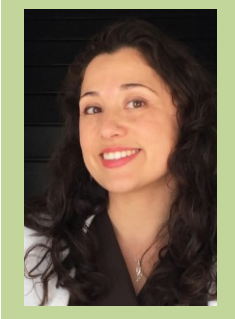
Children's Environmental Health Institute, Ninth Scientific Symposium:
Emerging Science of Endocrine Disruptors and the Unborn Child
Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Austin
Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Brief Speaker Biography
Alphabetical



Nicole Acevedo, Ph.D.

Dr. Acevedo is Principal Scientist at Beautycounter/Counter Brands LLC where she brings her scientific expertise on the health risks of everyday exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals, and is responsible for comprehensively screening all product ingredients for safety. Dr. Acevedo received her doctorate in Molecular and Integrative Physiology at the University of Michigan. A career in clinical embryology afforded her a clearer understanding of the many factors that contribute to human reproductive success, including the health of our external environment. With this awareness, Dr. Acevedo returned to academia as a postdoctoral scholar at Tufts University School of Medicine to study the effects of perinatal exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals on the development of adult reproductive health disorders and disease. Her research formed part of an unprecedented collaboration between government and academic scientists to integrate the strengths of academic and regulatory research approaches to identify best practices for hazard assessment of environmental chemical contaminants for informing chemical risk assessment. Dr. Acevedo also collaborated with a multidisciplinary group of scientists, clinicians, and community health advocates to examine the current state of the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and to provide recommendations directly to the Agency. As Principal Scientist at Beautycounter, Dr. Acevedo works with the Environment, Health & Safety team to improve the safety and sustainability profile of their products, implement industry-leading testing strategies to increase knowledge of ingredient safety, and to increase awareness of the need for safer raw material alternatives in the personal care and cosmetics industry.

Kevin Brodwick

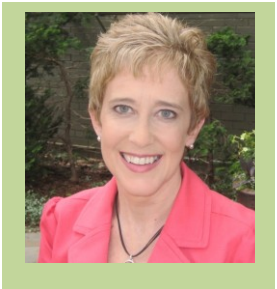
Kevin Brodwick attended the University of Texas in Austin. His real education came through a rather unique upbringing with two parents deeply imbedded in the science world. Having growing up listening to Nobel Prize winners at the dinner table describe complex health issues, Kevin became uniquely focused on how to bridge the gap between scientific research and how it could be consumed by the people that needed to understand it the most. After working with a laboratory funded by the National Institutes of Health (specifically focused on testing products for estrogenic activity - largest type of endocrine disruptor), Mr. Brodwick became aware of extent to which harmful chemicals were present in everyday products. After unsuccessfully convincing large consumer product corporations to alter formulation, Mr. Brodwick took it upon himself to create an alternative line of consumer products. In 2006, Mr. Brodwick created Thinkbaby and Thinksport to address the growing concern and need for safer products. Through connection to the science community and use of the Precautionary Principle, he built a company that now offers products to a global audience. Time is dedicated to targeting and developing new solutions, educating the world on chemical issues, and giving back to non-profits that are also part of the movement to make the world safer.

Robert Cabrera, PhD

Dr. Cabrera has studied and conducted birth defect research for more than 20 years. His primary research is focused on understanding early brain development. His career goal is to further enable the prevention of preventable birth defects. This includes contributing to a better understanding of how nutrition and environment can modify birth defect risks. Folate is the best current public health example of how a relatively inexpensive vitamin can have enormous benefits in reducing the incidence of birth defects. In addition to mechanisms for reducing the incidence of birth defects, Robert has also dedicated his research to understanding the etiologies of environmental and pharmaceutical teratogens. He conducts clinical research and works with cellular and animal models for testing the toxicity and teratogenicity of industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals. These research models have allowed a better understanding of the developmental cascades that underlie the ability of environmental chemicals to modify early development and the incidence of birth defects. Dr Cabrera has also focused on studying genetic and immunological factors that contribute to birth defect risk in humans. He has developed and has ongoing research studies utilizing immuno-detection assays and competitive binding assays in human clinical samples. He has previously demonstrated the utility of these assays for birth defect risk, and current research directions include ongoing clinical studies for monitoring and adjusting treatment of autism, dementia, and depression.

Suzanne Fenton, Ph.D.

Dr. Suzanne “Sue” Fenton earned her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of WI-Madison in the Endocrinology/Reproductive Physiology Program, working in the areas of artificial insemination and mammary gland biology. Her postdoctoral studies at the UNC-Chapel Hill Lineberger Cancer Center focused on gene regulation of epidermal growth factor receptor ligands in the mammary gland. Dr. Fenton was a Research Biologist at the US EPA’s Reproductive Toxicology Division for 11 years before she joined the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Oct 2009. She is currently the Group Leader for Reproductive Endocrinology in the National Toxicology Program Laboratory. She and her staff/trainees have published numerous manuscripts enhancing the methodology used in mammary gland assessment and determining early life chemical exposures that lead to persistent developmental changes in breast tissue, altered function, or disease susceptibility over the life course.



