

2009 ENDOWED LARSEN LECTURE

December 7th, 2009 at 12 pm

Determining Health Risks from Exposures to Chemicals in the Environment

Presented by
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Abstract

"Don't drink from that water bottle – it has BPA!". "Toothpaste from China is toxic!". "Male breast cancer is increasing at an alarming rate at a US Marine Corps Base!". These headlines are taken from recent media reports, and they represent real concerns that we all routinely face as consumers, scientists, clinical health care providers, or military members. In this lecture we will discuss a general framework to evaluate if a product is an environmental health "risk". Including, strategies to use when faced with such issues as: when is a specific chemical exposure a "causal" factor in the development of a disease, or when should something ultimately be considered "toxic"?

The Larsen Fund, established in 1998, supports a lecture series in the four basic sciences. Initiated by Thomas Rogan, NU '65, it honors Dr. Frederick D. Larsen, Emeritus Dana Professor of Geology from 1957-2000. It has since been renamed the endowed Larsen Lecture Series in the four basic sciences.

