

Chemical Exposures in Consumer Products

February 9, 2022, 10-11:30 am ET

Panelists and Co-Hosts



Amira Adawe, MPH, has more than 15 years history of working in public health including local, state and community-based public health programs, research and policy. She is the Founder and Executive Director of The Beautywell Project. BW is a non-profit organization that aims to combat skinlightening and chemical exposures as well as addressing other environmental impacts as well as improving community health literacy in Minnesota, Nationwide. She is also Adjunct Instructor at the University

of Minnesota School of Public Health. Amira previously managed the Minnesota Children's Cabinet of Governor Mark Dayton, where she worked on early childhood in all policies and systems using equity lens. She is a public health researcher and her research interests include women and children's health in the areas of access to health care, skin-lightening practices and chemical exposures. Amira is the host of Beauty-Wellness Talk Podcast. Amira has undergraduate degree in Family Social Science from University of Minnesota and Master of Public Health from University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She was also a Policy Fellow 2015-2016 at Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Amira is currently 2020 Bush Foundation Fellow. Amira's work has been featured on local, national and international media including CNN, StarTribune, Minnpost, STAT news, National Public Radio (NPR), Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien and WSB-TV, Minnesota Public Radio, New York Times, Bloomberg News and Associated Press, MinnPost, PBS NewHour and Kare11.

Robin Dodson, ScD, is a research scientist at Silent Spring Institute with expertise in exposure assessment, particularly in the indoor environment. Her research focuses on three main areas: development of novel exposure measurements for epidemiological and community-based studies, analysis of environmental exposure data with a particular emphasis on semivolatile organic compounds such as phthalates and flame retardant chemicals, and intervention studies aimed at reducing chemical exposures. Dr. Dodson oversees the Institute's consumer product exposure research. She was the lead author on a landmark peer-reviewed study on endocrine disrupting and asthma-associated chemicals in more than 200 consumer products and co-author of a study of these same chemicals in hair products used by Black women. Dr. Dodson is part of the research team of the Taking Stock Study, a community-engaged study of consumer product use among women of color in California.

Dr. Dodson is an adjunct assistant professor of environmental health at Boston University School of Public Health and also holds an appointment as a visiting scientist at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. In addition to her doctorate, Dr. Dodson holds a bachelor's in environmental studies from Bates College and a master's in environmental science and risk management from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.





Jasmine McDonald, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health. She received her Doctorate in 2009 from the Biological Sciences in Public Health Program at Harvard University with a concentration in Immunology and Infectious Disease. She then pursued postdoctoral training in breast cancer epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. As a multidisciplinary trained molecular epidemiologist, her research program provides unique perspectives and novel study designs to examine the complexities of breast cancer etiology and risk reduction across the life course. Her research portfolio integrates individual level factors (e.g., health behaviors) and the macroenvironment (e.g. physical, social, microbial environment) with biology (e.g. endocrine disruption, epigenetic modification) to inform how these multiple levels of etiology impact breast cancer risk across the lifecourse - from early life to adulthood. Much of her portfolio is nested within populations that have a higher burden of

cancer including those with a genetic predisposition, racial and ethnic minorities, and young women. Also, an avid teacher and mentor, Dr. McDonald was awarded the 2021 Columbia University Teaching Award for her dedication and excellence in teaching, mentoring, and community engagement. Dr. McDonald teaches Cancer Epidemiology within the Mailman School of Public Health, is the Assistant Director of Cancer Education at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC) and is the Co-Director of the CURE Program at the HICCC. The CURE program is catered to high school and undergraduate students from underserved backgrounds and communities and has hosted over 40 students since 2015. Dr. McDonald also actively engages with the community from a research and educational perspective on the harmful role of endocrine disruptor chemicals within personal care products.

Mike Schade is the Director for Mind the Store, a national campaign that challenges the nation's leading retailers to transform the marketplace away from hazardous chemicals and towards safer alternatives. Mind the Store is a program of the national organization Toxic-Free Future. For the previous nine years, Mike was the Markets Campaign Coordinator with the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), a national environmental health organization where he led national campaigns to phase out PVC plastic, phthalates, bisphenol A (BPA) and dioxin in consumer products and packaging. Prior to CHEJ, he was the Director of the Buffalo office of Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC), a NY statewide grassroots environmental health organization. He has a B.S. in Environmental Studies from the University at Buffalo and lives in the Hudson Valley of NY



Co-Hosts:



Emily Barrett, PhD, holds an AB in Biology and English from Amherst College and a PhD in Biological Anthropology from Harvard University. She completed post-doctoral fellowships at the University of California-Los Angeles and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. As an early-stage faculty member at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, she was a scholar in the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health's BIRCWH (K12) program. Dr. Barrett joined the Rutgers faculty in 2016 where she is Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and Director of the Epidemiology concentration at the Rutgers School of Public Health. She is a resident faculty member at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute where she co-directs the Human Exposures and Outcomes Core.

Dr. Barrett studies the early origins of health and disease, or how exposures early in life shape our subsequent health and developmental trajectories. Dr. Barrett is particularly interested in how prenatal exposures to environmental chemicals and psychosocial stressors impact pregnancy and children's development. She leads two ongoing pregnancy cohort studies, TIDES and UPSIDE, both of which are part of the NIH's Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program, the largest study of the health and well-being of U.S. children. She is on the Executive Board of the newly found New Jersey Kids Study and is a Principal Investigator of NJ HEROES TOO, a NIH-funded effort to expand access to COVID-19 testing among underserved communities in New Jersey.

Norah MacKendrick, PhD, is Associate Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University. Her research demonstrates that women and mothers are held accountable for protecting children from toxic chemicals in everyday foods and consumer goods. Her award-winning book, "Better Safe than Sorry: How Consumers Navigate Exposure to Everyday Toxics," reveals how this responsibility plays out in mothers' everyday lives, during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and as they shop for their children, prepare family meals, and manage family health. She is an expert on gender and the family, American environmental health policy, and natural food trends. MacKendrick's work has been featured in The Washington Post, National Public Radio, and The Guardian.



Sub-specialties:

- Mothers as managers of family health
- Environmental toxins
- Government regulation of food and consumer goods
- Trends in natural and organic foods & marketing
- Feminist perspectives on environmental problems
- Health behaviors related to COVID-19