment House I, Room 3 & Online I Webex IUCN, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Nature | Plastics
SDG12 | SDG14 | SDG15

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confédérazione Svizzera Confédérazion svizra

GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



VIRTUAL

Chemicals in the Plastics Treaty: Perspectives on Protecting Human Health 28 MAR 2024 12:00 - 13:30 Online | Webex IPEN, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
SDG3 | SDG12



CONFERENCE

Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade: Call for Action 09 APR 2024 14:00 - 15:30 WTO and Online | Webex WTO, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
SDG3 | SDG12



VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Plastics Treaty: Aligning States Duties and Business Responsibilities with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights 12 APR 2024 14:00 - 15:00 Online | Webex OHCHR

 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Human Rights and Environment Plastic Waste Trade

VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer 15 APR 2024 15:00 - 16:30 Online | Webex Basel Action Network, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
SDG3 | SDG12 | SDG17



VIRTUAL Plastic Production: Latest Views from Scientists and the Public 16 APR 2024 13:00 - 14:30 Online | Webex Greenpeace, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
SDG3 | SDG12

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Throughout the event, you may raise your questions in the Q&A box
- Automatically translated subtitles in many languages are available through the captions button on the bottom left of your screen
- The recording, summary and documents will be made available on the event's website





GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



ENGLISH CAPTIONS CAN BE ACTIVATED BY CLICKING ON THE BUTTON ON THE LEFT-SIDE OF THE BOTTOM BAR ON THE SCREEN



DIALOGUES





INTERPRETATIONS INTO FRENCH AND SPANISH ARE AVAILABLE.

Click on the "Interpretation" button located at the left side of the bottom bar on the screen.





GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



Opportunities to Protect Children's Health and their Future in the Plastics Treaty



16 APRIL 2024 | 15:00-16:30 CEST **ONLINE (WEBEX)**



SPEAKERS

By order of intervention.









Andrea GORE

AL KHASHASHNEH

Secretary General, Ministry of

Director, Department of Environment,

Maria NEIRA

Mohammad

Environment, Jordan

Organization

Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Texas at Austin



Robert ZOELLER

Professor Emeritus, Biology Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Pamela MILLER

Co-Chair, IPEN & Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics | Moderator



Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O



Global Framework on Chemicals Focal Point, Gabon



Maureen SWANSON



Director, Environmental Risk Reduction & Project TENDR, The Arc





Scientist Emeritus and Former Director. NIEHS and National Toxicology Program, Scholar in Residence, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University



Leo TRASANDE

NYU Grossman School of Medicin

Jim G. Hendrick MD Professor of Pediatrics & Director, Center for the Investigation of Environmental Hazards, New York University Grossman School of Medicine



IPEN





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Moderated by Pamela MILLER, Co-Chair of IPEN & Executive Director of Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Opening

Maria NEIRA | Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO

Opening Views: The Plastics Treaty & Global Policy Experience

- Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O | Global Framework on Chemicals Focal Point, Gabon
- Mohammad AL KHASHASHNEH | Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Jordan

Health Science Expert Presentations

Opening Comment

• Maureen SWANSON | Director, Environmental Risk Reduction & Project TENDR, The Arc

Endocrine-disrupting Chemicals in Plastics : Developmental and Multigenerational Effects • Andrea GORE | Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Texas at Austin

Protecting the Developing Brains of Children from the Harmful Effects of Plastics and Toxic Chemicals in Plastics: Recommendations for Essential Policy Reforms in the New Global Treaty on Plastics

• Linda S. BIRNBAUM | Scientist Emeritus and Former Director, NIEHS and National Toxicology Program, Scholar in Residence, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University

How Chemicals in Plastics Interfere with the Actions of Hormones that are Critical for Brain Development

Robert ZOELLER | Professor Emeritus, Biology Department, Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst

Prenatal Phthalate Exposure, Adverse Birth Outcomes, and Chemicals Used in Plastic Materials

Leo TRASANDE | Jim G. Hendrick MD Professor of Pediatrics & Director, Center for the
Investigation of Environmental Hazards, New York University Grossman School of Medicine

Q&A







Pamela MILLER

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Opening Views: The Plastics Treaty & Global Policy Experience





GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O



Global Framework on Chemicals Focal Point, Gabon





Co-Facilitat

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



> IPEN, Plastic Pollution Dialogue 16th April 2024, 3pm CEST (Geneva)

Objective to Protect Human Health: Experience from the Stockholm Convention by

M. Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, Global Framework Chemicals Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife Human Conflict Gabon





Key Ideas

- Objective of Stockholm Convention and Global Governance of Chemical and Waste?
- Success story: PCBs management in Gabon?
- Some challenges on the effective management toxic plastics under the Stockholm Convention
- Some expectations regarding the adoption of the future treaty to combat plastic pollution and microplastics

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Mohammad ALKHASHASHNEH

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HEALTH SCIENCE EXPERT PRESENTATIONS Opening Comment





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Maureen SWANSON

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Director, Environmental Risk Reduction & Project TENDR, The Arc



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HEALTH SCIENCE EXPERT PRESENTATIONS Hormone System, Wide-spread Exposures to Children from Plastic Chemicals, and Inter-generational Impact





GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



Andrea GORE

Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Texas at Austin

Endocrine-disrupting Chemicals & the Brain





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ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS

DEVELOPMENTAL AND MULTIGENERATIONAL EFFECTS

ANDREA C. GORE, PHD UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, U.S.







ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS: THREATS TO HUMAN HEALTH

PESTICIDES, PLASTICS, FOREVER CHEMICALS, AND BEYOND

February 2024



Authors: Andrea C. Gore, Ph.D. Michele A. La Merrill, Ph.D. Heather Patisaul, Ph.D. Robert M. Sargis, M.D., Ph.D.





SOME CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS ARE EDCS

- EDCs interfere with hormones and their actions
- Hormones are required for the regulation of growth and development, metabolism, stress, and reproduction, among other functions
- When these functions are perturbed by EDCs, they can lead to diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular problems, reproductive disorders, behavioral problems, and certain cancers





BISPHENOLS AND PHTHALATES

• The science on EDCs in plastics has grown, along with our understanding of how important environmental factors are in disease prevalence.

• The convergence of research on cell lines, animal models, and human epidemiology, leads to strong evidence linking exposures to bisphenols/phthalates to detrimental health outcomes.

• Numerous international scientific and medical organizations have called for stronger regulations.





EDCS IN PLASTICS THREATEN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- EDCs pose the biggest risk at key points in lifecycle
 - Mom and baby during pregnancy
 - Young children
 - Puberty
- Fetuses and infants are exposed: Bisphenols & phthalates are detectable in amniotic fluid, umbilical cord blood.
- EDC effects can impact multiple generations






CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS - DEVELOPMENT

DOHaD: Developmental Origins of Health and Disease

- The timing of exposure to EDCs is key fetus, infant, child, puberty
- The manifestation of disease may not occur for years or decades

Critical periods

- Life stages when there is rapid developmental change and hormone sensitivity.
- "The timing makes the poison"









CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS -MULTIGENERATIONAL EFFECTS

When a pregnant woman is exposed, so is her fetus (F1) and its germ cells (F2)





for a toxics-free future

Gore & Patisaul, 2010

CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS - MULTIGENERATIONAL EFFECTS

Multigenerational effects

- The germline (sperm, egg precursors) can be "programmed" by EDCs, affecting multiple generations
- The mechanisms for heritability are "epigenetic" these are not mutations, but include factors that modify whether a gene is or is not expressed
 - DNA methylation
 - Histone modifications
 - Noncoding RNAs







BISPHENOLS AND PHTHALATES – EXPOSURE IS UBIQUITOUS

BISPHENOLS:

- PHTHALATES:
- Leaching from reusable food and beverage containers PVC products
- Food can linings
- Medical and sports equipment
- Eyeglass lenses
- Thermal paper receipts
- Plastic water pipes
- Adhesives, paints, and lacquers

- Personal care products
- Fillers in medications and dietary supplements
- Food and beverage packaging and processing materials
- Children's toys
- Medical tubing









BISPHENOLS AND PHTHALATES

Although not as persistent as POPs, exposure is so ubiquitous that we can constantly re-exposed.

"BPA-free" products usually include replacements such as BPS, BPF, and BPAF, which are also EDCs. Similarly, phthalate replacements can be part of the "regrettable substitution" cycle.

BPA is best studied for effects on the estrogen receptor, and phthalates on the androgen receptor, but these are the tip of the iceberg of how these chemicals act as EDCs.





NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES LINKED TO PHTHALATES & BISPHENOLS

Strong evidence for direct developmental exposures; increasing evidence for intergenerational effects on:

- Brain development and behavior: Anxiety, depression, ADHD
- Metabolic problems: diabetes, obesity
- Reproductive health: Reduced fertility, PCOS, sexual dysfunction in men; testosterone and estrogen levels
- Cancers: Associated with breast, prostate, ovarian, and endometrial cancers
- Interfere with thyroid hormone action
- Cardiovascular disease and hypertension









ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS: THREATS TO HUMAN HEALTH

PESTICIDES, PLASTICS, FOREVER CHEMICALS, AND BEYOND

February 2024



Andrea C. Gore, Ph.D. Michele A. La Merrill, Ph.D. Heather Patisaul, Ph.D. Robert M. Sargis, M.D., Ph.D

