

PLASTIC HEALTH SUMMIT 2021



THURSDAY, 21ST OCTOBER 2021

Theater Amsterdam | Danzigerkade 5 | 1013 AP
Amsterdam | The Netherlands

PLASTIC SOUP FOUNDATION

PROGRAMME

8:15 - 9:00

Registration

9:00 - 9:55

Plenary Opening | One Health



MARIA WESTERBOS

Founder & Director Plastic Soup Foundation

Ms. Westerbos will open the second Plastic Health Summit and states: plastic waste is the new asbestos. We only have 10 years left to solve the plastic pollution crisis.



JO ROYLE

CEO & Founder Common Seas

Ms. Royle will speak about how the massive growth in plastic production presents a growing threat to human health, and explore how and why this research must be used to drive change in government, business, and across wider society.



PROF. DR. DICK VETHAAK

Expert micro- and nanoplastics

Why is plastic pollution a potential public health hazard? Prof. Vethaak will summarize the major results of the first pilot research projects in this field and introduce ONE HEALTH, the notion that plastic pollution poses interconnected risks to public health, animal health, and ecosystem health, and the need to apply a One Health approach to plastic health challenges.

10:00 - 11:45

Block 1 | Exposure & Toxicity

**DR. HEATHER LESLIE**

Expert in international (micro)plastics research. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Can we find plastic particles in blood? Dr. Leslie will talk about how she and her research group developed an approach to look for micro- and nanoplastic particles in the bloodstreams of farm animals.

**MS. HANNA DUSZA**

Researcher, Veterinary Medicine at the Department of Population Health

Recent studies have shown that microplastics are also detected in the placenta, though their effects are unclear. Our research (funded by ZonMw) shows that plastic particles of different sizes are efficiently taken up by placenta cells, where they may exert subtle effects on endocrine function.

**PROF. DR. PATRICIA HUNT**

Expert on transgenerational effects of exposure to EDCs. Washington State University

Prof. Hunt will speak about her research on the chaos affecting several generations that plasticizing chemicals cause to the endocrine system. This affects growth, sexual function, and behavior, among other things. Her talk focuses on her work with pregnant mice, their fetuses, and the eggs of female fetuses; and the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) which are observed in both males and females across several species and generations.

**DR. RAYMOND PIETERS**

Immunotoxicologist. University of Utrecht

What does air pollution do to our immune response? Dr. Pieters will present us with initial indications that plastic in the air triggers an immune response.

10:00 - 11:45

Block 1 | Exposure & Toxicity

**DR. BAS VAN DER ZAAN**

Senior scientist at Deltares. Expert in environmental microbiology

In hotspots like sewage systems, pathogenic micro-organisms like Salmonella sp. or antibiotic-resistant bacteria can settle on plastic particles and be transported to other areas. The first steps to understand the health risk of 'microbial hitchhikers' are evaluating environmental microplastics, and studying the innate immune reaction when exposed to microbial contaminated water.

**DR. ESPERANZA HUERTA LWANGA**

Microplastics specialist in terrestrial environments. Wageningen University & Research

How do microplastics affect food safety? Dr. Huerta Lwanga will discuss the issue of plastic use in agriculture (fertilizer, compost, mulch, sludge etc.).

**PROF. DR. TERRY COLLINS**

Teresa Heinz Professor in Green Chemistry, Director of the Institute for Green Science

Prof. Collins warns us about the devastating effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and asks: can the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) result in a sustainable chemical enterprise in the EU?

11:45 - 12:45

Lunch Break

12:45 - 14:25

Block 2 | Environmental Justice

**ANGAANGAQ ANGAKKORSUAQ**

Greenland Elder

Uncle Angaangaq, a healer, storyteller & carrier of the Qilaut (wind drum) from the Eskimo-Kalaallit culture in Greenland, will take us on a journey to his land & culture, in a very remote area, where the communities are faced with plastic pollution, blown in from regions far away from their own.

