Frederica Perera, DrPH, PhD
Director, Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health
Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, Columbia University

Research Summary:

Frederica Perera, DrPH, PhD, is a Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and serves as the Director of the Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health (CCCEH). Dr. Perera is internationally recognized for pioneering the field of molecular epidemiology, beginning with studies of cancer and then applying molecular techniques within studies of pregnant women and their children. Since 1998, she and her colleagues at CCCEH have tracked the health of more than 700 NYC pregnant women and their children. Exposures being studied include the combustion pollutants polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), pesticides, secondhand smoke, and chemicals in plastics and flame retardants. Outcomes include asthma, neurobehavioral development, cancer, and obesity.

Her areas of specialization include prevention of environmental risks to children, molecular epidemiology, cancer prevention, environment-susceptibility interactions in cancer, developmental damage, asthma, and risk assessment. She is the author of over 300 publications and has received numerous honors, including the first Irving J. Selikoff Cancer Research Award, The Ramazzini Institute (1995); Doctoris Honoris Causa, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland (2004); Children’s Environmental Health Excellence Award, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2005); CEHN (Children’s Environmental Health Network) Award (2008), the Pearl Award (2014), and the Heinz Award for Environmental Health (2015).

Selected Publications:

Molecular epidemiology:

- Perera FP, Weinstein IB. Molecular epidemiology and carcinogen-DNA adduct detection: new


Neurobehavioral Development:


FP. Combined effects of prenatal polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and material hardship on child IQ. Neurotoxicol Teratol. 2015;49:74-80. PMCID: PMC4458400.

Obesity:


More about Frederica Perera:

Links:

- Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health homepage
- Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health obesity overview page
- Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health obesity scientific papers page