



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Department of Chemistry Presents Seminar Series Speaker

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Environmental Exposure to Toxic Chemicals: Indoor Air Pollution

Studies have shown that 10-15 % of diseases are caused by genetics and 85-90% are caused by environmental exposures. Air pollution is one of the most serious environmental risks, causing various adverse health effects and diseases. When you think of air pollution, you probably think of sources like power plants, cars, and public transportation systems as examples of outdoor air pollution sources. But air indoors can be more polluted than the outdoor air and causes about 2.2 million deaths each year compared to 500,000 deaths from outdoor air pollution. Indoor air is a complex mixture of outdoor origin chemicals, pollutants from indoor sources, and various products caused by indoor gas- and surface-reactions. The most common indoor air pollutants are volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs and SVOCs), ozone, reactive oxygen species (ROS), radon, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (PM), asbestos, and biological pollutants. This seminar focuses on human exposure to two of these indoor air pollutants: SVOCs and ozone. I show you research evidence on transdermal uptake of indoor SVOCs. Studies have shown that SVOCs in indoor air can be absorbed through human skin at rates comparable to or even greater than inhalation rate. I also discuss the effect of clothing on skin uptake of indoor SVOCs and whether your clothing protects you from indoor SVOCs or not. I also show you how human skin acts as a source of indoor air pollution in reaction with ozone..

Friday, February 19, 2021, 12:20 pm

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