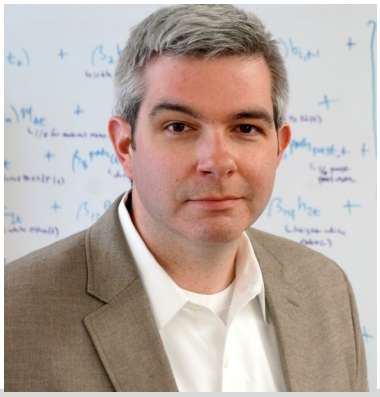
McGill | Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health

EPIDEMIOLOGY

EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR / WINTER 2019

THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIOSTATISTICS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, - SEMINAR SERIES IS A SELF-APPROVED GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITY (SECTION 1) AS DEFINED BY THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA



THOMAS P. AHERN, PhD MPH

Assistant Professor
Departments of Surgery and Biochemistry
Larner College of Medicine
University of Vermont

Phthalate Exposure and Breast Cancer Incidence: A Danish Nationwide Cohort Study

MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019 / 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Strathcona Anatomy & Dentistry Building - Room 2/36

3640 University Street – Directions from Purvis Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME

ABSTRACT:

Phthalates are plasticizing chemicals used in a wide array of consumer goods and medical products. Some of these compounds mimic natural hormones and may affect human health—notably, the incidence of breast cancer. Epidemiologic evidence on this topic is inconsistent and based on point exposure measurements in small studies. We capitalized on the documented high exposure to phthalates via use of specific medications to measure associations between longitudinal phthalate exposure and breast cancer incidence in a Danish nationwide cohort. In this presentation, we will discuss sources of environmental phthalate exposure, review the evidence concerning phthalates and breast cancer risk, and present results from our Danish cohort study.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the diversity and prevalence of phthalate compounds in modern society;
2. Describe the limitations of current observational research on phthalates in relation to breast cancer, and the barriers to generating high-quality evidence;
3. Become familiar with the population-based health a civil registries of Denmark that are available for epidemiologic research;
4. Critically evaluate a prospective cohort study of medication-associated phthalate exposure and the incidence of invasive breast carcinoma.

BIO:

Thomas Ahern is an assistant professor in the departments of surgery and biochemistry at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont. He earned Master of Public Health PhD degrees in epidemiology from Boston University, after which he completed a post-doctoral fellowship in cancer epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Much of his current research uses Denmark's immense population-based medical and social registries to measure the impact of drug regimens and patient molecular factors on breast cancer outcomes.