

GTA Pub Night

Chemical Contaminants and Us: Exploring the Indoor Environment

Dr. Miriam Diamond

Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto

When: October 16th 2019 , 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Scallywags
11 St Clair Ave W, Toronto

Cost: \$2 members/\$4 non-members

Join us for an engaging talk, delicious food, cozy atmosphere
and fine brew!

Please RSVP to Denina Simmons
[denina.simmons@OntarioTechU.ca]

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Abstract

North Americans spend over 90% of our time indoors, where we live, work, eat, sleep and play. “Chemical intensification” has transformed the modern indoor environment through the use of numerous natural and synthetic chemicals within consumer products, furnishings and building materials. It is not surprising then, that human biomonitoring studies from high income countries show that consistent exposures to numerous chemical contaminants that are found indoors, where exposure to some of these contaminants may be associated with adverse health effects.

Our work has shown that the distribution of contaminants indoors and potentially how we are exposed indoors has parallels with the way that some infectious diseases are transmitted and with mechanisms associated with 2nd and 3rd hand tobacco smoke exposure. We explore these two hypotheses using a dataset we collected from 51 women located in Toronto and Ottawa Canada, that includes concentrations of flame retardants and plasticizers in the air and dust of their homes, on the surfaces of their electronic devices, and on their hands.

Biography

Miriam Diamond is a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences with cross-appointments to the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, School of the Environment, Department of Geography and Program in Planning, and the Physical and Environmental Sciences Program at Scarborough College. She received her B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Toronto (1976), M.Sc. from the University of Alberta in Zoology (1980), M.Sc.Eng. from Queen’s University (Kingston, Ontario) in Mining Engineering (1984), and her Ph.D. from the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry from University of Toronto (1990).

The goal of Prof. Diamond’s multidisciplinary research program is to improve our understanding of chemical contaminants from emission, through to transport indoors and outdoors, and ultimately to human and ecological exposure. Prof. Diamond is an Associate Editor of the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* and sits on the Editorial Review board of *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*. Prof. Diamond is the co-chair of the Canadian Chemical Management Plan Science Committee, and is involved in several national and international organizations. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Geographical Society and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. In 2007 she was named Canadian Environmental Scientist of the Year and is a finalist for 2018 the Nature Inspiration Award from the Canadian Museum of Nature. She was Co-chair of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment’s Toxic Reduction Scientific Expert Panel that helped usher in Ontario’s Toxic Reduction Act.