



## Environmental Neuroscience: Advancing the Understanding of How Chemical Exposures Impact Brain Health and Disease—A Virtual Workshop

June 25, 2020 via Zoom

All times below are EDT

*Hosted by the National Academies' Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders  
In Collaboration with the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology*

**Workshop Objectives:** This public workshop will bring together experts and key stakeholders from academia, government, industry, and non-profit organizations to explore the current knowledge landscape and future opportunities in neurotoxicology. Invited presentations and discussions will be designed to:

- Provide an overview of what is known about neurotoxic exposures and how they lead to neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders;
- Explore how new technologies can be harnessed to identify previously-unknown neurotoxic chemicals;
- Consider whether algorithms can be developed to better predict the effects of cumulative exposures and interactions across the life-span on brain health; and
- Discuss research gaps and collaborative opportunities between neuroscientists and environmental health scientists.

10:00-10:15am Welcome and opening remarks

Frances Jensen, University of Pennsylvania Neuroscience Forum Co-chair

Walter Koroshetz, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Neuroscience Forum Member and Workshop Co-chair

10:15-10:40am Opening talk—Chemical exposures: The ignored environmental risk factor for neurodegenerative diseases and neurodevelopmental disorders

Deborah Cory-Slechta, University of Rochester, Workshop Co-chair

### Session I: What are the Neurotoxicants?

Discussion questions:

- What neurotoxicants should we be concerned about?
- How can they be measured?
- How to measure their effects on populations, on individuals?

10:40-10:45am Session overview

Deborah Cory-Slechta, University of Rochester, Workshop Co-chair and session moderator

10:45-11:00am Exposure to neurotoxic chemicals and neurodevelopmental disease

**Tracey Woodruff**, University of California, San Francisco

11:00-11:15am Environmental contributors to neurodegeneration: Why not measure everything?

**Gary Miller**, Columbia University

11:15-12:00pm Panel discussion and Q&A

*The two speakers above will be joined by panelists:*

**Jennifer McPartland**, Environmental Defense Fund

**Brenda Eskenazi**, University of California, Berkeley

12:00-12:30pm Break

## Session II: Biology of Toxicant Interaction with the Nervous System

Discussion question:

- What is known about the biology of how “common” exposures to chemical and particulate toxicants might alter nervous system development or contribute to neurodegeneration?

12:30-12:35pm Session overview

**David Jett**, National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke, *Session moderator*

12:35-12:50pm Exploiting genetics to identify environmental risks for autism

**Mark Zylka**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

12:50-1:05pm LRRK2 activation as a common mechanism of environmental toxicant-induced Parkinson’s disease

**J. Timothy Greenamyre**, University of Pittsburgh

1:05-1:20pm Environmental gerogens in the Alzheimer’s disease exposome: Air pollution and cigarettes

**Caleb Finch**, University of Southern California

1:20-2:15pm Panel discussion and Q&A

*The three speakers above will be joined by panelists:*

**Helena Hogberg**, Johns Hopkins University

**Tomás Guilarte**, Florida International University

2:15-2:30pm Break

### Session III: Chemical Toxicants as Drivers of Abnormal Neurodevelopment and Neurodegeneration

Discussion questions:

- What is the level of evidence for chemical toxicants as drivers of abnormal neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration?
- What research is needed to launch prevention efforts: either treatments or policy changes?

2:30-2:35pm Session overview

**Walter Koroshetz**, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, *Workshop co-chair and session co-moderator*

**Allison Willis**, University of Pennsylvania, *session co-moderator*

2:35-2:50pm A developmental perspective on early-life exposures to neurotoxicants

**David Bellinger**, Boston Children's Hospital

2:50-3:05pm In utero endocrine-disrupting chemical (EDC) exposure may reprogram the adult mouse brain: A role for epigenetics

**Marisa Bartolomei**, University of Pennsylvania

3:05-3:20pm Translational research on the role of developmental pesticide exposure and ADHD

**Jason Richardson**, Florida International University

3:20-3:35pm Using gene-environment interactions and omics approaches to understand neurodegenerative disease etiology

**Beate Ritz**, University of California, Los Angeles

3:35-3:50pm Exposure to air pollution and risk of Alzheimer's disease

**Andrew Petkus**, University of Southern California

3:50-4:05pm Identification and validation of ALS environmental risk factors

**Eva Feldman**, University of Michigan

4:05-4:30pm Panel discussion and Q&A

*Panel composed of speakers above*

4:30-4:45pm Break

### Session IV: Future Directions

Discussion questions:

- What are the critical research gaps, next steps, and promising areas for future action?
- What opportunities are there for collaboration among neuroscientists and environmental health scientists?

4:45-4:50pm Reflections from the workshop co-chairs

**Walter Koroshetz**, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

**Deborah Cory-Slechta**, University of Rochester

4:50-5:15pm “Lightning round” remarks (*5 minutes each*)

**Stanley Barone**, Environmental Protection Agency

**Ray Dorsey**, University of Rochester Medical Center

**Carl Hill**, Alzheimer’s Association

**Devon Payne-Sturges**, University of Maryland

**Richard Woychik**, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

5:15pm Additional discussion with speakers, panelists, and audience members

5:30pm Adjourn workshop

#### Planning Committee

**Deborah Cory-Slechta**, Department of Environmental Medicine, University of Rochester Medical School, *Co-Chair*

**Walter Koroshetz**, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health, *Co-Chair*

**Patrick Breysse**, National Center for Environmental Health / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Ray Dorsey**, Department of Neurology, University of Rochester Medical School

**Carl Hill**, Alzheimer’s Association

**Frances Jensen**, Department of Neurology, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

**David Jett**, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health

**Cindy Lawler**, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health

**Gary Miller**, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

**Trevor Penning**, Department of Systems Pharmacology & Translational Therapeutics, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

**Allison Willis**, Department of Neurology, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine