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## Safer Chemical Design: Avoiding Endocrine Disruption in Plastics

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**Abstract:** Phthalates are a class of known endocrine disruptors and reproductive toxicants that are widely used in consumer products. As scrutiny of phthalate toxicity has increased, these chemicals have faced restrictions in consumer products such as baby bottles, toys, and childcare articles. Reacting to government and consumer pressure, manufacturers are now replacing phthalates with alternatives, allowing them to market the replacements as “phthalate free.” As they need to exhibit comparable technical properties and performance, replacements are typically similar in structure to the original chemical. However, there are no safeguards that require replacements of similar structure to demonstrate that they are less likely to cause endocrine disruption. With phthalate replacements rising in market share and human exposure levels overtaking traditional phthalates, there is a pressing need to identify the reproductive toxicity potential of the most prevalent phthalate replacements, as well as identify safer alternatives.

**Wednesday, April 8th | 2:00pm-3:15pm | Science Hall 126 & Zoom**

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