



Statement

For Immediate Release

October 6, 2009

Contact: Kathryn St. John (703) 741-5818

Email: Kathryn_St.John@americanchemistry.com

NEW BISPHENOL A STUDY HAS MANY LIMITATIONS, BUT NO CLEAR CONCLUSIONS

ARLINGTON, VA (October 6, 2009) -- *The American Chemistry Council (ACC) offers the following comments in response to queries regarding a study published on-line today in Environmental Health Perspectives and titled "Prenatal Bisphenol A Exposure and Early Childhood Behavior." Quotes from the following analysis of the study may be attributed to Steven G. Hentges, Ph.D. of the ACC's Polycarbonate/BPA Global Group.*

"ACC and its member companies have long-supported research to advance scientific understanding about chemicals and promote public health. To achieve these goals, that research should be based on sound scientific principles so as to be meaningful to human health. There are significant limitations in the study design, highlighted by the authors themselves, which limit the utility of the study.

"Inherent in the design of this small-scale study is the inability to establish cause-effect relationships. The study can only evaluate parameters measured in the study for statistical associations, which may be neither real nor meaningful. The limited reliability of the associations reported in this study is characterized by the authors in their concluding paragraph: 'The reported associations and interactions ... should be viewed cautiously since these results could be biased from exposure misspecification or residual confounding.'

"Regarding the technique used to measure maternal bisphenol A (BPA) exposure, the authors note it is 'difficult to accurately characterize exposure from a single measurement.' Statistical associations based on inaccurate exposure measurements cannot be meaningful. A further, and very significant, complication not noted by the authors is that BPA is efficiently converted to a biologically inactive metabolite after exposure. What was measured was not BPA, but the metabolite.

"The authors also note that 'unmeasured confounding may be responsible for some or all of our observed associations.' For example, the authors add that 'patterns of behavior are variable during early childhood' and that 'it is possible that we did not adequately assess parental psychopathology.' In addition, since BPA exposure is primarily from the diet, differences in BPA levels among the study participants may be indicative of significant dietary differences. Diet and nutrition are potentially significant confounders that were not evaluated, but are certainly important in fetal development.

"In light of its limitations, there is significant potential for this study to be misconstrued. The results of this preliminary, and severely limited, study cannot be considered meaningful for human health unless the findings are replicated in a more robust study."

###

www.americanchemistry.com/newsroom

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care[®], common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$689 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and



security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

