

Slide 4

Let's start at the beginning

PFAS: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances

This is a broad phrase that captures a class of chemicals, by some estimates 15,000 different chemicals. These go by names such as PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, MeFOSAA, Gen-X and many others.

These were originally marketed and used in the US in the 1940's as a way to be indestructible in manufacturing

Slide 5

Better living through Science!

The first PFAS-related chemical, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) was accidentally created in 1938 by DuPont chemist, Dr. Roy J. Plunkett, and introduced under the product name of Teflon.

You will also hear PFAS referred to as "forever chemicals" because they were designed to be indestructible, made by one of the strongest bonds known in organic chemistry (carbon-fluorine bonds).

However, because of this, they accumulate easily, stick around in our environment, and are very persistent in our bodies.

Slide 6

Characteristics of PFAS

Complex mixtures that are nearly indestructible in nature

Bioaccumulate in animals and humans

Travel far and wide in the environment

Very useful chemicals in industry and everyday life

Toxic to humans in multiple ways

2/27/2020

Slide 16

What we need from Decision Makers:

- Blood testing: This is crucial and in most cases IS NOT covered by insurance. This needs to change. It will save money in the long run, and can provide either peace of mind, or give physicians a means of better treating their patients.
- Water/wells need to be tested. The primary exposure path is ingestion through water. Save water is a basic human right.

Slide 17

What we need from Decision Makers:

- Stop the source (Turn off the tap). These chemicals are everywhere. We will continue to throw money at the problem while continuing to create the problem.
 - This could be a product ban, labeling requirements and procurement programs
 - Minnesota is leading the nation in this with Amara's Law!
- Food source: There is a lot of concern about biosolids and soil contamination, which all relates to problems with food contamination. We need to have a system of testing, but before that WE MUST PROTECT FARMERS

Slide 18



Slide 19

Resources

Great Lakes PFAS Action Network (<https://glpan.org>)

PFAS Exchange (<https://pfas-exchange.org>)

Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse>)

PFAS Reach <https://silentspring.org/project/pfas-reach>
