# **Chemicals and Health**

Linking chemical exposure to health

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December 20, 2016 School of Public Health, Seoul National University



# **Humidifier disinfectant**



#### **Humidifier disinfectant**

For my baby!



Don't turn humidifier on unless you have this





#### 'Safe for human use'!



# Consumer Product Safety Commission of USA



#### CHRESSIETY ALERT

#### **Dirty Humidifiers May Cause Health Problems**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is alerting consumers to possible health hazards resulting from dirty room humidifiers. CPSC has found that bacteria and fungi often grow in the tanks of portable and console room humidifiers and can be released in the mist. Breathing dirty mist may cause lung problems ranging from flu-like symptoms to serious infection. This information is of special concern to allergy or asthma sufferers whose symptoms may be increased.

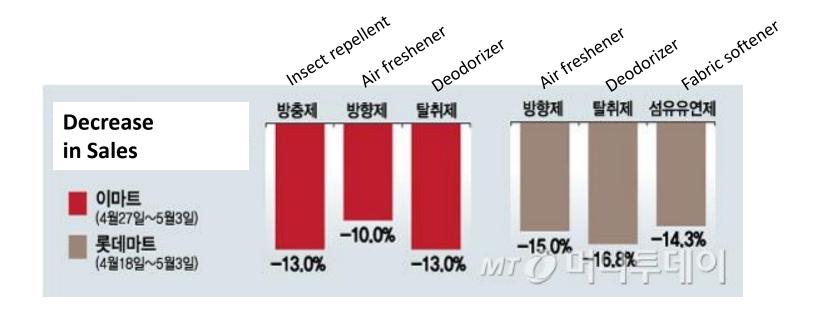
Clean your room humidifier well and often during the heating season. Be sure to unplug
the humidifier before cleaning. Follow the manufacturer's suggested cleaning methods. If
chlorine bleach or other cleaning product or disinfectant is used, make sure to rinse the
tank well to avoid breathing harmful chemicals. Use a brush or other scrubber to clean
the tank. Be careful not to damage the motor or to scratch the inner surface. Clean or
replace sponge filters or belts when needed.

# Parliamentary probe on-going



## **Public reaction: Chemophobia**

- an irrational aversion to or prejudice against chemicals or chemistry (wiki)
- Rational Fear of Chemicals!



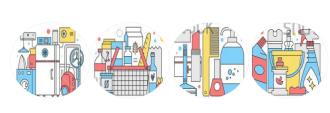
#### Public reaction: 'No-Chemi'



# Our health can be affected by everyday chemicals!

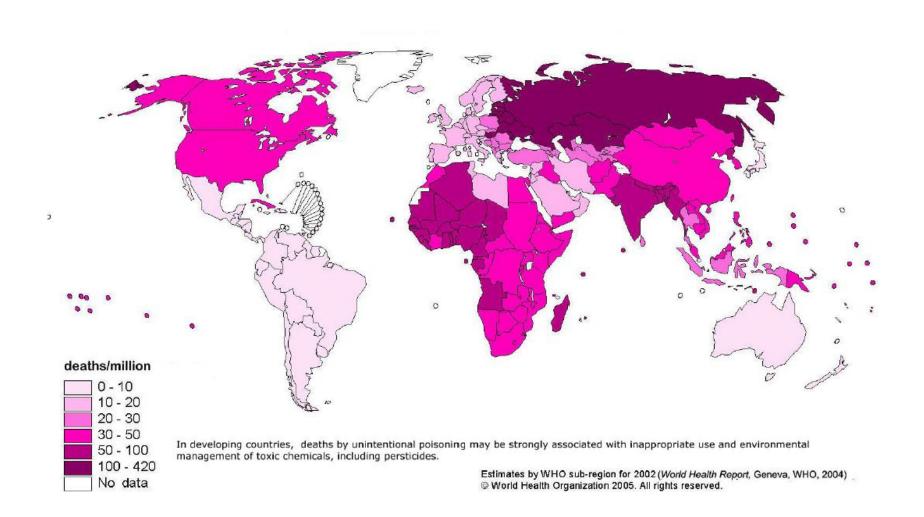




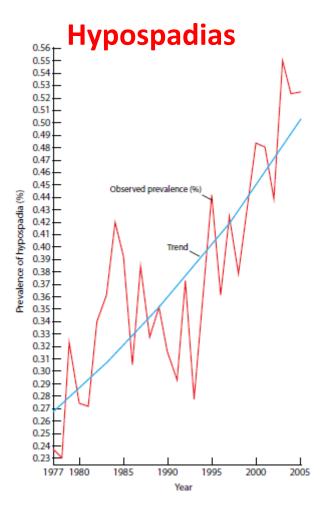


Consumer products etc.

