

# FREE PUBLIC LECTURE ARE CHEMICALS MAKING US FAT?

Guest Speaker: Professor Juliette Legler  
Utrecht University, Netherlands  
Date: Friday 01 June 2018, 10.00 - 14.00  
Location: David Keir Building, Belfast



## Could the increasing use of and exposure to environmental chemicals be linked to obesity and diabetes epidemics?

Dr Lisa Connolly from the Institute of Global Food Security at Queen's University Belfast warmly welcomes you to attend a special public lecture by internationally renowned researcher on Obesogens, Professor Juliette Legler.

Her talk is part of a four-year €4m Marie Curie International Training Network project PROTECTED led by Dr Connolly to train 15 early stage researchers (ESRs) from around the world to look at ways in which natural and synthetic chemicals can disrupt the hormone system leading to illnesses such as cancer, obesity, diabetes, infertility among others. **More information over leaf.**



The lecture will be followed by tea, coffee, sandwiches and a poster session where you can meet Professor Legler and find out more from our ESRs about the range and value of their research work in the field of Endocrine Disruptors.

**Register to attend for free on Eventbrite - <https://are-chemicals-making-us-fat.eventbrite.co.uk>**



**FREE  
REGISTRATION**



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I am both delighted and honoured to be welcoming Professor Juliette Legler from Utrecht University in the Netherlands to the Institute for Global Food Security at QUB in early June as a guest speaker and important contributor to our four-year €4m international research project PROTECTED aimed at reducing the impact of chemicals on long term health.

Our project is exploring how chemicals such as natural fungal toxins and synthetic chemicals including pesticides could be contaminating the food chain and creating potentially dangerous mixtures 'the cocktail effect' with our natural hormones causing illnesses such as cancer, obesity, diabetes or infertility.

Professor Legler's visit represents an unprecedented opportunity for you to hear from a world leading authority on obesogens and for members of the public to become better informed about the real life risks posed by these chemicals and their mixtures.

The special guest lecture will look at how the epidemics of obesity and diabetes have occurred simultaneously with the increasing use of and exposure to environmental chemicals that disrupt hormone function. Studies in humans and in the laboratory indicate that exposure to these chemicals, which includes pesticides, fungicides, chemicals in plastics, cigarette smoke and others can make people fatter by stimulating the growth of fat cells and by affecting the way the body responds to food.

It will also examine how exposure to environmental chemicals in the EU contributes substantially to the health care costs of obesity and diabetes. Conservative estimates indicate at least €18 billion per year. If you would like to hear Professor Juliette Legler or find out more about exciting developments in our early stage research work. **REGISTER FOR FREE HERE - <https://are-chemicals-making-us-fat.eventbrite.co.uk>**



## TRAINING NEW TALENT

PROTECTED's mission (protection against endocrine disruptors) is simple.

Our expert consortium has been established to promote the highest level of flexible training of a new generation of 15 Early Stage Researchers to become specialists and leaders in the field of EDs; an area which urgently needs research and the knowledge necessary to curtail the epidemic in endocrine related impacts and diseases.

Dr Lisa Connolly who is leading PROTECTED said: "Currently there is a world-wide shortage of researchers who can assess the impact of potentially dangerous endocrine disrupting chemicals and their mixtures on the hormone system which control important functions within the body such as growth, development and fertility.

"Through the PROTECTED consortium, our combined expertise will create a unique and focused opportunity to develop new training strategies, innovative analysis tools and effective communication strategies for the detection, analysis, improved risk assessment and dissemination of vital public information about the impact of EDs.

## THE NEXT GENERATION



**Mazia Amber** from Lahore in Pakistan is QUB's resident Early Stage Researcher. She is developing innovative *in vitro* bioassays to test the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals and their mixtures on mammalian cells. Mazia will present her poster and give live cell demonstrations at the event.



Also showcasing her work is **Que Thi Don**, a student at Liege University, originally from Vietnam. Que will be assessing the effects of endocrine disruptors and their mixtures on the AHR receptor; a key target in human health.



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