PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP

Summit on Shaping Our Planetary Legacy: Setting an Agenda for Environmental Reproductive Health
Recommendation 1: Advocate for policies to prevent exposure to toxic environmental chemicals

Recommendation 2: Work to ensure a healthy food system for all

Recommendation 3: Make environmental health part of health care

Recommendation 4: Champion environmental justice
What is “The Environment”?
“ENVIRONMENT” Includes:

- Industrial chemicals
- Agricultural chemicals
- Physical agents (heat, radiation)
- By-products of combustion and industrial processes (dioxin)
- Foods and nutrients
- Prescription drugs
- Lifestyle choices and substance abuse
- Social and economic factors
Should We Be Concerned?

- Testicular Cancer
  - Age adjusted incidence per 10,000 population

- Breast Cancer
  - Age adjusted incidence per 10,000 population

- Hypospadias
  - Rate per 10,000 births

- Sperm Count
  - Count (x10^9/ml)
  - Year: 1920, '40, '60, '80, 2000

Dr. Birnbaum: NIEHS, Sharpe and Irvine, 2004
Why have some diseases increased in incidence over the past 40 years?

- Genes have not changed over that time
- Recent “epidemics” of diabetes, asthma, ADHD, obesity due to environmental, dietary and behavioral changes
- We will never understand the etiology of diseases without an understanding of the role of “environment”
Chemicals in the International environment

- There are 70-100,000 chemicals in global commerce
- Production is increasing about 3.4% annually
- 4800 chemicals are “high volume” or exceed 1 million pounds of use a year
- By 2020, LOW INCOME countries will lead the world in high volume production

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women
American Society for Reproductive Medicine Practice Committee
The University of California, San Francisco Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment

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Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents

ABSTRACT: Reducing exposure to toxic environmental agents is a critical area of intervention for obstetricians, gynecologists, and other reproductive health care professionals. Patient exposure to toxic environmental chemicals and other stressors is ubiquitous, and preconception and prenatal exposure to toxic environmental agents can have a profound and lasting effect on...
Chemical Exposures During Pregnancy: Dealing with Potential, but Unproven, Risks to Child Health
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics opinion on reproductive health impacts of exposure to toxic environmental chemicals

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ABSTRACT

Exposure to toxic environmental chemicals during pregnancy and breastfeeding is ubiquitous and is a threat to healthy human reproduction. There are tens of thousands of chemicals in global commerce, and even small exposures to toxic chemicals during pregnancy can trigger adverse health consequences. Exposure to toxic environmental chemicals and related health outcomes are inequitably distributed within and between countries; universally, the consequences of exposure are disproportionately borne by people with low incomes. Discrimination, other social factors, economic factors, and occupation impact risk of exposure and harm. Documented links between prenatal exposure to environmental chemicals and adverse health outcomes span the life course and include impacts on fertility and pregnancy, neurodevelopment, and cancer. The global health and economic burden related to toxic environmental chemicals is in excess of millions of deaths and billions of dollars every year. On the basis of accumulating robust evidence of exposures and adverse health impacts related to toxic environmental chemicals, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) joins other leading reproductive health professional societies in calling for timely action to prevent harm. FIGO recommends that reproductive and other health professionals advocate for policies to prevent exposure to toxic environmental chemicals, work to ensure a healthy food system for all, make environmental health part of health care, and champion environmental justice.

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International Ob-Gyns Group Urges Greater Efforts to Prevent Toxic Chemical Exposure

Reproductive Health Professionals Say Links Between Prenatal Exposure to Chemicals and Poor Health Outcomes Are Increasingly Evident

Vancouver – Dramatic increases in exposure to toxic chemicals in the last four decades is threatening human reproduction and health, according to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), the first major international reproductive health organization to take a stand on the ill-effects of exposure to toxic chemicals.

FIGO, which represents ob-gyns from 125 countries, is releasing its historic opinion urging global policies to reduce human exposure to toxic chemicals at a global conference in Vancouver on October 4-9.

“We are drowning our world in untested and unsafe chemicals and the price we are paying in terms of our reproductive health is of serious concern,” said Gian Carlo Di Renzo, MD, PhD, Honorary Secretary of FIGO and lead author of the FIGO opinion. According to Di Renzo, reproductive health professionals witness first-hand the increasing numbers of health problems facing their patients, and preventing exposure to toxic chemicals can reduce this burden on women, children, and families around the world.”

Miscarriage and fetal loss, impaired fetal growth, congenital malformations, impaired or reduced neurodevelopment and cognitive function, and an increase in cancer, attention problems, ADHD behaviors, and hyperactivity are among the list of poor health outcomes linked to chemicals such as pesticides, air pollutants, plastics, solvents, and more, according to the FIGO opinion.

World chemical manufacturing has grown rapidly over the past 40 years and developing countries will lead the world in growth rate for high volume chemicals within five years, according to FIGO. In the U.S. alone, an equivalent of more than 30,000 pounds of chemicals per person is manufactured or imported and yet the vast majority has not been tested. Chemicals travel the globe via international trade agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. TTIP has been criticized by environment...

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1 These are only a few examples of toxic environmental chemicals. There are 70,000 to 100,000 chemicals in global commerce; approximately 4,800 “high-production volume chemicals” constitute the vast majority in global production. References: OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030. Paris, France: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; 2008. The European Environment, State and Outlook 2010: Assessment of Global Megatrends, Copenhagen, Denmark: European Environment Agency; 2010:80-91.
FOR ...
EVERY WOMAN
EVERY TIME