

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Challenges and Opportunities

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Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of over 4,700 synthetic chemicals, have captured public attention in Connecticut and across the nation due to growing concerns about their impacts on public health and the environment. Since their introduction in the 1940s, PFAS have become widely used in consumer products and industrial processes because of their unique chemical composition, which makes them stable, heat-resistant, and oil- and water-repellent. However, these same properties make PFAS pervasive and persistent when released to the environment and enable some PFAS to build up in human bodies and biota. Scientific studies have so far focused on only a limited number of PFAS and have linked these compounds to human health effects ranging from developmental effects and immunotoxicity to certain forms of cancer.

In this daylong symposium hosted by the Yale School of Public Health, experts from **Yale** (*Vasilis Vasiliou, Gary Ginsberg, Zeyan Liew, Krystal Pollitt, Nicole Deziel, Shannon Whirledge, Paul Anastas, Yawei Zhang, John Fortner, Jaehong Kim*), **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences** (*Suzanne Fenton, Alexandre Borrel, Nicole Kleinstreuer*), **University of Massachusetts Amherst** (*Youssef Oulhote*), **University of Connecticut** (*Yu Lei, Christopher Perkins*), **State and Federal Government Agencies** (*Raymond Frigon, Anna Hagstrom, Lori Mathieu, Cheryl Fields, Brian Toal, Andrea Boissevain, Sara Nason, Chelli Stanley, Nubia Zuverza-Mena*), and the **Public and Private Sectors** (*Kari Organtini, Nikolas Franceschi-Hofmann, Eric Weiner*) will review the current state of the science on these chemicals, highlighting the challenges unique to PFAS and exploring promising opportunities for addressing them.