Environmental Exposures and Breast Cancer

Course Description:
Everyone knows someone that has been impacted by breast cancer-- a mother, sister, father, or aunt. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. According to the American Cancer Society, only 5-10% of breast cancer cases are the result of genetics and metastatic breast cancer in pre-menopausal women is increasing. The science indicates that environmental exposures play a pivotal role in one’s risk of a future breast cancer diagnoses. It is exposures from puberty until one’s first full term pregnancy that one is most susceptible to the effects of these environmental exposures on life-long risk of breast cancer. This course will focus on current scientific evidence informing us of breast development, the etiology of breast cancer, the impact of hormones on these processes and the impact of manufactured chemicals on breast cancer risk. Although the focus is on breast cancer, topics will include issues related to both women’s and men’s health. These concepts will be organized around weekly class periods that will engage students with short lectures, in-class projects, required readings on peer-reviewed journal articles, and a final written project.

Season Course Is Offered: Spring
Meeting Day: Tuesday
Instructor First Name and Middle Initial: R. Thomas
Instructor Last Name: Zoeller
Instructor Email: tzoeller@bio.umass.edu
Course Time: 4:00pm - 4:50pm

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