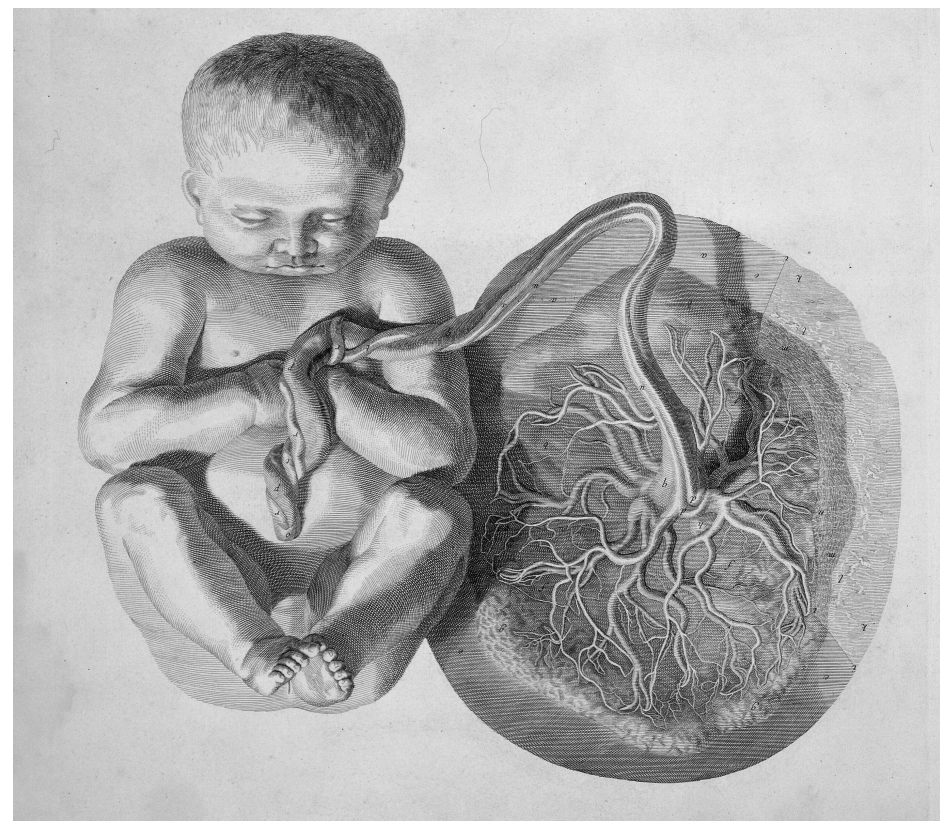


*Uptake, transport and  
toxicity of micro- and  
nanoplastics in human  
placenta cells*