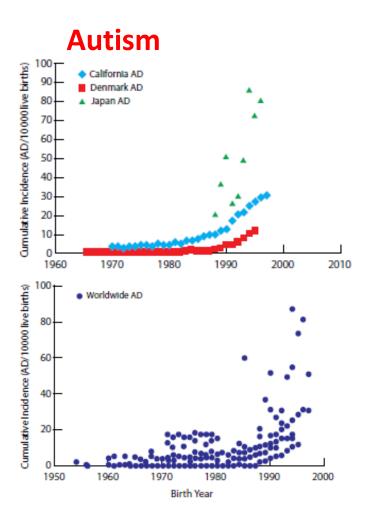
### Deaths from unintentional poisonings



### **Upsurge of some diseases**



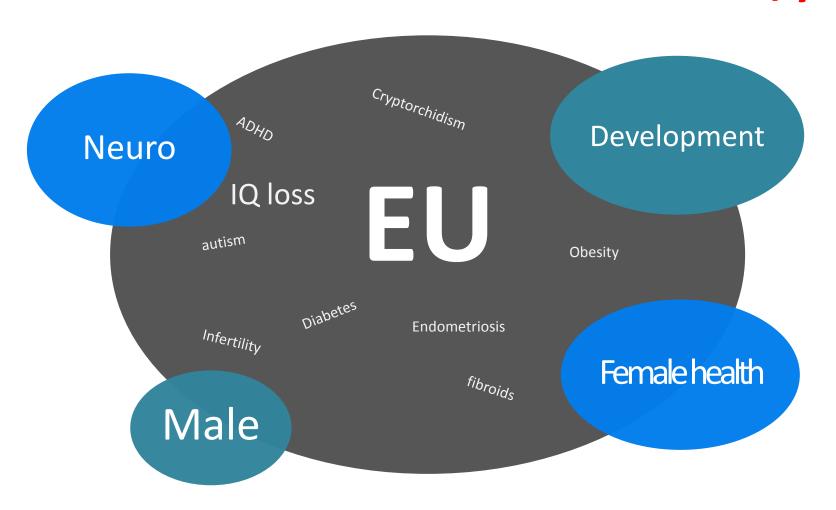
Prevalence of hypospadias among newborn Danish boys 1977-2005



Autistic disorder cumulative incidence by cohort birth year

(UNEP, WHO, 2013)

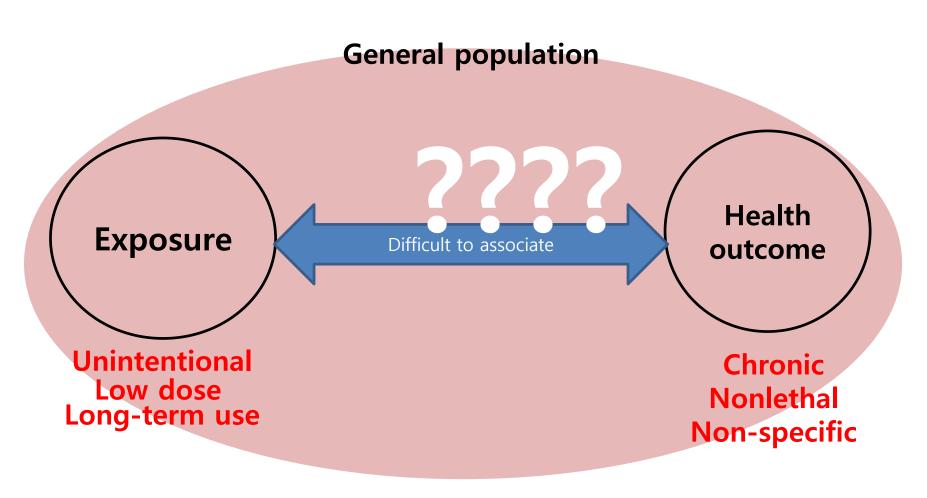
# Societal cost of chemical exposures 163 B Euro/y



