



**HEEDS EDC-North Carolina Working Group
Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting
Friday May 29th, 2026
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Rodbell Auditorium**

- 9:00 am** **Welcome and Introduction**
Jerry Heindel, HEEDS, Healthy Environment and Endocrine Disruptor Strategies
- 9:05 am** **Session I: PFAS**
Session Chair: **Aubrey Sasser, NCSU**
- 9:05 am** **Karina Cuevas Mora, Duke, Diminished Sex Differences in Gut Immunity from Perinatal PFAS**
- 9:25 am** **Alexandra White, NIEHS, Omic-Scale Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Exposure and Breast Cancer Incidence: Findings from a Nationwide U.S. Cohort**
- 9:45 am** **Julia Kaplan, UNC, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances serum concentrations during pregnancy and gestational weight gain in the Healthy Start Study**
- 10:05 am** **Erin Hines, EPA, Concentrations and Estimated Daily Intake of Legacy and Emerging PFAS in the Milk of Women Residing in the Greater Cincinnati Area**
- 10:25-10:50** **Break and Networking (NIEHS Cafeteria)**
- 10:50 am** **Session II: Developmental Exposures**
Session Chair: **Amir Leuth, NIEHS**
- 10:50 am** **Wendy Jefferson, NIEHS, Highly Orchestrated Chromatin Dynamics of the Adult Mouse Uterus are Disrupted Following Developmental DES Exposure**
- 11:10 am** **Jared Franges, NCSU, Developmental PBDE Exposure Impairs Mast Cell Function and Drives Functional Changes in Mast Cell Progenitors**
- 11:30 am** **Gillian Szabo NCSU, Assessing the Role of Circadian Disruption and Gestational PFOA Exposure on Mammary Gland Development and Pregnancy Outcomes**
- 11:50-2:10** **Lunch (NIEHS Cafeteria), Poster Session and Networking**
Even posters: 12:30-1:20
Odd posters: 1:20-2:10

- 2:15 pm** **Session III: General Topics**
Session Chair: **Preston Siegler, NIEHS**
- 2:15 pm** **Hadley Hartwell, UNC**, Polystyrene Nanoplastics Induce Epigenetic and Transcriptomic Alterations and Impair Migration in Human Placental Cells: Implications for Maternal and Fetal Health
- 2:35 pm** **Diana Pacyga, UNC**, Adherence to the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Exposure to EDCs in Pregnancy
- 2:55 pm** **Colette Miller, EPA**, A Smoldering Legacy: Effects of Paternal Wildfire Exposure on the Next Generation
- 3:15 pm** **Zach Mclean, NCSU**, Decoding PFAS Binding and Functional Disruption in Calycin Proteins through Integrated Experimental and Computational Approaches
- 3:35 pm** **Special Lecture: Jessie Buckley, UNC**, Characterizing Exposure and Health Effects of Understudied Priority Chemicals in the ECHO Cohort
- 4:10 pm** **Keynote Presentation: Melissa Chernick, Duke**, Small Plastics, Big Questions: Insights from Experimental Models and Environmental Toxicology
- 4:45 pm** **Announcement of Poster Awards**
- 5:00 pm** **Social Hour TBD**

HEEDS and EDC-NC thank NIEHS for their Hospitality, providing the auditorium, poster boards and their cafeteria for breaks and Lunch.

**This EDC-NC science meeting is sponsored by
HEEDS: a program of Environmental Health Sciences**



**Healthy Environment and
Endocrine Disruptor Strategies**