



URC Health Threats Engagement Tour: Grand Rapids PFAS Dialogue MSU Grand Rapids Research Center

Monday, April 25, 2022 | 10:00 AM



Co-Chair: Senator Winnie Brinks, (D- Grand Rapids) Michigan Seante

State Senator Winnie Brinks represents Michigan's 29th District, and is the first woman to represent Grand Rapids in the Michigan Senate since Eva McCall Hamilton was elected in 1920. Brinks was elected to serve the 76th District in the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2013, and was elected to the Senate in November 2019.



Co-Chair: Senator Mark Huizenga, (R- Walker) Michigan Senate

State Senator Mark Huizenga represents Michigan's 28th District. Huizenga was first elected to serve the 74th District in the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2018, and was elected to the Senate in November 2021. He has been involved in the city of Walker in varying capacities since 2005, from a seat on the Planning Commission to serving as Mayor.



Dr. Suzanne Witt, Fraunhofer USA Center Midwest, MSU Center for PFAS Research

Dr. Witt is the technical lead on projects related to electrochemical applications of diamond-related materials, including the use of boron doped diamond in wastewater treatment. She currently manages all of the center's projects on treating water sources contaminated with PFAS, including a pilot project with Grand Rapids.



Dr. Cheryl Murphy, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, Director for the Center for PFAS Research

Dr. Murphy is an affiliate for the Center for Integrative Toxicology, Center for Water Sciences, the Environmental Science and Public Policy program and the Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior Program. Her overall goal is to bridge laboratory work with field sampling and modeling to address issues in environmental toxicology.



Dr. Rodrigo Fernandez-Valdivia, Assistant Professor, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology

Presenting on "Decoding PFAS Exposure in Lung Carcinogenesis" in March 2022, his research focuses on deciphering the molecular circuitries and genetic networks underlying PFAS role in breast and lung cancer initiation and progression. Studies indicate that PFOS and PFOA exposure causes molecular reprogramming, and induces cell proliferation in breast and lung cancer cells.



Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, URC Executive Director

Dr. Affolter-Caine is the executive director of Michigan's University Research Corridor (URC), one of the nation's top university innovation clusters. Previous to the URC, Affolter-Caine was a director of talent initiatives for Ann Arbor SPARK and the Detroit Regional Chamber, and senior research associate for the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution on the Great Lakes Economic Initiative.

Learn more at: URCMich.org/threats