Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products (e.g., food packaging, clothing, and non-stick cookware) and industrial processes (e.g., fire-fighting foam). PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals”, are extremely stable and persist in the environment and human body. These chemicals have been associated with a host of health issues from thyroid disease to several types of cancers. However, the association between PFAS and neurodevelopment is understudied, the limited literature has been inconsistent, and thus is still an important public health concern. Moreover, just like other endocrine disruptors, industries have started to replace the PFAS that were commonly found in their products (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHXs) with other chemicals within their class (e.g., GenX), which may pose similar risks and must also be investigated.

Accordingly, Neurotoxicology and Teratology is organizing a Special Issue on the theme of “Effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) within a developmental context”, which will be co-edited by Drs. Helen Sable, Francheska Merced-Nieves, and Jerrold Meyer. The focus of this special issue is on advancing the current understanding of the neurotoxicological effects of PFAS exposure in the context of developmental science.

Submissions may include:
- Primary data driven reports
- Critical review papers
- Prospective/retrospective human studies
- Empirical in vivo or in vitro studies using laboratory animals or cell culture systems

The following are examples of relevant topics for this Special Issue:
- Developmental windows of vulnerability of PFAS exposure
- Neural and/or endocrine mechanisms mediating the effects of PFAS exposure
- Epidemiological findings of PFAS exposure
- Sex differences in the effects of PFAS exposure
- Impact of PFAS mixtures on the brain and behavior

All submissions to this Special Issue will be fully peer-reviewed, and because Neurotoxicology and Teratology is abstracted and indexed in BIOSIS, Current Contents/Life Sciences, EMBASE, EMBiology, ETOH, Elsevier BIOBASE, MEDLINE®, Science Citation Index, and Scopus, its contents will be available through typical search engines of the medical literature (e.g., PubMed).
The Special Issue will also be circulated to all subscribers of the journal and be accessible via ScienceDirect.

This Special Issue will be in the form of a Virtual Special Issue (VSI), which is an approach to publishing Special Issues that allows us to address one of the most common complaints by authors – slow publication speed. With a VSI, accepted manuscripts are published in the first available regular issue, and corresponding authors will receive 50 days free access to the final published version of their manuscript. Thus, authors do not need to wait until all the Special Issue manuscripts are accepted to have their manuscript published. Simultaneously, articles will appear in a VSI section on the Neurotoxicology and Teratology website and on ScienceDirect.

To be considered for inclusion in this Special Issue, please submit your manuscript to Neurotoxicology and Teratology by June 30, 2022, via the electronic submission system (https://www.editorialmanager.com/ntt/default.aspx). Manuscripts should be assigned to the category “VSI: PFAS Neurotoxicology” at the beginning of the submission process, and a cover letter to the Editor should also specify that the submission is targeted for this issue.

We hope that you will consider this invitation seriously and submit your best work to this issue. Recent trends in scientific publication indicate that articles that appear in special issues receive a great deal of attention and we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the Co-Editors. We look forward to your contributions to this Special Issue.

Thank you.

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