WHO WE ARE

We are a collaborative of leading scientists, health professionals, and children’s health, environment, and disabilities advocates, co-directed by Maureen Swanson, The Arc; Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto, The MIND Institute, UC Davis; and Dr. Tanya Taiwo, Bastyr University. Project TENDR is a program of The Arc.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to protect infants and children from chemicals and pollutants that harm brain development and to eliminate disproportionate exposures to children of color and low-income children. We do this by joining scientific evidence with advocacy to inform and empower change makers to create policies ensuring no child is exposed to chemicals contributing to neurodevelopmental disorders.
TENDR Scientists

Leading experts from diverse disciplines—including epidemiologists, toxicologists, and exposure scientists—who study the effects of toxic chemicals on children’s brain development. They direct research teams at major universities, publish studies in top peer-reviewed journals, and serve on national and international expert panels.

Deborah Bennett, PhD
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, School of Medicine, University of California, Davis

David C. Bellinger, PhD, MSc
Research Director, Boston Children’s Hospital; Professor, Harvard Medical School; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Linda S. Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS
Scientist Emeritus and Former Director (retired), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program
Scholar in Residence, Nicholas School of the Environment Duke University

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Research Scientist, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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Jennifer and Brian Maxwell Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

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Chief Science Officer, Autism Science Foundation; Adjunct, Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Rutgers University

Russ Hauser, MD, ScD, MPH
Chair, Department of Environmental Health Frederick Lee Hisaw Professor of Reproductive Physiology, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School

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Director, UC Davis Environmental Health Sciences Center; Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences & Medical Investigations of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (MIND) Institute, University of California, Davis

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Associate Director, Science, Policy, and Engagement, Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, University of California, San Francisco

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TENDR Scientists

Leading experts from diverse disciplines—including epidemiologists, toxicologists, and exposure scientists—who study the effects of toxic chemicals on children's brain development. They direct research teams at major universities, publish studies in top peer-reviewed journals, and serve on national and international expert panels.

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Professor Emerita, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

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R. Thomas Zoeller, PhD
Professor Emeritus, Biology Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Ami Zota, ScD, MS
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University
TENDR Health Professionals and Providers

Pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists, nurses, midwives, and public health specialists, with a common focus on fetal and children’s brain health. They include directors of the national Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units, along with representatives of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, National Medical Association and National Hispanic Medical Association.

Jerry Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ
President, Los Angeles County Medical Association
Representative, National Hispanic Medical Association; Director & Chief Vaccinologist, Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.; Asst. Prof., Family Medicine & Psychiatry, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science

Laura Anderko, PhD, RN
M. Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Villanova University; Director, Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment

John R. Balmes, MD
Prof. of Medicine, UCSF; Prof. Environmental Health Sciences, UC Berkeley; Director, Northern Calif Center for Occupational & Environmental Health, UC Berkeley-UC Davis-UCSF; Director, UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program

Carla Campbell, MD, MS, FAAP
Former Medical Director, The Lead Evaluation Clinic, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Pediatrician and Public Health Physician, Philadelphia, PA.

Jeanne A. Conry, MD, PhD
Past President, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; President, The Environmental Health Leadership Foundation; President-Elect, International Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Nathaniel DeNicola, MD, MSHP, FACOG
Physician, Johns Hopkins Medicine; Digital Health Expert, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

Robert M. Gould, MD
Associate Adjunct Prof, Program on Reproductive Health and Environment, UCSF School of Medicine; Past President, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Deborah Hirtz, MD
Professor, Neurological Sciences and Pediatrics, University of Vermont School of Medicine; Representative, Child Neurology Society

Tanya Khemet Taiwo, PhD, CPM, MPH
Assistant Professor, Department of Midwifery, Bastyr University; Co-Director, Environmental Health Sciences Center, UC Davis

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP
Director, Global Public Health Program; Director, Global Observatory on Pollution and Health; Professor of Biology, Boston College

Arthur Lavin, MD, FAAP
Pediatrician, Advanced Pediatrics; Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Mark Miller, MD, MPH
Director, University of California San Francisco Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

Mark A. Mitchell, MD, MPH
Assoc. Prof, Climate Change, Energy & Environmental Health Equity, Health & Climate Solutions Program, George Mason University; Co-Chair, Commission on Environmental Health, National Medical Association

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH
President & CEO, National Hispanic Medical Association

Leslie Rubin, MD
Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Pediatrics, Morehouse School of Medicine; Co-director, Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, Emory University; Founder, Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc.

Hu Luong Tran, MD, MPH
President, CEO, National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
TENDR Children’s Health, Environment and Disabilities Advocates

Directors of national organizations and programs working to ensure a future in which all children live, play, grow, and learn safe from toxic chemicals and pollution.

Charlotte Brody, RN  
National Director,  
Healthy Babies Bright Futures

Eve Gartner, JD  
Managing Attorney, Toxic Exposure & Health Program, Earthjustice

Tracy Gregoire  
Healthy Children Project Director, Learning Disabilities Association of America; Investor and Market Strategies Advisor, Coming Clean

Katie Hufiling, RN, MS, CNM  
Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Michelle Mabson, MPH, MS  
Staff Scientist, Earthjustice

Emily Marquez, PhD  
Staff Scientist, Pesticide Action Network North America

Pamela Miller, MS  
Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics

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Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council; Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University

Ted Schettler, MD, MPH  
Science Director, Science and Environmental Health Network

Veena Singla, PhD  
Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council

Stephanic Stohler, MPS, PRCC  
Communications Director, Toxic-Free Future

Maureen Swanson, MPA  
Director of Environmental Risk Reduction & Project TENDR, The Arc

Nsendu Obot Witherspoon, MPH  
Executive Director, Children’s Environmental Health Network