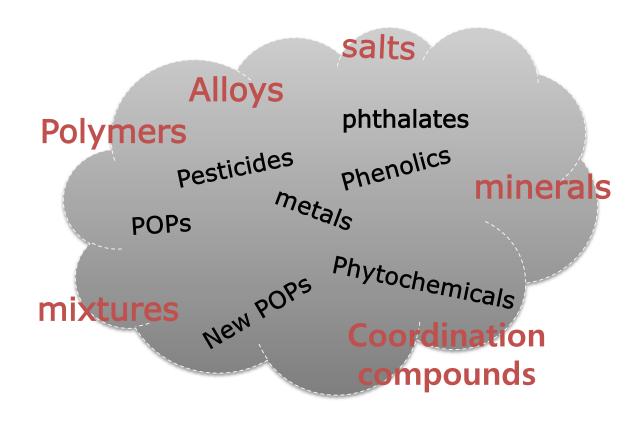
#### Tasks of Environ Health Scientists

- To find bad chemicals
  - Identifying chemicals with frequent detection in high levels
  - Identifying chemicals with causal association with adverse health effects
  - Assisting in using safer chemicals
- Public health management
  - Source and pathway identification
  - Exposure mitigation etc.

# Identifying chemical determinants is not easy



### Too many chemicals in use!



1,000
In everyday life

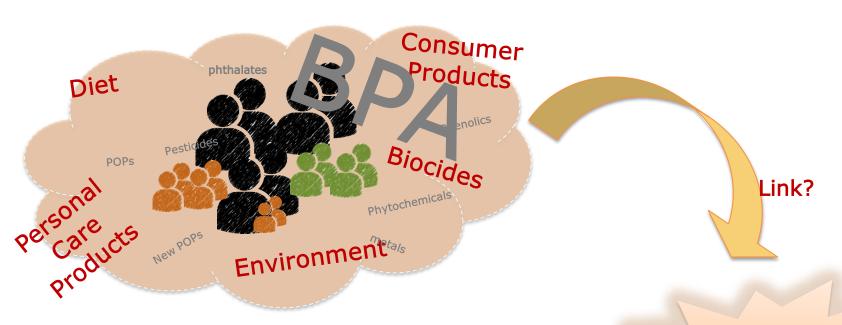
45,000
In Korean Hazardous
Materials Act

100,000+
In commerce in EU

# **Analytical chemistry**



# Linking chemical exposure?



#### to health effects



# **Bisphenol A**



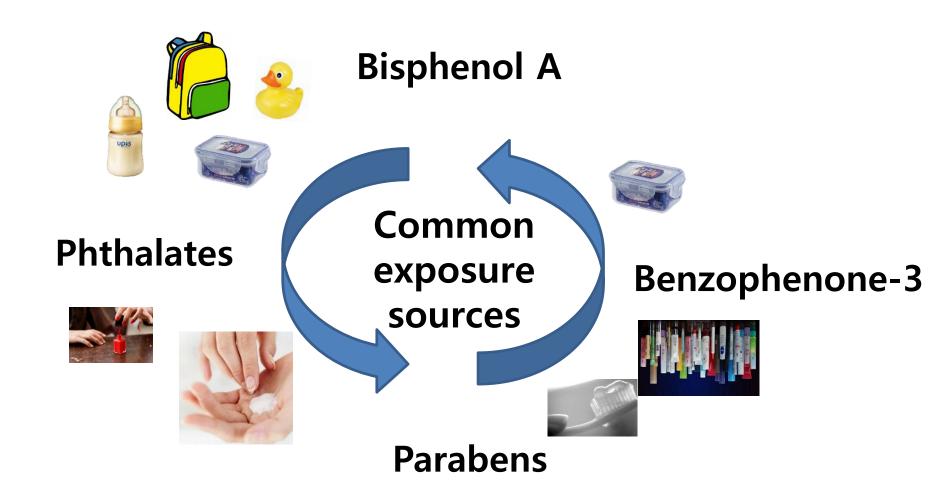








#### Chemicals sharing common sources



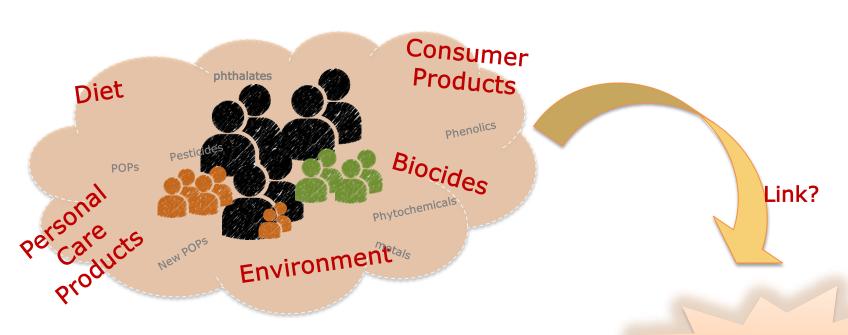
# High correlations among urinary chemicals