**Hanna Dusza**  
IRAS, Utrecht University



# Meet the placenta



# Air pollution (PM) and pregnancy

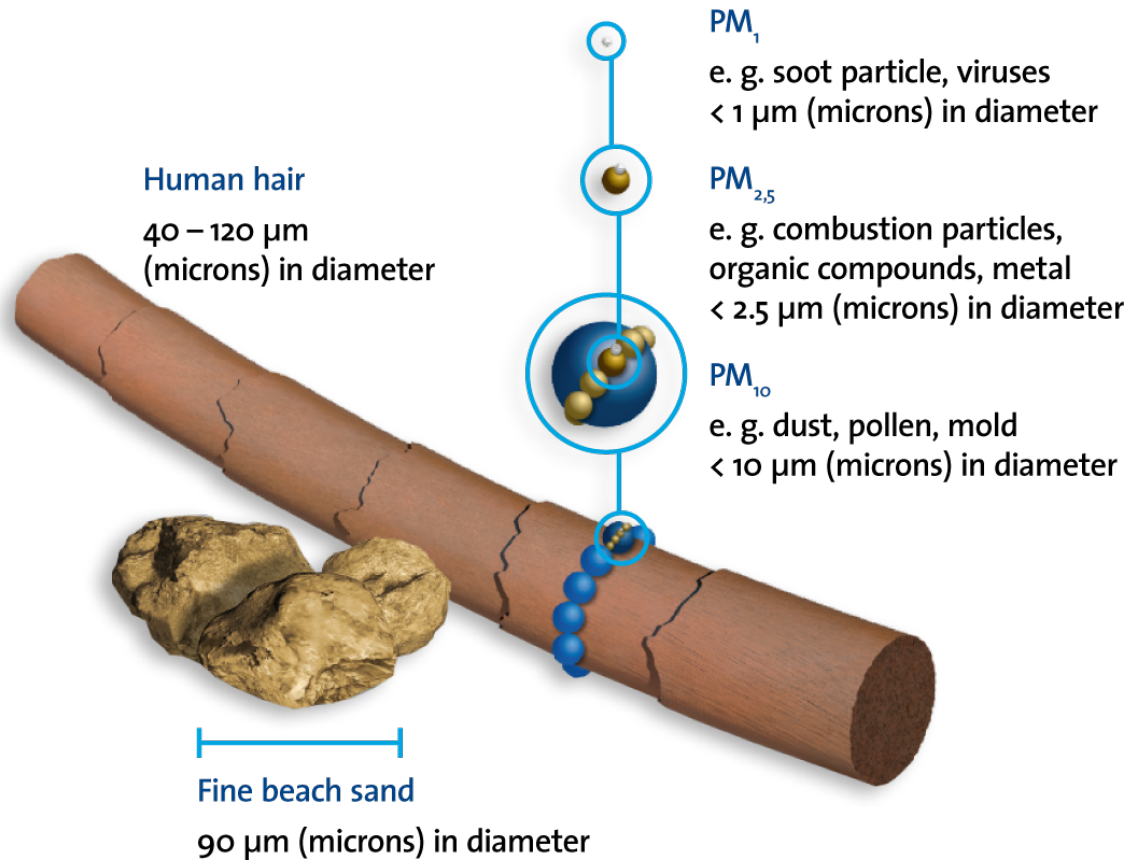


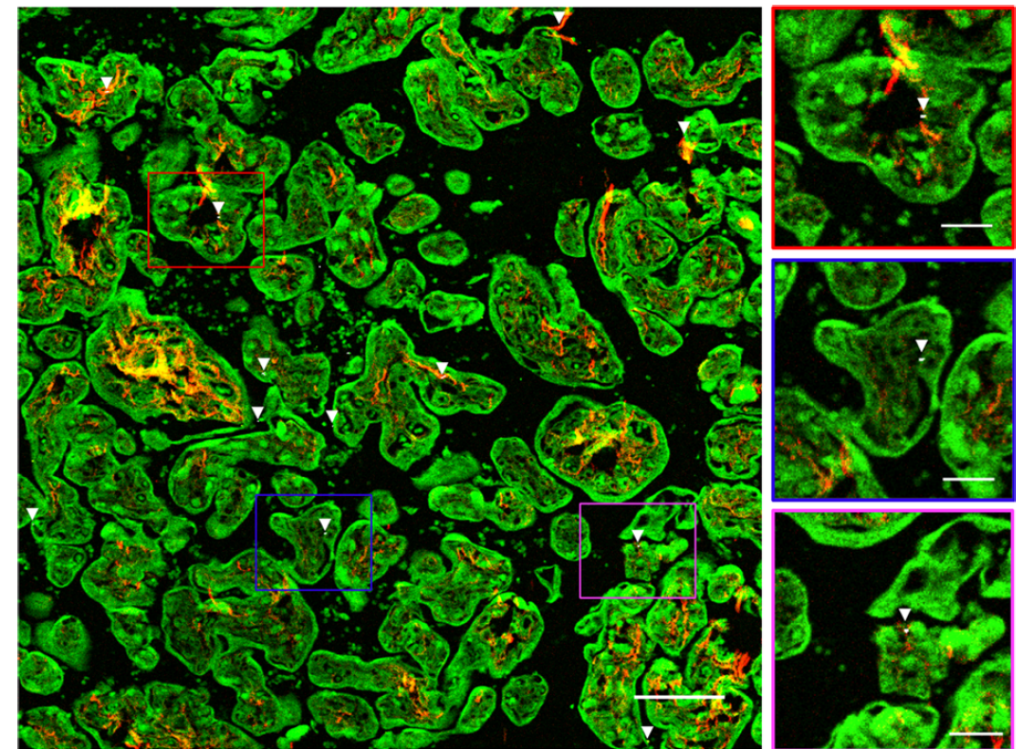
Image source: [www.pikpng.com/transpng/hJmToi/](http://www.pikpng.com/transpng/hJmToi/)