Jane Houlihan, MSCE

As research director and science communications expert for national non-profit organizations, Jane Houlihan focuses on transforming science into resources that empower people to make healthy, sustainable choices. She directs research operations at Healthy Babies Bright Futures (hbbf.org), a non-profit organization working to measurably reduce exposures to toxic chemicals in the first 1000 days of life. As long-time senior vice president for research at Washington-DC based Environmental Working Group (ewg.org), she led the creation of data-driven online guides covering chemicals in tap water, sunscreen, cosmetics, bottled water, and other consumer products. She conceived of and directed EWG’s Skin Deep online cosmetics safety guide. She led “Pollution in Newborns,” an initiative measuring industrial chemicals in umbilical cord blood, and a related stream of biomonitoring studies uncovering the health risks of people’s everyday exposures to pollutants and pesticides. Her research areas span risk assessment, chemicals policy, and green product evaluation. Houlihan is an original co-founder of the national Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, and a recipient of the Breast Cancer Fund’s Science Hero Award. She holds bachelors and masters degrees in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Nicole Kleinstreuer, PhD

Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer, is the deputy director of the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) within the NIEHS, in RTP, NC. She worked previously for Integrated Laboratory Systems as the head of their computational toxicology group. She received degrees in mathematics and biomedical engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her PhD in BioEngineering from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, and completed her postdoctoral training with the U.S. EPA's National Center for Computational Toxicology. Dr. Kleinstreuer maintains adjunct appointments at the Eshelman School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and in the NIEHS division of intramural research biostatistics and computational biology branch. She has received many prestigious awards, including the B.H. Neumann prize from the Australian Mathematical Society, the James G. Wilson presentation award and the F. Clarke Fraser new investigator award from the Teratology Society, the best publication award from the Biological Modeling Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology, and the Lush Prize Young Investigator Americas award. Her research focuses on in vitro alternatives to animal testing, high throughput screening and multidimensional data analyses, and mathematical and computational modeling of biological systems and their susceptibility to environmental perturbations that may result in adverse outcomes.

Richard Liroff, PhD

Dr. Liroff founded the Investor Environmental Health Network in 2004 and serves as its Executive Director. IEHN, a collaboration of sustainable investment organizations managing about $60 billion in assets, has developed the business case for companies to adopt safer chemicals policies for their products and supply chains and engages companies on these issues through dialogues and, as necessary, shareholder resolutions. He serves on the Advisory Committee of the Green Chemistry and Commerce Council, the leading organization convening companies working towards safer chemicals policies. He also serves on the Steering Committee of the BizNGO Working Group on Safer Chemicals, a collaboration of businesses and environmental health advocacy organizations advancing safer chemicals policies and practices. He manages the monthly "The Right Chemistry" blog at greenbiz.com, featuring contributions from trade groups, individual companies, and others on their safer chemicals policies and practices. IEHN's website links to the safer chemicals policies and practices of numerous companies. See: http://iehn.org/tools.corporate.php Rich founded IEHN following a successful 25 year career at World Wildlife Fund. He's published a half dozen books and scores of shorter pieces. He earned a Ph.D in Political Science from Northwestern University and a B.A. in Politics from Brandeis University.

Cheryl S Watson, PhD

Dr. Watson is a professor in the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Dept. at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She is a PhD graduate of Baylor College of Medicine (Cell Biology) and completed postdoctoral fellowships in steroid actions (National Institute for Medical Research, London England; the Population Council, Rockefeller Univ). She is also a 2004 Fellow of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (Drexel University). Dr. Watson teaches medical and graduate students, and is the Associate Director of the UTMB Toxicology Graduate Program. As a researcher she focuses on the interacting signaling pathways that mediate cellular responses to estrogens and estrogen-like mimics via membrane receptors, with distinct disruptive roles in multiple tissues affecting physiologic, developmental, and cancer-exacerbating actions. She has organized multiple scientific meetings/sessions on the topic of environmental and dietary compounds mimicking steroids by utilizing novel nongenomic signaling pathways. She is founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Endocrine Disruptors*. Her unique instructional interests include cross-disciplinary training for synthetic chemists and biologists, and the use of virtual world computer technology to present biological and chemical science information to students and public audiences. She champions the importance of scientist interactions with the press and public media to promote screening out harmful chemicals before they are deployed and expose us to their harmful effects. She is a member of an integrated team of scientists and stake holders who design strategic and efficient testing regimes for new chemicals destined for consumer products and industrial uses (Tiered Protocols for Endocrine Disruptors or TiPED).