### Chemicals in urines NHANES 2007-8

bp3-benzophenone-3
bph-bisphenol A
trs-triclosan
bup-butylparaben
eup-ethylparaben
mph-methylparaben
ppb-propylparaben
mhp-MEHP
mhh-MEHHP
moh-MEOHP
ecp-MECPP
up8-perchlorate

	In_urx bp3	In_urxbp h	In_urxtrs		In_urxep b					In_urxmo		
	1850		1850	<b>p</b> 1850	1850	<b>b</b> 1850	<b>b</b> 1850	<b>p</b> 1850	<b>h</b> 1850	1850	<b>p</b> 1850	<b>8</b> 1837
ln_urx	1		0.17522	0.26279	0.27695	0.28437	0.29241	0.16259	0.22775	0.22869	0.23581	0.14068
bp3		0004	0004	0004	0004	0004	0004	0004	0004	0004	0004	0004
		<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
		1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850		1850	1837
ln_urx bph		1	0.13634	0.09174	0.13088	0.2202	0.18668	0.374	0.44788	0.45919	0.4368	0.3262
			<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
			1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1837
In_urxt rs			1	0.10106	0.13244	0.2009	0.18039	0.18968	0.18933	0.19339	0.19944	0.14237
				<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
				1850		1850	1850	1850	1850		1850	1837
ln_urx bup				1	0.53131	0.47556	0.48991	0.08273	0.08291	0.08932	0.09112	0.07886
uup					<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0004	0.0004		<.0001	0.0007
					1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1837
In_urxe pb					1	0.47172	0.46859	0.11056	0.11737	0.11516	0.12153	0.09051
						<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0001
						1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1837
In_urx mpb						1	0.82019	0.14982	0.17479	0.18321	0.18282	0.15673
							<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
							1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1837
ln_urx ppb							1	0.13676	0.14404	0.15297	0.14066	0.10236
								<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
								1850	1850	1850	1850	1837
In_urx mhp								1	0.81222	0.8019	0.77088	0.29548
•									<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
									1850	1850	1850	1837
In_urx mhh									1	0.98737	0.95151	0.39861
										<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
										1850	1850	1837
ln_urx moh										1	0.9535	0.40461
111011											<.0001	<.0001
											1850	1837
ln_urxe											1000	0.40045
ср											_	
												<.0001
												1837

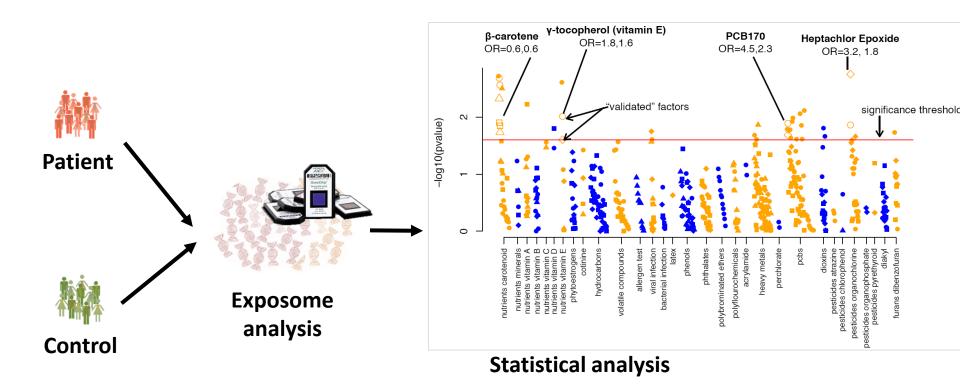
# Linking chemical exposure?



#### to health effects



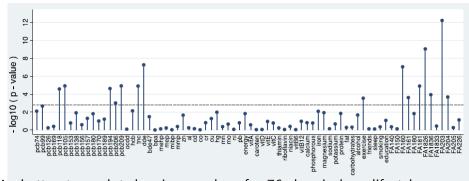
# Linking chemical exposure!



