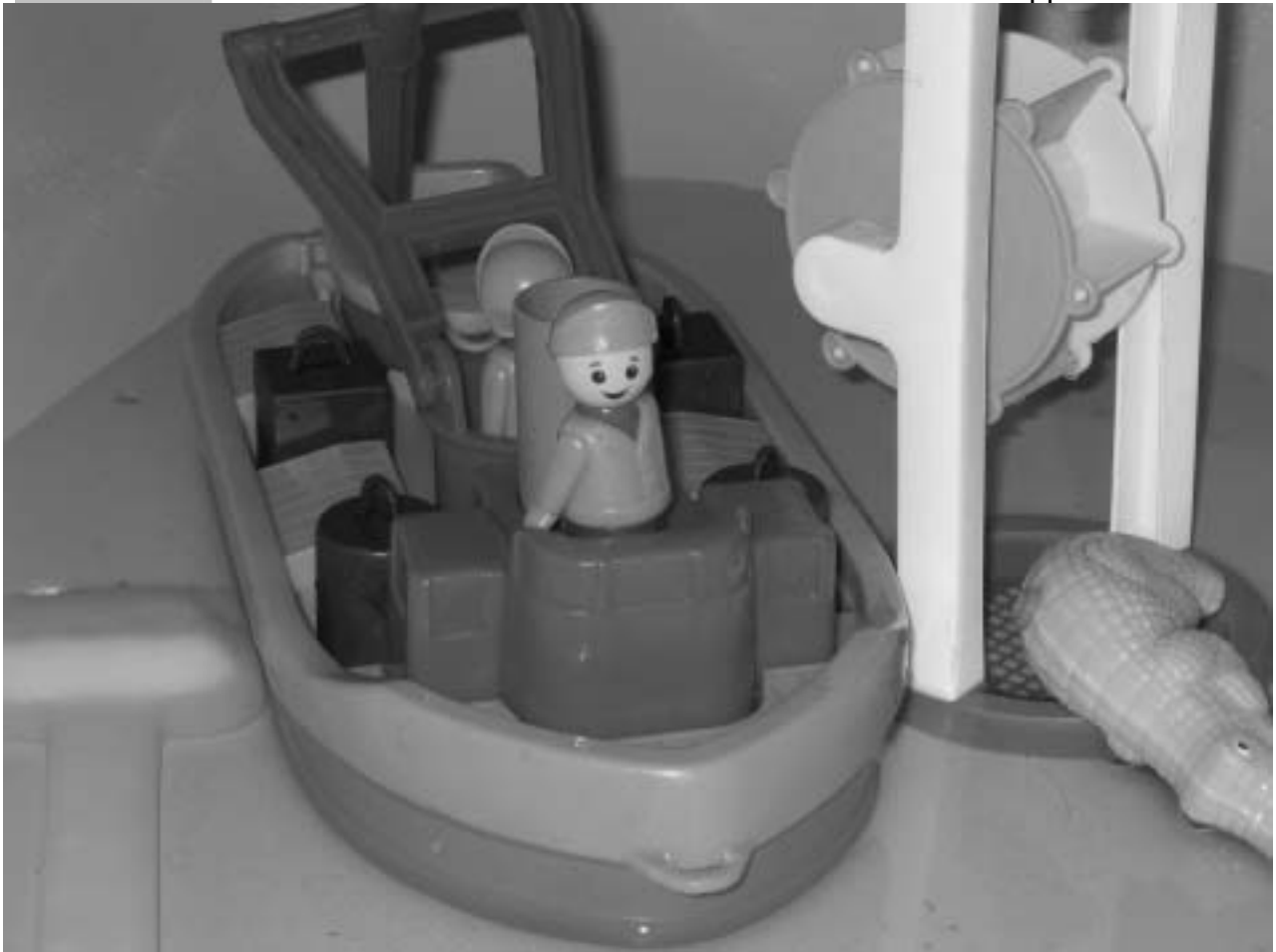




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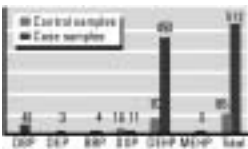


The Example of Phthalates: A Threat to the Newborn?

Workshop Proceedings

Budapest, Healthy Planet Forum, June 23rd, 2004



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	Cover photo: Toxic toys? (Photo: Moshammer)	

ONE THREAT AMONG OTHERS

“The future for our children” is the overarching theme of the ministerial meeting and the Healthy Planet Forum. This future is endangered by a range of diverse environmental threats. It was not easy to agree on a specific choice for the topic of our workshop.

We are confident that the “phthalates” issue is a very good illustration of the close connection between health and the environment: Environment gravely influences human health. This is evident for many environmental burdens. But phthalates are a fine example for the lack of risk assessment data and toxicological knowledge in spite of long lasting use and wide distribution of these substances. Growing concern about endocrine effects fits well into the “children”-tune of this forum.

Health impact of the environment calls on doctors to raise their voice for prevention and to develop strategies how to treat environmental patients. This plain fact is true for many environmental threats. But in the case of phthalates we can also demonstrate the obligation and the options of the health-care sector not only to react on the environmental impact but also to actively reduce pollution.

Hence we hope our workshop will contribute well to the theme of the meeting and the forum. We expect lively discussions and new insight not only in the narrow though exciting topic of the phthalates but in the various interconnections between the healthcare and the environmental sector also.

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This magazine is usually produced in German and comes in 4 issues a year for members and friends of “Ärztinnen und Ärzte für eine Gesunde Umwelt” which is the Austrian section of “Doctors for the Environment” (ISDE). You can view the recent issues on our web-site under www.aegu.net.

The organisers, acknowledgements

This workshop is jointly organised by *ISDE Austria* and the *European Academy for Environmental Medicine*. It is our great pleasure to thank the **Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management** for the generous financial support of our workshop. We are also deeply indebted to the **Hungarian Government** for providing the venue of this meeting.

We acknowledge the hard work behind the curtains of the **REC Hungary** with **Laszlo Pernecky** and his team. Many thanks also to the speakers and the participants of the workshop who will certainly help making it a success!

Hanns Moshammer

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