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## **60 MiNueTs Toxic, Which Explores How U.S. Government Is Failing to Protect People from Toxic Chemicals, Accepted to 15<sup>th</sup> Annual APHA Film Festival**

***Video series features leading scientists from Columbia, Harvard, Boston Children's, Mount Sinai, John Jay, and University of California, San Francisco***

SAN FRANCISCO – 60 MiNueTs Toxic, a video series that explores environmental health challenges such as the games industry plays to keep dangerous products on the market, will be screened at the **American Public Health Association's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Health Film Festival** during APHA's annual meeting in San Diego Nov. 10 – 14, 2018.

Featuring puppets based on legendary news correspondents from CBS News' 60 Minutes interviewing leading scientists, 60 MiNueTs Toxic will be shown **Tuesday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm in Room 1 AB of the San Diego Convention Center**. The "correspondents" include:

- **"End Badly"** who investigates what toxic chemicals are doing to our health in *Toxic Bodies*;
- **"Lesley Stalled"** explores why and how industry hijacks regulatory reform in *Politics of Science*;
- **"Mike Wallets"** follows the money behind false corporate safety claims in *Money Talks*;
- **"Dan Rathernot"** examines how neurotoxins are affecting children's brains in the *Dumbing Down of America*; and
- **"Morley Safety"** uncovers what you need to know about the products you buy in *Buyer Beware*.

"Polluting industries jeopardizing public health through money and politics is no surprise in this administration," said Tracey J. Woodruff, professor and director of the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Program on Reproductive Health and co-director of UCSF's Environmental Health Initiative. "But we hope this series will help people understand some of the history behind what they are seeing unfold today at the EPA."

In addition to Woodruff, scientists in the series include:

- David Bellinger, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard School of Medicine
- Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- Gerald Markowitz, PhD, Columbia University and John Jay College
- Frederica Perera, DrPH, PhD, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health
- David Rosner, PhD, Columbia Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health

The series can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/60minuets>

“Toxic chemical exposure can have multiple effects on children’s health,” says Perera in *Toxic Bodies*. “That means lower IQ scores, more behavioral problems like ADHD and autism, asthma, and possibly cancer.”

In the same segment, Landrigan explains, “A number of chemical companies over the years have knowingly sold hazardous products. The lead industry is a case in point. We knew that lead paint can cause poisoning in children as early as 1910, more than 100 years ago, and yet the lead industry continued to sell paint in this country until they were legally banned from doing so in 1976 and they’re still selling lead paint overseas where they can get away with it.”

In *Dumbing Down of America*, Bellinger, who specializes in children’s neurodevelopmental health, argues that widespread exposures to neurotoxins like lead, arsenic, and methylmercury are “depressing the intellectual resources of the entire society.” He calculates that these chemicals have led to a loss of 40 million IQ points in the U.S. population.

Markowitz and Rosner, co-authors of [Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution and Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America’s Children](#), explore industry tactics to stop or stall product safety rules in *Politics of Science*. “The longer there is delay, the more profit companies can make selling toxic chemicals,” explains Markowitz.

Rosner, who also leads Columbia’s Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, describes the lengths some companies have gone to stop the public from learning about the health risks of their products in the series’ preview: “We found documents in which they literally signed secrecy agreements promising not to tell the government or anyone about the results of their findings.”

Woodruff offers tips on how consumers can protect themselves in *Buyer Beware*, and in another segment she explains why government intervention is vital when it comes to environmental health issues: “If I had a kid in the 1970s, the only way that I could prevent lead exposure in the air to my child was for the government to get lead out of gasoline,” she says.

The banning of lead in paint and gasoline, which the U.S. did long after many European and South American countries did so, resulted in one of the most significant public health successes: a 90 percent drop in childhood blood lead levels. However, with lead paint remaining in many older homes and in drinking water via old pipes, the threat of lead exposure to our children is not over.

“We created the series to show how toxic chemicals are harming us, and that rolling back protections has serious implications for all of our health,” said Woodruff in announcing the release of the series. Each segment is between two to four minutes long. The series was created on behalf of UCSF’s [Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment](#) by the [Public Interest Media Group](#) in collaboration with puppeteer [Liz Joyce](#).

**University of California, San Francisco’s Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment** studies how toxic chemicals and other environmental health hazards undermine reproductive health and develops strategies to reduce exposures. [www.prhe.ucsf.edu](http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu) The **Environmental Health Initiative** works to reduce the growing burden of chronic disease through action on environmental health. [www.prhe.ucsf.edu/environmental-health-initiative](http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu/environmental-health-initiative)