12:45 - 14:25

Block 2 | Environmental Justice

**PROF. DR. SUSAN SHAW**

Professor of Public Health at University at Albany, Founder & President of the Shaw Institute

Are we changing human biology? Prof. Dr. Shaw joins us to discuss how the illegal plastic waste trade is killing children in low-income countries, where more than 90 percent of the waste is openly burnt.

**JOJO MEHTA**

Executive director Stop Ecocide International

As the co-founder of Stop Ecocide Foundation, Ms. Mehta will share her in-depth understanding of how and when plastic pollution will be recognized as ecocide, and subsequently have ecocide recognized as an international crime at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

**JANE PATTON**

Campaign Manager for Plastics & Petrochemicals with the Center for International Environmental Law

Ms. Patton will enlighten us about the new Formosa report (released on 06/10) on the human rights violations in the US, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Cambodia by Formosa Plastics and the plastic industry in general.

**HUGO SCHALLY**

European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment

Mr. Schally will introduce the current initiative aimed towards launching negotiations for a Global Agreement on Plastics. The way plastics are currently designed, produced, and consumed doesn't fit into a circular economy. Recycling plastic is too often in fact downcycling and recycling of hazardous chemicals.

**LISA HOYER**

Engagement and Impact Manager, Plastics & Human Health, Minderoo Foundation

Minderoo Foundation is collaborating with international experts to develop global standards for the measurement of plastic in the human body. This complements their recent report identifying the world's top producers of single-use plastic and the financial institutions that fund and enable its production.

14:30 - 15:15

Block 3 | Plastic & Me

**SIAN SUTHERLAND***Co-founder A Plastic Planet*

What makes a serial entrepreneur and self-confessed plastic addict transform into an unlikely plastic warrior? Building brands, businesses, and campaigns with soul and purpose at their very heart has always been Ms. Sutherland's passion throughout many different careers.

**PRIGI ARISANDI AND DARU SETYORINI***Founder and executive director & Manager research and program development of Ecoton*

As founders of the environmental organisation ECOTON, Mr. Arisandi and Ms. Setyorini will talk about microplastics contaminating the river water, the fish living in the river, and the fact that these microplastics have been found in human faeces.

**DIANE WILSON***Executive director of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper. Environmental activist.*

Ms. Wilson will take us on her journey fighting against this plastic giant for violations of the Clean Water Act resulting in discharges of pollution along the Texas coast. Along with other volunteers, she collected millions of nurdles (tiny pieces of plastic used as raw material) that served as evidence in the case.

15:15 - 15:45

Coffee Break

15:45 - 16:50

Block 4 | Next Generation



GLORIA MAJIGA-KAMOTO

Sustainable development practitioner

Ms. Majiga-Kamoto, 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize recipient, helps farmers adapt to climate change in one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, dealing with drought and other impacts. She will take the audience on a journey to her country Malawi where, just like in any other country, the people 'need' plastic.



KELLY (& GARY & SAM) BENCHEGHIB

Co-Founder at Make a Change World

The three siblings Kelly, Gary and Sam Benchehib will take us along their journey, from running across the US with up-cycled plastic shoes, to traveling down the world's most polluted river in plastic-bottle kayaks & to the plastic barriers deployed in rivers to stop plastic waste entering the ocean.



KRISTAL AMBROSE

Founder and Director, Bahamas Plastic Movement

Ms. Ambrose, 2020 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient and Founder of the Bahamas Plastic Movement, will speak on The Power of Youth and her organization's approach to plastic pollution solutions through research, education, citizen science, and policy change.



AESHNINA AZZAHRA AQILANI (NINA)

Youth Environmental Activist, Ecoton

Ms. Nina, the Indonesian high school student who told then-president Trump to 'take back your toxic rubbish', will share her story on how she fights plastic waste that pollutes the tofu and eggs she & her friends eat.

16:50 - 17:15

Closing Statement



CHARLES MOORE

Founder of Algalita Marine Research and Education, Long Beach Organic, and the Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research

17:15 - 18:30

Drinks and networking