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



PLASTICS, EDCs & HEALTH

A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS AND POLICY-MAKERS ON **ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS & PLASTICS**



lodi Flaws, PhD Pauliina Damdimopoulou. PhD Heather B. Patisaul, PhD Andrea Gore, PhD Lori Raetzman, PhD Laura H. Vandenberg, PhD

EDC-2: The Endocrine Society's Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals

A. C. Gore, V. A. Chappell, S. E. Fenton, J. A. Flaws, A. Nadal, G. S. Prins, J. Toppari, and R. T. Zoeller

Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals and Public Health Protection: A Statement of Principles from The **Endocrine Society**

R. Thomas Zoeller, T. R. Brown, L. L. Doan, A. C. Gore, N. E. Skakkebaek, A. M. Soto, T. J. Woodruff, and F. S. Vom Saal

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Closing







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GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



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Linda S. BIRNBAUM



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Project TENDR: A Briefing Paper

Protecting the Developing Brains of Children from the Harmful Effects of Plastics and Toxic Chemicals in Plastics

Recommendations for Essential Policy Reforms in the New Global Treaty on Plastics

Linda S. Birnbaum, PhD,

Science Emeritus and Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program Scholar in Residence, Nicholas School of The Environment, Duke University

A BRIEFING PAPER FOR DELEGATES

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April 2004

Plastics and Toxic Chemicals in Plastics

We are exposed to:

- Plastics Fragments: Nano- and Micro-Particles
- Thousands of Chemical Additives, including:

Known neurotoxicants:

- Phthalates
- o Bisphenols,
- PBDE Flame Retardants (FRs)

Likely neurotoxicants:

- Other Organohalogen FRs
- Organophosphate FRs
- Chlorinated Paraffins
- PFAS



Plastics are vectors for directly delivering neurotoxic chemicals into human brains and bodies.

Important Exposure Pathways

Plastic Particles & Chemical Additives are Inhaled, Ingested, and Absorbed from:

- **Diet**: Leach from plastic packaging, food processing equipment, fast food, epoxy resins, & bottles (*phthalates, bisphenols*);
- **Dust:** Leach from plastic products, incl. flooring, building products, electronics, concentrate in dust, and are inhaled, ingested, absorbed *(flame retardants, phthalates);*
- Incineration of plastics with chlorine or bromine can release neurotoxic chemicals like dioxins & furans.

Children are highly exposed; spend a lot of time on the floor & put objects and hands in their mouths; they breathe, eat, and drink more relative to body weight than adults.

Plastic Particles In Utero, Infants, Children



Plastic particles & chemical additives are found in:

- Placenta, which supports fetal growth and development.
 - One study found 60% of placenta samples had plastic particles in 2006, 90% in 2013, and 100% in 2021.
- Newborns' first stool
- Breast milk
- Infant formula

Brains are targets: Plastic particles cross the blood-brain barrier.

Babies enter the world today with their brains and bodies contaminated with plastics.

Impacts on Child Brain Development

Plastic Particles & Chemical Additives Penetrate Cell Membranes and Impair Placental Function, affecting:

- Fetal growth;
- Brain Growth & Development;
- Behavior, Motor Function, Learning, and Memory.

Plastic particles were found in all placentas of low weight babies, but only in 10% from normal weight babies.

Babies with higher microplastics exposure had:

- Lower birthweight, length, and head circumference;
- Lower Apgar score.

Overwhelming Evidence of Neurotoxicity

Overwhelming evidence for some classes of chemicals in plastics shows prenatal and early childhood exposures contribute to problems with child brain development and neurodevelopmental disorders.

- Phthalates
- PBDE Flame Retardants
- Bisphenols

These chemical classes and their substitutes:

- Leach from plastics into food and dust.
- Are widely found in pregnant women, infants, and children.
- Pass to the fetus via the placenta, and to the infant via breastmilk and formula.

Overwhelming Evidence: Phthalates

Phthalates: Make plastics more durable and flexible; used in food packaging & production materials, personal care products, flooring, wall coverings.

- Youngest children are the most highly exposed.
- Diet accounts for >50% of exposure in U.S.

Prenatal Exposures:

- Impair IQ, behavior, attention, and are especially linked to ADHD.
- Can change brain structure, including brain matter volumes (seen on MRIs), with links to IQ deficits.

Emerging evidence shows "replacement phthalates" also harm child brain development.

Overwhelming Evidence: Organohalogen FRs

OFRs: added to furniture, electronics, and materials to stop fires.

PBDEs are extensively researched OFRs, associated with:

- Learning, behavioral, and intellectual impairment;
- Children with autism may be more susceptible to harm.

PBDEs are:

- Banned internationally; the US restricts some uses;
- Found in recycled plastic products incl. toys, food containers, and food handling utensils.

Other BFRs and Organophosphate FRs have replaced PBDEs.

Replacement FRs also show harm to child brain development, impacting fine motor skills, working memory, language abilities, behavior, and attention.

