

## Third Annual Forum on Endocrine Disruptors

### **Background and programme of the session organised by the European Society of Endocrinology and the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology**

#### **Background**

Despite their known impact on health, endocrine disruptors are still widely produced, distributed and prevalent in Europe and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that achieving a non-toxic environment is more urgent now than ever before, particularly in the prevention of diseases such as diabetes and obesity, conditions that result in greater morbidity, mortality and requirement of ICU and significant medical support<sup>1</sup>.

The joint session by the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) and the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) at the Third Annual Forum on Endocrine Disruptors, organised by the European Commission, addresses the impact of endocrine disruptors throughout the different life stages. The session called “*Endocrine disruptors impact: from pre-natal development to adulthood*” will especially focus on the consequences of early alterations to the hormone system and consequences later in life. It will zoom in on “minipuberty” following the increasing evidence available pointing towards the adverse impact of endocrine disruptors at this important life stage. Another presentation of the session will highlight obesity as an endocrine disease. Both basic research as well as clinical evidence will be presented on the role of endocrine disruptors in relation to the current high obesity prevalence in Europe and the rest of the world. The final focal area of the session will be the effect of endocrine disruptors on the thyroid hormone axis, hereby making links to neurological development and the IQ. Below the final programme of the session.

The session aims to contribute to increased awareness among EU decision makers and other stakeholders about the risks of human and animal exposure to endocrine disruptors. It is key for the European endocrine community to continue to reach out to their European and national decision makers to convey these important messages.

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<sup>1</sup> [COVID-19 in people with diabetes: understanding the reasons for worse outcomes - The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology](#)

**Programme - Endocrine disruptors impact: from pre-natal development to adulthood**

| Speaker  | Topic   | Timing |
|--|---|--------|
| <b>Prof Anna-Maria Andersson, Rigshospitalet</b>                                     | Introduction / Overview / Setting the scene                                       | 5min   |
| <b>Prof Katharina Main, Rigshospitalet</b>   | Minipuberty as a window of opportunity to explore reproductive health             | 10min  |
| <b>Prof Robert Barouki, French Institute of Health and Medical Research   Inserm</b> | Obesity - the role of endocrine disruptors in the current high obesity prevalence | 10min  |
| <b>Dr Arash Derakhshan, Erasmus University Medical Centre</b>                        | Thyroid hormone axis disruptions in humans: knowns and unknowns                   | 10min  |
| <b>Moderated panel discussion with the audience</b>                                  |   | 25min  |

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