Health and Chemicals Forum

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Time: 13:15 – 18:00 (CET)
Location: Salle A or virtually via Zoom

About

The Health and Chemicals Forum will convene diverse stakeholders to strengthen the integration of health into chemicals management. It will focus on tracking health-related progress, accelerating practical action to prevent harmful chemical exposures, and mobilizing investment in safer and more sustainable solutions. Short expert inputs and facilitated panel discussions will support the identification of shared priorities, partnerships, and next steps for achieving the targets set out within the Global Framework on Chemicals.

The Forum is being co-convened by the Food Packaging Forum Foundation and the NYU Langone Health Center for the Investigation of Environmental Hazards with support from Health Care Without Harm and Geneva Environment Network.

Join Us In-Person or Virtually

All officially registered in-person GFC conference participants are very welcome to join the event in Salle A (Room A), and the event will also be fully hybrid to allow anyone to follow the discussions online. To join us virtually, please register in advance here. Learn more about the Forum and the speakers on the event page.

Program

Part 1: 13.15 – 15.00 CET

Registration and Lunch: 12:45 – 13:15
Welcome and Introductory Remarks: 13:15 – 13:55

- **13:15 – 13:25:**
  - Jane Muncke, Food Packaging Forum Foundation
  - Leonardo Trasande, NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- **13:25 – 13:30**: Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town, World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), and GFC Bureau
- **13:30 – 13:35:** Miriam G. Medel Garcia, Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva
- **13:35 – 13:40:** Maria Neira, Former Director of the WHO Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health
- **13:40 – 13:45:** Camille Etienne, Projet NK
- **13:45 – 13:50:** Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP

Chemical Simplification: 13:55 – 14:05

- Martin Scheringer, International Panel on Chemical Pollution

Biomonitoring, Epidemiology, and Monitoring: 14:05 – 14:15

- Roel Vermeulen, Utrecht University/UMC Utrecht

Science for Policy – Challenges and Needs: 14:15 – 14:25

- Laura Vandenberg, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Panel: 14:25 – 14:55

- Jane Muncke, Food Packaging Forum Foundation (moderator)
- Laura Vandenberg, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Leonardo Trasande, NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- Martin Scheringer, International Panel on Chemical Pollution

Part 2: 15.00 – 18.00 CET

Welcome and Introductory Remarks: 15:00 – 15:10

- Jane Muncke, Food Packaging Forum Foundation
- Leonardo Trasande, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Chemicals and Health in the GFC: 15:10 – 15:30

- Björn Beeler, IPEN
- Rico Euripidou, groundWork SA and Health Care Without Harm

Monitoring Infectious Disease Risks: 15:30 – 15:45

- Joacim Rocklöv, University of Heidelberg

Better Chemical Testing Using New Approach Methodologies: 15:45 – 16:00

- Beate Escher, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ

Q&A with session presenters: 16:00 – 16:15

Awareness for Chemicals in the Health Care Sector - Panel Discussion: 16:15 – 17:00

- Leonardo Trasande, NYU Grossman School of Medicine (moderator)
- Ludwig L. Albornoz, Hospital Mayor Méderi and Universidad del Rosario
- Michelle Reyes, Health Care Without Harm
- Tobias Kiss, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich/Deutsches Museum
- Tomáš Hraško, Physicians for the Environment Switzerland (AefU)
- Virunya Bhat, World Health Organization

Coffee Break: 17:00 – 17:15

Innovation, Implementation and Communication - Panel Discussion: 17:15 – 17:45

- Jane Muncke, Food Packaging Forum Foundation (moderator)
- Bethanie Carney Almroth, UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights
- Hans-Dietrich Reckhaus, INSECT-RESPECT & Reckhaus AG
- John Peterson Myers, SUDOC
- Susanne Brander, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Safer Chemicals Project

Synthesis and Closing: 17:45 – 18:00

- Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town, World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), and GFC Bureau
- Jane Muncke, Food Packaging Forum Foundation
- Leonardo Trasande, NYU Grossman School of Medicine