Overwhelming Evidence: Bisphenols

Bisphenols: High production volume (5-6 billion pounds annually). Used in polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins.

Neurotoxicity of Bisphenol A (BPA) extensively studied:

- Rodent exposures during pregnancy, infancy, or adolescence linked to deficits in memory and cognitive function.
- Human studies show BPA contributes to ADHD, autism, depression, anxiety, and cognitive disorders in children.

Human and animal studies of substitutes (BPS, BPF, BPAF) show larger impacts on child brain development than from BPA.

Prevent Regrettable Substitution

As some Phthalates, Bisphenols, and Flame Retardants are phased out:

- Emerging evidence shows the replacement chemicals are just as or more neurotoxic;
- Levels of replacement chemicals in people have increased, including in pregnant women and children.

It is critical that we prevent harm to children's brain health by eliminating non-essential uses of plastics and harmful classes of chemicals, rather than trying to eliminate toxic compounds one by one.

Recommendations: Global Plastics Treaty

- Substantially reduce and cap plastics production toward elimination of single-use plastics and other non-essential uses;
- Phase out use of the most toxic plastic polymers, including polyvinyl chloride and polystyrene;
- Phase out neurotoxic chemical classes in plastics.
 - Governments should start by immediately banning these chemical classes from plastic food contact materials.
 - It is imperative to ban classes of toxic additives in plastics to avoid regrettable substitution.

Recommendations: Global Plastics Treaty

- Ban intentionally added nanoplastics and microplastics in products such as cosmetics, cleaning products, and toys.
- **Require full transparency and public disclosure** of information, including identification and reporting of all chemicals used in plastics production as well as plastics additives.
- Ensure that disposal and recycling of plastics does not result in releases of toxic substances, and that toxic substances are not present in recycled plastic products.
- Prevent incineration (which includes pyrolysis and gasification) of plastics— including "chemical recycling," "advanced recycling," and "waste-to-energy" schemes.

A Plastics Treaty that Protects Health!



We call for a strong plastics treaty that protects the health of children's developing brains by reducing the production and use of plastics and subsequent generation of plastic particles, and by preventing the harmful effects of plastics throughout their life cycle.

https://projecttendr.thearc.org/project-tendr-briefing-paper-protecting-thedeveloping-brains-of-children-from-plastics-and-toxic-chemicals-in-plastics/

PLASTIC CHEMICAL THREATS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

Opportunities to Protect Children's Health and their Future in the Plastics Treaty



16 APRIL 2024 | 15:00-16:30 CEST ONLINE (WEBEX)

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AGENDA

Moderated by Pamela MILLER, Co-Chair of IPEN & Executive Director of Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Opening

Maria NEIRA | Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO

Opening Views: The Plastics Treaty & Global Policy Experience

- Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O | Global Framework on Chemicals Focal Point, Gabon
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Leo TRASANDE | Jim G. Hendrick MD Professor of Pediatrics & Director, Center for the
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How Chemicals in Plastics Interfere with the Actions of Hormones that are Critical for Brain development.

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R. Thomas Zoeller, Ph.D. Department of Biology University of Massachusetts Amherst

Hormones act on cells through receptors

- Hormones can only act on cells that have the right receptor.
- Some hormone receptors are on the cell membrane; others are inside the cell
- The affinity of the receptor for a chemical (or hormone) does NOT define POTENCY.



Principles of Endocrinology Relevant to EDCs



• Many hormone receptors (e.g., for thyroid hormone) are much more abundant in the fetal brain compared to the adult brain

Thyroid hormone is essential for brain development



- Thyroid hormone contains iodine and iodine deficiency in human populations globally is the greatest known cause of brain damage.
- Fetal brain development requires thyroid hormone during the first trimester, before the fetal thyroid gland develops.
- But thyroid hormone is essential throughout development.

Hormone action during development is a "timing" issue



Nucera et al., *J Cell Mol Med*. 2010;14(10):2417-

2435.



What we know for certain:

- Interfering with hormone action during development will have permanent consequences.
- People listening to this talk would not have the intellectual capacity to understand it if you had been deficient in thyroid hormone during development.
- You would not have had the intellectual capacity to develop your career
- Your scientific or other discipline would not be the same
- Exposures to plastic chemicals that interfere with thyroid hormone represents an existential threat.

Thyroid hormone system can be disrupted at several points of regulation



• Köhrle, J., & Frädrich, C. (2021). *Best practice & research. Clinical endocrinology & metabolism*, 35(5), 101562. doi:10.1016/j.beem.2021.101562

Plastic chemicals are known to interfere with the thyroid hormone system

- Phthalates
- Bisphenols
- triclosan
- Halogenated flame retardants
 - PCBs, PBBs, PBDEs,
- PFAS

Thank You
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THANK YOU!











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