Finding environmental "loci" associated with disease

### **Environment-wide Association Study**

phosphorous pcb99 pcb74 pcb209 pcb206 pcb194 pcb189

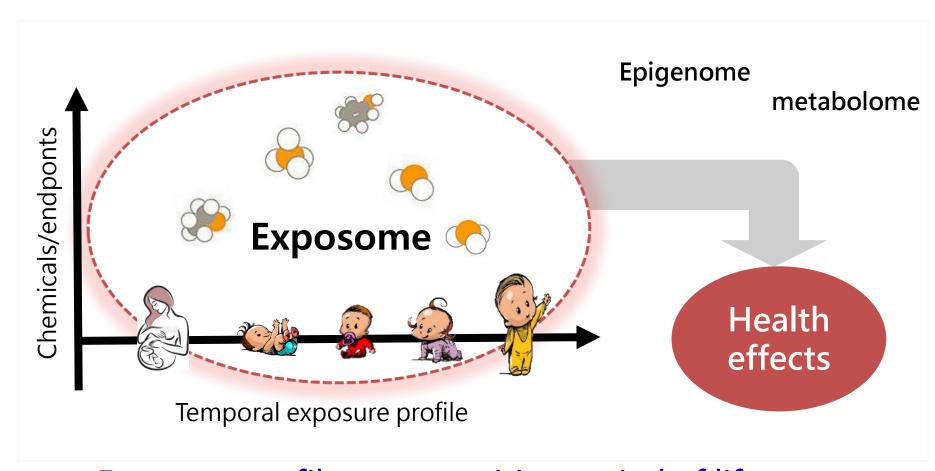


Manhattan type plot showing p values for 76 chemicals or lifestyle factors vs prevalent metabolic syndrome

pcb180 pcb170 pcb169 pcb157 pcb156 pcb153 pcb138 pcb126 pcb118 pcb105 pb ocdd nicain ni mo mn mmp mibp mep mehp magnesium iron hg hcb friends fat exercise energy education dde cu cr CO cd caroten carbohydrates

Monica Lind et al., 2013

# To identify chemicals of causal association



Exposure profile over sensitive period of life stages In combination with epigenome and metabolome

# Finding safer substitutes?



INSIGHTS

Immune therapies for sepsis p. 1201 Meeting demand for rare earth minerals p. 1209

#### PERSPECTIVES

#### CHEMISTRY

#### **Toward** substitution with no regrets

Advances in chemical design are needed to create safe alternatives to harmful chemicals

By Julie B. Zimmerman and Paul T. Anastas

ast numbers of synthetic chemicals are used in everyday consumer products. Many are safe, but some can have unintended biological or environmental effects. For example, phthalates are widely used to increase the flexibility of plastics but also disrupt hormonal balance (1). Organophosphates are highly effective insect repellents but cause severe neurotoxicity to mammals (2) In many cases, chemicals of concern have been replaced by other chemicals that are functionally equivalent and believed to be of less concern (see the photo). However, the need for expedient substitution can lead to the use of chemicals that are no less harmful than those they replace. How can such "regrettable substitutions" be avoided?

There have been many examples of regrettable substitution over the years. The example gaining most attention recently is the substitution of bisphenol S (BPS) for bisphenol A (BPA) (see the figure, panel A). BPA is widely used to make clear and rough plastics, used in water bottles, sports equipment, and CDs and DVDs; it is also used in food and beverage can coatings (where it helps to protect food from contamination and spoilage

