

Looking Upstream for Environmental Links to Breast Cancer
5th Annual Community Education Forum
Presented by the Cincinnati Breast Cancer & the Environment Research Center
March 28, 2009

Forum Highlights by Mary Justice

“Cincinnati water is one of the best in the country” said Scott Belcher, PhD at the **5th Annual Cincinnati Community Educational Forum *Looking Upstream for Environmental Links to Breast Cancer***. This event was held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the UC Genome Research Institute. Belcher and other scientists convened along with advocates to present the research findings of the Cincinnati Breast Cancer and Environment Research Center (BCERC). The BCA co-sponsors this event each year.

Key points of the presentations are listed below. The event featured a poster session which highlighted award-winning posters from the Cincinnati BCERC researchers and a panel of local experts who discussed talking to our daughters about breast health. Videos from the presentations are posted on line at http://eh.uc.edu/growingupfemale/looking_upstream2009.asp

Key Points of Presentations

Bisphenol A (BPA) and Your Health: An Update

Scott Belcher, PhD - University of Cincinnati

- BPA is an estrogen that leaches from new and used polycarbonate plastic, especially upon heating.
- BPA is likely to impact the human nervous system, reproductive health and hormonally-linked breast and prostate cancer.
- Polycarbonate plastics include hard plastic products and they are labeled with recycling codes 3, 6 and 7.
- Better plastic choices are softer and have recycling codes 1 (PETE), 2, 4, and 5.

Biology Study Update:

Dietary Fatty Acids Affect Obesity, Maturation and Mammary Gland Tumors

Robert Bornschein, PhD - University of Cincinnati

- In rat studies, high fatty acid diets altered normal breast development, accelerated the onset of puberty, altered gene expression and increased cancer risk.
- There are large differences in how individual rats responded to the same dietary treatment.
- We are not in a position to say that one fatty acid is better or more dangerous than others.

Growing Up Female Update:

Preliminary Data on Study of Girls Entering Puberty

Frank Biro, MD - Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

- Why study puberty? Biologically the breasts are most sensitive at puberty.
- The pathway that results in early puberty includes a high body mass index, development of breasts before pubic hair, and high levels of estradiol.
- This pathway suggests a greater lifelong exposure to estradiol, the most potent estrogen in a woman’s body, and a greater breast cancer risk.