Early Life Environmental Chemical Exposures and Children’s Health

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February 13, 2018
4:00 to 5:00 PM
121 S. Main Street, Room 245

The fetus, infant, and child may be more sensitive to environmental toxicant exposures than adults because of their immature detoxification pathways, increased sensitivity to environmental inputs, and rapid growth and development. We have been using a prospective pregnancy and birth cohort of 389 mothers and their children from Cincinnati, OH to examine the relationship between child health and early life exposure to numerous environmental chemicals. I will present results describing the patterns and predictors of early life exposure to triclosan and perfluoroalkyl substances, as well as association of these exposures with fetal growth, adiposity, cognition, and biological intermediates that may underlie these associations. I will conclude by discussing research that could link the seemingly unrelated phenotypes of adiposity and neurodevelopment in an effort to understand how environmental chemicals may affect both of these outcomes.

Sponsored by the C.K. Colver Lectureship Fund, the Department of Epidemiology, the Master of Public Health Program, and the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights
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