I$_3$CARE symposium:

Assessing the health risks of the chemicals that surround us

18 September 2017, 15:30 – 17.00
Tuinzaal, Hijmans van den Berghgebouw, UMCU, Utrecht

We are exposed to a multitude of synthetic chemicals on a daily basis through our diet, products, and indoor and outdoor environments. Some have been shown to be harmful to human health, yet the health risks of the majority of environmental chemicals are poorly characterized or unknown. In this symposium organized by I$_3$CARE (the International Tripartite Collaboration to Advance Exposome Research), three speakers will discuss how to quantify low-level chemical exposures, and how to systematically evaluate the potential health effects of chemical mixtures and the exposome. Specific attention will be given to the theoretical limitations and practical challenges of multi-pollutant and exposure-wide modelling approaches, and the need for continued methodological advancements in this emerging and rapidly evolving facet of environmental health science.

15.30-16:00 Greet Schoeters (The Flemish Institute for Technological Research, Belgium) “Three cycles of human biomonitoring in Flanders – combining surveillance and research”

Greet Schoeters manages the Environmental Health projects at VITO, is professor at the Public Health Institute of the University of Southern Denmark University and Professor at the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Antwerp. She coordinates the Flemish human biomonitoring study (FLEHS) of the Flemish ministries of Environment and Health (2002-2020) and participated in the EU ESBIO and EU COPHES projects, which laid the groundwork for a European human biomonitoring program, EHBMI.

16:00-16:30 Virissa Lenters (NIPH, Norway) “Assessing our multi-pollutant burden: environmental chemical exposures and reproductive and child health”

Virissa Lenters is a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo, Norway, where she studies the interplay between environmental chemical exposures and the gut microbiota in relation to child health. On September 19 she will defend her thesis at Utrecht University. Using a new generation of statistical methods to simultaneously assess multiple exposures, she identified several common chemical contaminants associated with aspects of reproductive and child health, and the gut microbiota. She also evaluated the efficacy of several statistical approaches for multi-pollutant epidemiology studies.

16:30-17:00 Chirag Patel (Harvard Medical School, USA) “Challenges and promises of building a search engine for exposures in disease”

Chirag Patel is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Biomedical Informatics of Harvard University. His long-term research goal is to address problems in human health and disease by developing computational and bioinformatics methods to reason over high-throughput information spanning molecules to populations. Dr. Patel’s group focuses on computational strategies to efficiently and reproducibly uncover the complex interaction between the exposome, genome, and phenome towards development of new tools for disease diagnosis and therapy.

17:00 -.. Drinks

Please register by September 11 by sending an e-mail to: I3CARE@uu.nl