Testimony to L.C. Commissioners 12-19-17

Robin Bloomgarden, in Comm. Gary Williams District 5

Four of the Lane County Commissioners, in collusion with their timber industry buddies, from day one have repeatedly worked to impede and block Community Rights Lane County's initiative petitions from seeing the light of day. Twice we have won against you in court, and continued to gather our signatures in preparation for qualifying for the ballot, in the usual manner guaranteed to us by the Oregon Constitution.

Now, we are going to court AGAIN, because Lane County is not providing good-faith administrative support for the people's lawmaking power. Your complete lack of democratic process, transparency, and accountability with regard to your reasons for denying our initiatives access to the ballot are VERY troubling, and should cause alarm within the general public. WHOM exactly do you work for? It becomes more apparent every day that it's NOT the ordinary taxpaying citizens of Lane County.

Environmental factors in the development of autism spectrum disorders.

Sealey LA[1], Hughes BW[1], Sriskanda AN[1], Guest JR[1], Gibson AD[1], Johnson-Williams L[1], Pace DG[2], Bagasra O[3]. Environ Int. 2016 Mar;88:288-298. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2015.12.021. Epub 2016 Jan 28.

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Abstract

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are highly heterogeneous developmental conditions characterized by deficits in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and obsessive/stereotyped patterns of behavior and repetitive movements. Social interaction impairments are the most characteristic deficits in ASD. There is also evidence of impoverished language and empathy, a profound inability to use standard nonverbal behaviors (eye contact, affective expression) to regulate social interactions with others, difficulties in showing empathy, failure to share enjoyment, interests and achievements with others, and a lack of social and emotional reciprocity. In developed countries, it is now reported that 1%-1.5% of children have ASD, and in the US 2015 CDC reports that approximately one in 45 children suffer from ASD. Despite the intense research focus on ASD in the last decade, the underlying etiology remains unknown. Genetic research involving twins and family studies strongly supports a significant contribution of environmental factors in addition to genetic factors in ASD etiology. A comprehensive literature search has implicated several environmental factors associated with the development of ASD. These include pesticides, phthalates, polychlorinated biphenyls, solvents, air pollutants, fragrances, glyphosate and heavy metals, especially aluminum used in vaccines as adjuvant. Importantly, the majority of these toxicants are some of the most common ingredients in cosmetics and herbicides to which almost all of us are regularly exposed to in the form of fragrances, face makeup, cologne, air fresheners, food flavors, detergents, insecticides and **herbicides**. In this review we describe various scientific data to show the role of environmental factors in ASD.

KEYWORDS:

Aluminum; Autistic disorder/pathology; Fragrances; Glyphosate; Hormone disturbing chemicals; Humans; Immunotoxicity; Infant; Maternal antibodies; Monozygotic twins; Neuroimmunotoxicity; Neurotoxins; Postnatal; Prenatal; Thimerosal; United States; Vaccines

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Pesticides: an update of human exposure and toxicity. Mostafalou S[1], Abdollahi M[2,3,4]. Arch Toxicol. 2017 Feb;91(2):549-599. doi: 10.1007/s00204-016-1849-x. Epub 2016 Oct 8.

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Abstract

Pesticides are a family of compounds which have brought many benefits to mankind in the agricultural, industrial, and health areas, but their toxicities in both humans and animals have always been a concern. Regardless of acute poisonings which are common for some classes of pesticides like organophosphoruses, the association of chronic and sub-lethal exposure to pesticides with a prevalence of some persistent diseases is going to be a phenomenon to which global attention has been attracted. In this review, incidence of various malignant, neurodegenerative, respiratory, reproductive, developmental, and metabolic diseases in relation to different routes of human exposure to pesticides such as occupational, environmental, residential, parental, maternal, and paternal has been systematically criticized in different categories of pesticide toxicities like carcinogenicity, neurotoxicity, pulmonotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, developmental toxicity, and metabolic toxicity. A huge body of evidence exists on the possible role of pesticide exposures in the elevated incidence of human diseases such as cancers, Alzheimer, Parkinson, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, asthma, bronchitis, infertility, birth defects, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, diabetes, and obesity. Most of the disorders are induced by insecticides and **herbicides**, most notably organophosphorus, organochlorines, phenoxyacetic acids, and triazine compounds.

KEYWORDS:

Chronic disease; Pesticide; Review; Toxicity