

Bisphenol A: From public education to political advocacy.

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Background: Bisphenol A (BPA) is an endocrine disruptor that has been linked to increased risk for many diseases, including breast cancer. Of special concern is the growing scientific evidence in rodent models demonstrating that prenatal or neonatal exposures to environmentally significant levels of BPA predispose an animal to increased risk for mammary cancer.

Objective: Given the ubiquity of this chemical in our environment and in our bodies, the Breast Cancer Fund (BCF) has set as main objectives educating the public about the growing science around BPA's link to breast cancer, and leading a coalition of environmental health groups in advocating for public policy change that eliminates exposures to BPA, especially for our most vulnerable citizens.

Work Performed: Through scientific publications including the signature piece, *The State of the Evidence: The Link between the Environment and Breast Cancer*, which was published both as a white paper and as companion scientific and public policy pieces in a peer-reviewed journal, BCF has (1) translated the complex empirical data surrounding the broad topic of environmental links to breast cancer, including the data on BPA, for diverse audiences; and (2) generated scientifically driven breast cancer prevention policy and research agendas for the public and policymakers.

In particular, BCF has taken a lead role in efforts to educate Congressional representatives and their staff about the science surrounding BPA's links to breast cancer and other diseases, supporting the introduction by Rep. Markey (D-MA) and Sen. Feinstein (D-CA) of the Ban Poisonous Additives (BPA) Act of 2009, and leading a broad based coalition effort to secure passage of this a critical piece of legislation. . Concurrently, BCF has been a leader in collaborative efforts with environmental health and environmental justice organizations to affect chemical regulatory change at the state and federal levels.

Results and Conclusions: The Breast Cancer Fund is committed to supporting the identification and eradication of preventable causes of breast cancer, especially those that are present as pollutants in our every day life. BCF has been an innovator in public education on these issues and is a leader in the translation of science into public policy advocacy.

Supported by: Johnson Family Foundation, John Merck Fund, Marisla Foundation, The Rose Foundation, New York Community Trust

Category: Translation to (treatment, prevention or) policy