

Issues

MARKET TRANSFORMATION

- Overview
- Health Care
- Pharos Project
- Healthy Homes
- U.S. Green Building Council

TARGET MATERIALS

- Overview
- PVC Plastic
- Pressure Treated Wood
- Plastic Lumber
- Formaldehyde
- Biopolymers

LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS

- Overview

FOUNDATIONS

- Environmental Justice

Search

Healthy Building News

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Current

Newsletter:

[Heinz Awards Honor Scientists Opposed by Chemical Industry](#)
 (September 29, 2010)

- [Newsletter Archive](#)

Healthy Building News

Heinz Awards Honor Scientists Opposed By Chemical Industry

By **Bill Walsh**, Executive Director
Healthy Building Network

September 29, 2010

The assault by the petro-chemical industry on scientific integrity ♦ and scientists with integrity ♦ has been well their courageous willingness to communicate the implications of their work, often in the face of determined opposition. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals, such as dioxin and phthalates, associated with PVC plastic, and BPA (bisphenol

Professor Terry Collins of Carnegie Mellon University encountered industry opposition at [Greenbuild 2006](#) while routinely does in his writings and presentations, Collins took aim at chlorine-based chemistry such as PVC plastic 2001, Collins had publicly criticized companies that "have sought to protect their profits by distorting scientific argued that "it is critical that chemistry that is not really green does not get sold as such, and that the public is earned him more than a few challenges from the floor, and uncharacteristically negative reviews charging "bias



[Professor Frederick vom Saal](#) at the University of Missouri has been researching endocrine BPA (bisphenol A) since 1995. Dr. vom Saal has pioneered remarkable advances in our understanding of how hormone-disrupting chemicals can have greater biological impacts at lower doses than at that had been stored in containers made with the chemical, animals that ate the food ex

In 1997, his research earned him a visit from an official of the Chemical Manufacturers Association: "Can we arrive at a mutually beneficial outcome where you withhold publishing this paper himself the target of persistent professional attacks from the chemical industry.[6](#)

[Dr. Lynn Goldman](#), a pediatrician and epidemiologist recently named dean of the School of Public Health and Health Agency's assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (formerly the Office published the first Dioxin Reassessment,[7](#) which provoked the Chlorine Chemistry Council to increase its budget campaign to overturn the findings.[8](#) Under Goldman's direction the EPA also expanded its work on endocrine-disrupting chemical industry opposition.[10](#)

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals are ubiquitous in green buildings not for lack of alternatives, but for lack of resolution. Heinz should help the green building community realize that in order to get toxic chemicals out of green buildings, determined opposition."

Footnotes

[1] See, for example: <http://www.healthybuilding.net/news/080507read-this-book.html>; www.defendingscience.org

[2] The 16th Annual Heinz Award also recognized 7 other environmental leaders in other fields. For a complete

[3] A transcript of the 2006 Greenbuild session is not available. For an example of Dr. Collins presentations on Science and Society: Toward Sustainable Chemistry, Science 5 January 2001: Vol. 291. <http://www.science.org>

[4] Dr. vom Saal explained these findings in an interview with the PBS television series Frontline. See, <http://www.pbs.org>

[5] See, Pflaum, Nadia. Missouri biologist Frederick vom Saal and his team exposed the dangers of bisphenol A <http://www.pitch.com/2008-04-24/news/ever-since-university-of-missouri-biologist-frederick-vom-saal-and-his>

[6] See, <http://www.ewg.org/node/27129>

[7] The Dioxin Reassessment was initiated after the chemical industry objected to EPA's 1984 designation of dioxin as a carcinogen. The publication of a second reassessment in 2000. The Dioxin Reassessment still has not been completed. For a summary

<http://www.chej.org/documents/2010/Dioxin%20Key%20Letters/Dioxin%20Timeline.pdf>.

[8] See, | Roni A. Neff, ScM, and Lynn R. Goldman, MD, MPH, Regulatory Parallels to Daubert : Stakeholder Inf 95, No. S1 | American Journal of Public Health <http://www.defendingscience.org/upload/Neff-Goldman.pdf>

[9] http://www.epa.gov/oppt/library/pubs/archive/oppts_speeches/malerepf.htm

[10] See, <http://www.ewg.org/node/27129>

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