plastic baby bottles, bisphe ml 240

Published by AAAS

sciencemag.org SCIENCE

TIOS TO MARCH 2015 - VOI SATISSIE 6227

Nature 2014

# **Bisphenols**











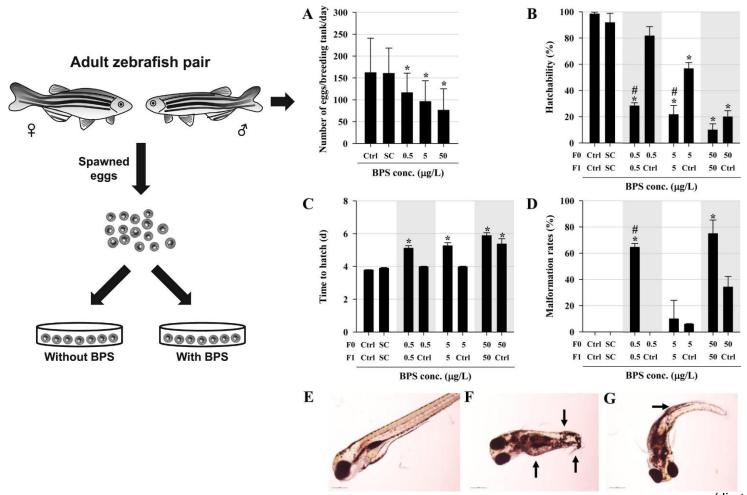
#### **Chemicals substituting BPA**

## Bisphenols in receipt paper

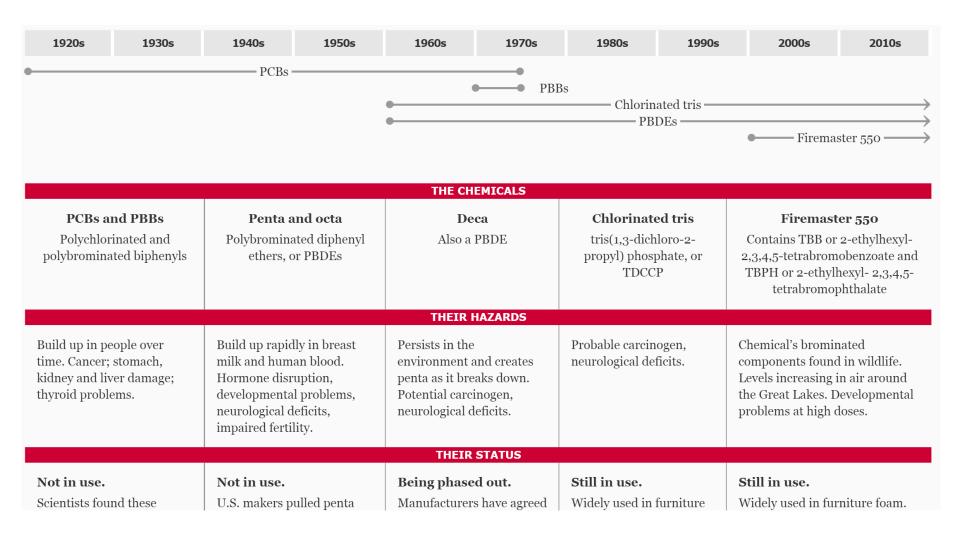




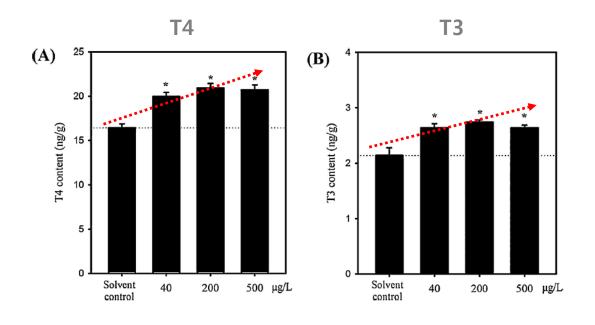
### Bisphenol S affects fish reproduction



