Medical Libraries to the Rescue
Meeting Critical Institutional Goals

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The Plan

• Introduce Health Sciences Research Commons, Himmelfarb’s institutional repository
• Describe initiatives undertaken by our institution
  • Raise visibility of GW health sciences research
  • Providing a publication venue for students and researchers
  • House non-journal output (i.e. grey literature, Congressional testimony, policy briefs)
• Relate successes and challenges
• Summarize future directions
• Questions and discussion
About Us

• Himmelfarb Library is an academic health sciences library, serving the three health sciences schools at The George Washington University
  • School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS)
  • School of Nursing (SON)
  • Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH)
About our IR

• Health Sciences Research Commons (HSRC) was established in 2012
• Replaced old static faculty publications lists, which had been maintained by the library since the 80s
• Maintained by 2 library staff (0.5 FTE)
• Contains metadata-only AND full-text (downloadable) records
• Notable collections:
  • Faculty publications series – sorted by department, Faculty Bookshelf
  • Grey literature, Congressional testimony, policy briefs
  • Teaching Tools – open access educational resources
  • Locally-produced journals and newsletters
  • Student works: Research Day posters and abstracts, capstone projects
  • Librarian scholarship
Growth of HSRC

Activity by Year

Health Sciences Research Commons adds works throughout the year, increasing the impact of Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University's scholarship. View the repository's growth over time, updated monthly.

Total Works in the Repository

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Works Added</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1474</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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Raise visibility of research

- HSRC records of publications are another access point, appearing at the top of Google search results
- Altmetric badge installed on HSRC records provides visual representation of a publication’s reach and popularity
  - Can provide this data to schools’ marketing and PR departments
- Readership map is very popular
- Counts of downloads for non-traditional publications are impressive
Recent fast food consumption and bisphenol A and phthalates exposures among the U.S. population in NHANES, 2003-2010

Amit R. Zota, George Washington University
Cassandra Phillips, George Washington University
Susanna D. Mitro, George Washington University

Document Type
Journal Article

Publication Date
2010

Journal
Environmental Health Perspectives

DOI
10.1289/ehp.1510603

Abstract
Background: Phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA) are widely used industrial chemicals that may adversely impact human health. Human exposure is ubiquitous and can occur through diet, including consumption of processed or packaged food.

Objective: To examine associations between recent fast food intake and BPA and urinary metabolites of di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHPm) and diisononyl phthalate (DINPm) among the US population.

Methods: We combined data on 8,877 participants from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES 2003-2010). Using 24-hour dietary recall data, we quantified: 1) fast food intake (percent of total energy intake (TEI) from fast food); 2) fast food-derived fat intake (percent of TEI from fat in fast food); and 3) fast food intake by food group (dairy, eggs, grains, meat, and other). We examined associations between dietary exposures and urinary chemical concentrations using multivariate linear regression.

Results: We observed evidence of a positive, dose-response relationship between fast food intake and exposure to phthalates ($p$-trend $\geq$EHPm and DINPm ($p$-trend $<0.001$). Faster food intake was associated with increased concentrations of the two phthalates.

Conclusion: Fast food may be a source of exposure to DEHP and DINP. These results, if confirmed, could inform individual and regulatory exposure reduction strategies.

Comments
The accepted Manuscript version of this article. A final revised and edited version will be provided.
"Our findings raise concerns because phthalates have been linked to a number of serious health problems in children and adults." -- Assistant Professor Ami Zota, as quoted in Newsweek

Inspiring an International Dialog on a New Danger from Fast Food

Over the past month, people throughout the world have learned that, as Newsweek told its readers, if you're eating fast food, you're probably also eating environmental chemicals known as phthalates. Or, as FOX News put it, the next time you add fries to your burger, you may also be adding extra chemicals.

These stories and more than 770 others, by outlets including NBC News, CNN, and the Today Show, were inspired by EOH Assistant Professor Ami Zota's research linking fast food consumption with human uptake of phthalates, chemicals used to make plastic more flexible that have been linked with serious health concerns. Her coauthors are Global Environmental Health (GEH) MPH Alumna Cassie Phillips, who worked on the research as her Culminating Experience Project, and Research Associate Susanna Mitro.

The research, published in the prestigious journal Environmental Health Perspectives, documented that people who ate more fast food in a 24-hour period had higher levels of two substances that occur when phthalates break down in the body. The Milken Institute of Public Health's analysis showed that the media coverage of the article extended to an audience of nearly 650 million people.

GW School of Public Health press release

http://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/inspiring-international-dialog-new-danger-fast-food
Provide a publication venue for students

Student Research Journal

Select Student Posters

All Student Research Day Abstracts

Capstone Projects
Provide a home to faculty for non-traditional publishing/grey lit

• Many faculty publish in venues other than scholarly journals
  • Examples: issue briefs, congressional testimonies, reports for non-profits and government agencies
• HSRC can provide a “digital home” for these documents
  • Make them discoverable by search engines
  • Link on CVs, job applications, tenure and promotion documents etc.
• Conference papers and posters too!
Challenge #1: Buy-In

- Additional time demands on already busy faculty and researchers
- Faculty already have researcher profiles elsewhere (e.g. ResearchGate, Mendeley, ORCID) → why should they archive their works with us?
- Copyright and author rights are complicated topics
  - Faculty unsure if archiving is permitted
  - Difference between post-prints, accepted manuscripts, version of record
Answer: Framing the IR as a service

• **Benefits:**
  • For students:
    • Link to their works on their CV or job applications
    • Provide proof of completion + university branding
  • For faculty and researchers (and students!)
    • Make your works discoverable and searchable with persistent link to scholarship
  • For deans and administrative offices
    • Raise visibility of research being conducted at GW
    • Accreditation

• **Simplifying submission process:**
  • Using a form-based Author Agreement instead of account sign-up
  • Reducing number of metadata fields
  • Library staff figure out copyright and author licensing agreements
Challenge #2: Finding Content

Moved from simply monitoring health sciences databases to:

- Scanning social media channels and news releases
- Reviewing faculty CVs and end-of-year annual report from faculty profiling system
- Actively seeking out areas where HSRC could help
  - Student organizations
  - Labs
  - GW health sciences institutions and centers
Challenge #3: Author Rights

• Am I allowed to archive?
• Confusion between versions of an article: pre-print vs. accepted manuscript vs. Version of Record
• Scholarly Publishing Librarian has become knowledgeable in consulting on these issues and does all the legwork!
• Encourage the use of Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Deriv Unported 3.0 license
Benefits of using Digital Commons

• Easy to get up and running
• Good customer support
• Strong base of users who have helped us find solutions to problems
• Flexible product
  • Able to load different kinds of content; set levels of access
  • Able to reorganize layout as repository has grown in size and complexity
Future Directions

• Integration with ORCID or other faculty profiling systems
• Pursue journal publishing capabilities of our Digital Commons site
• Continue seeking out grey literature and departmental documents
• Create digital archive of SMHS historical materials
• Increase use of archive for capstone projects and culminating experiences
• Review role of repository supporting promotion and tenure packets
Questions?