## Flame retardants replacing PBDEs

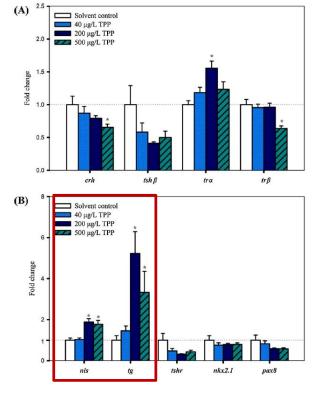


# **Triphenylphosphate (TPP)**



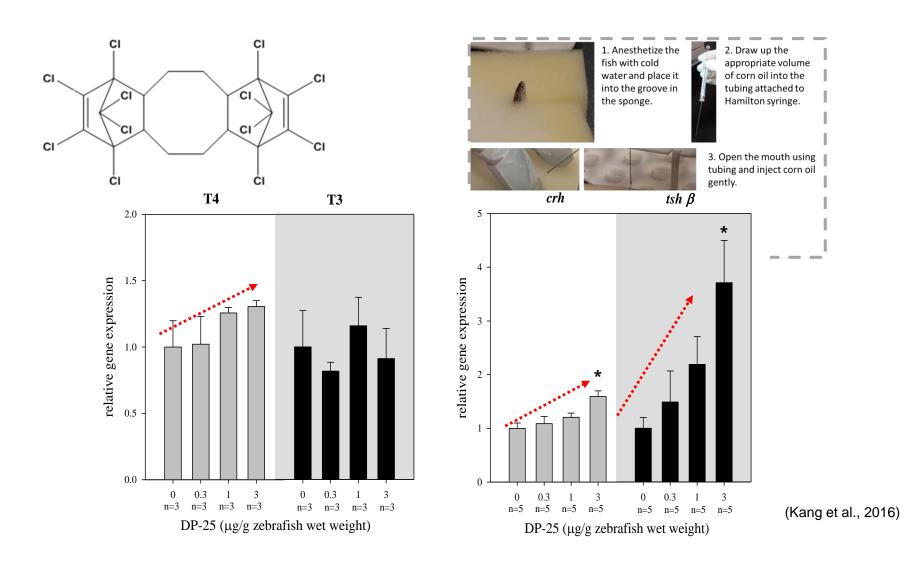
**Table 1**Effects of TPP on survival, hatchability, malformation rate and body weight in zebrafish until 7 dpf.

TPP concentration	0 μg/L	40 μg/L	200 μg/L	500 μg/L
Hatchability (%)a	$99.7 \pm 0.2$	$99.4 \pm 0.4$	$100.0 \pm 0.0$	$98.1 \pm 0.8$
Larval survival (%)b	$91.8 \pm 0.9$	$92.5 \pm 1.2$	$92.1 \pm 1.1$	$88.7 \pm 1.4$
Malformation rate (%)c	$3.0 \pm 0.3$	$4.1 \pm 0.7$	$4.9 \pm 0.7$	$11.6 \pm 0.9^{\circ}$
Body weight (mg)d	$2.3 \pm 0.2$	$2.3 \pm 0.1$	$2.1 \pm 0.1$	$2.2 \pm 0.1$



(Kim et al., 2015)

#### **Dechlorane Plus**



#### **Directions**

Replacing BAD with UNKNOWN is not correct

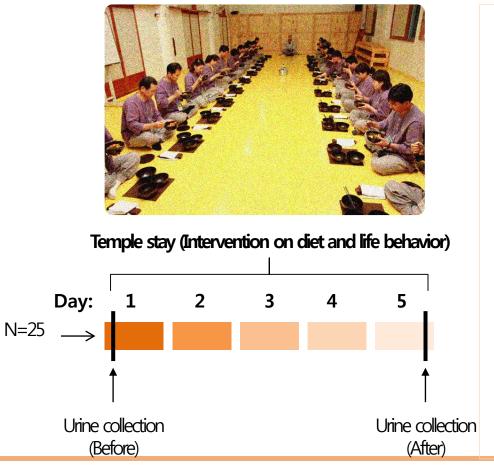
- Directions
  - Screening measures for chemical safety

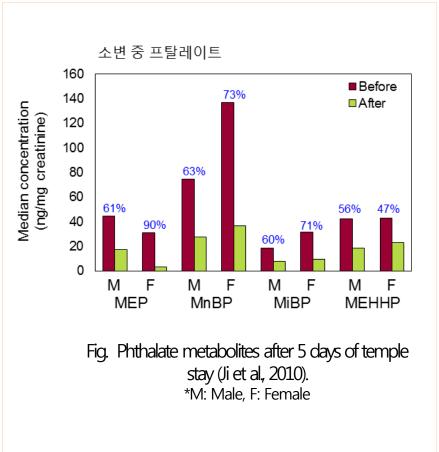
## **Exposure mitigation**

- Which chemicals are frequently occurring at higher levels?
  - Among susceptible human populations

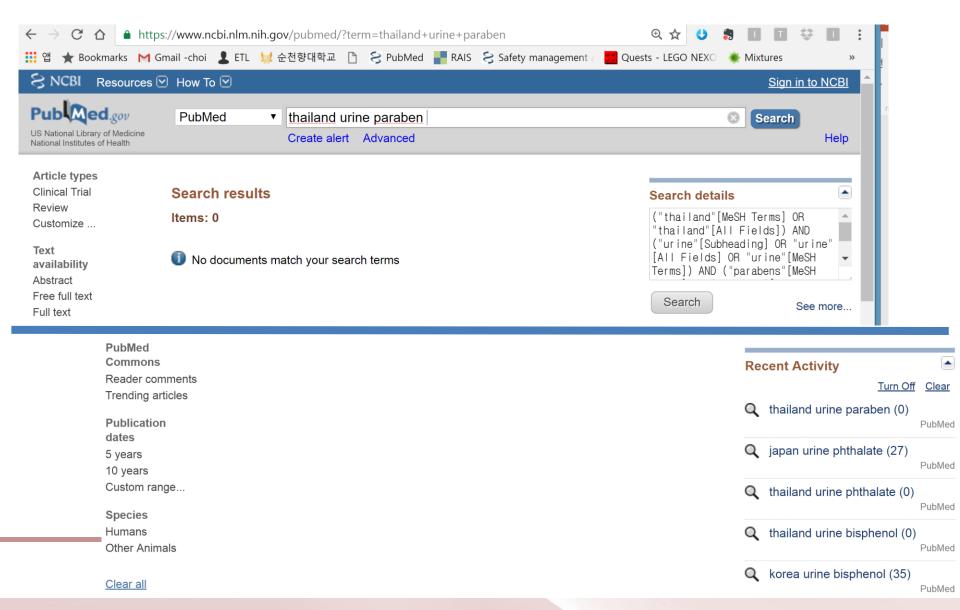
Sources and exposure pathways?

## Exposure- intervention study



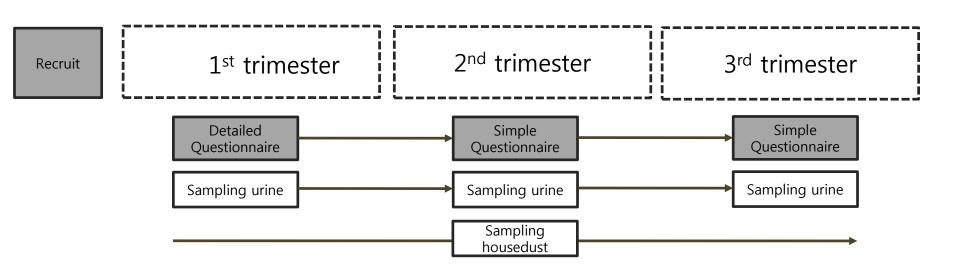


#### Studies with Mahidol

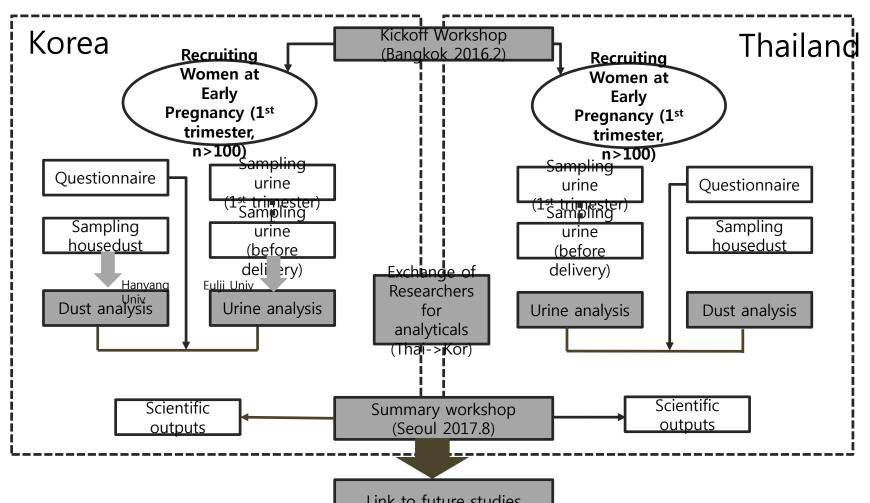


#### Studies with Mahidol

Exposure assessment among Thai pregnant women



Urines should be sampled at least 3 times which include each of three trimesters. Sampling periods are better as consistent as possible among the participating women. Number of pregnant women reaching the  $3^{rd}$  trimester should be >100. For those who want, housedust sample can be collected during the course of pregnancy.



Link to future studies

#### **Conclusions**

- Chemicals are important determinant of health
- More helps warranted for developing safer substitutes
  - Analytical chemistry, and safety screening measures
- Identifying major chemicals of health concern is important first step to
  - Associations studies
  - Chemical management

# Thank you