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-11654-3>

OPEN

## Ambient black carbon particles reach the fetal side of human placenta



**Fig. 2** Evidence of BC particles at the fetal side of the human placenta.

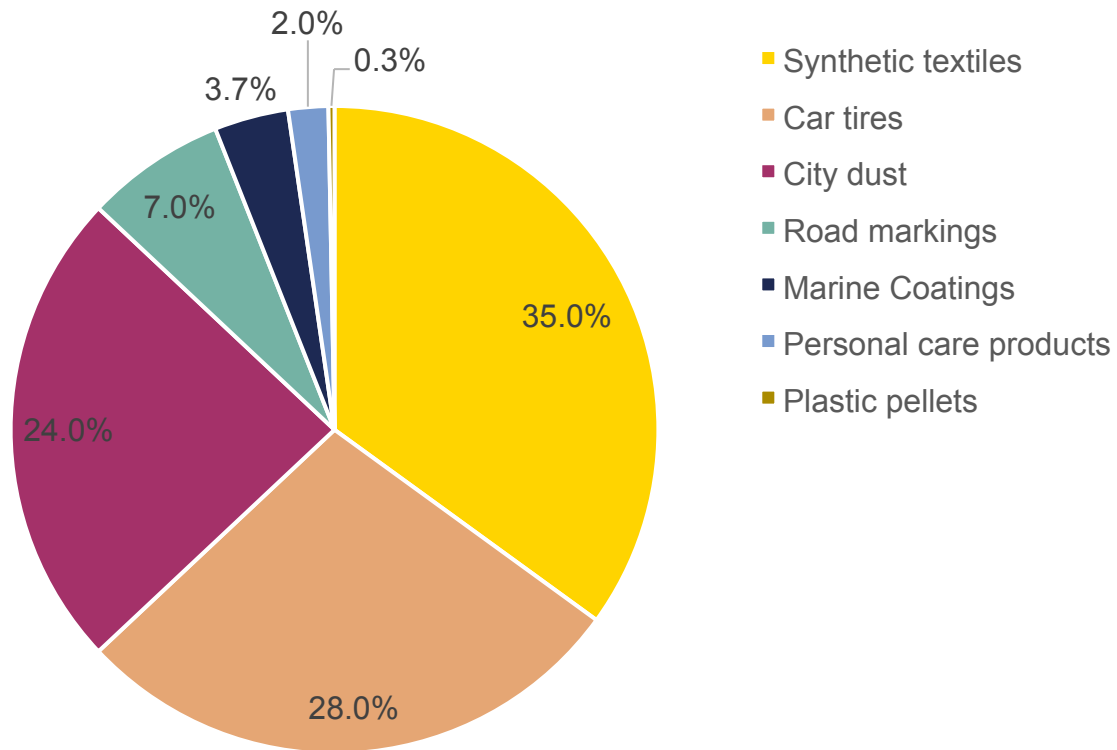
Bove et al, 2019, *Nature Comm.*

# Air pollution and microplastics

MATT SIMON SCIENCE 04.13.2021 07:00 AM

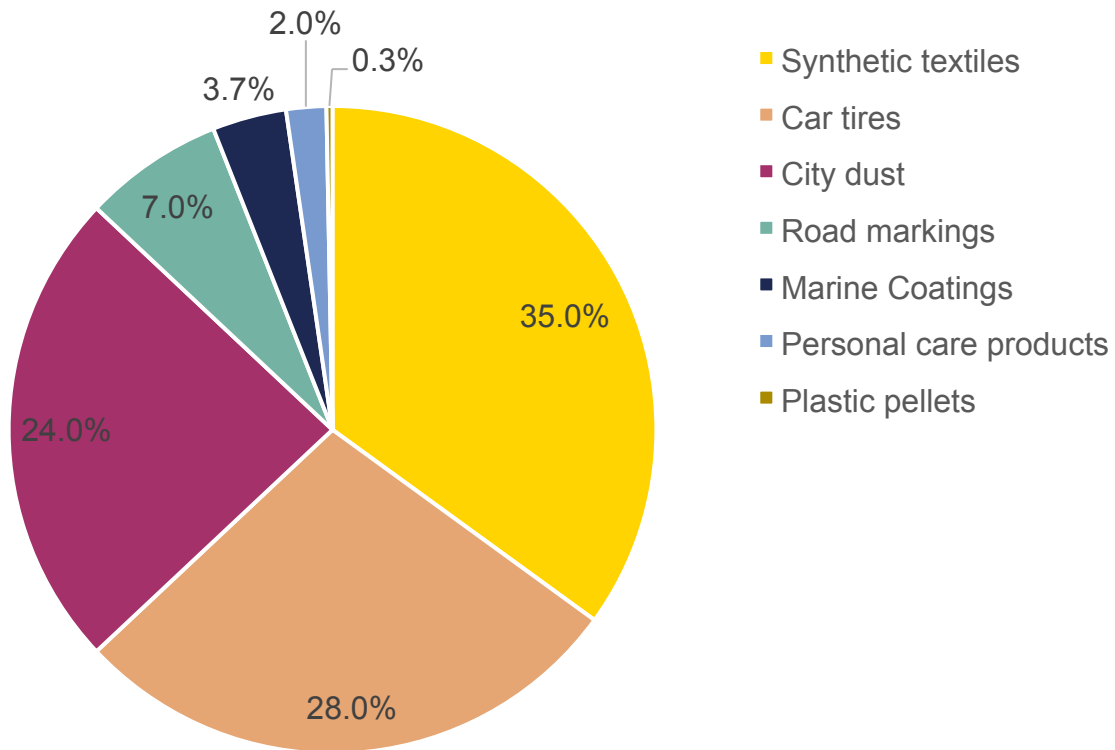
## Plastic Is Falling From the Sky. But Where's It Coming From?

At any given time, 1,100 tons of microplastic are floating over the western US. New modeling shows the surprising sources of the nefarious pollutant.



Boucher, J. and Friot D. (2017). *Primary Microplastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

# Air pollution and microplastics



Boucher, J. and Friot D. (2017). *Primary Microplastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.



Journal of Hazardous Materials

Volume 418, 15 September 2021, 126245



Review

## Microplastics as an emerging source of particulate air pollution: A critical review

Srinidhi Sridharan <sup>a, b</sup>, Manish Kumar <sup>b</sup>, Lal Singh <sup>a, b</sup>, Nanthi S. Bolan <sup>c, d</sup>, Mahua Saha <sup>a, e</sup> ✉



Environmental Research

Volume 192, January 2021, 110339



## Suspended fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), microplastics (MPs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in air: Their possible relationships and health implications

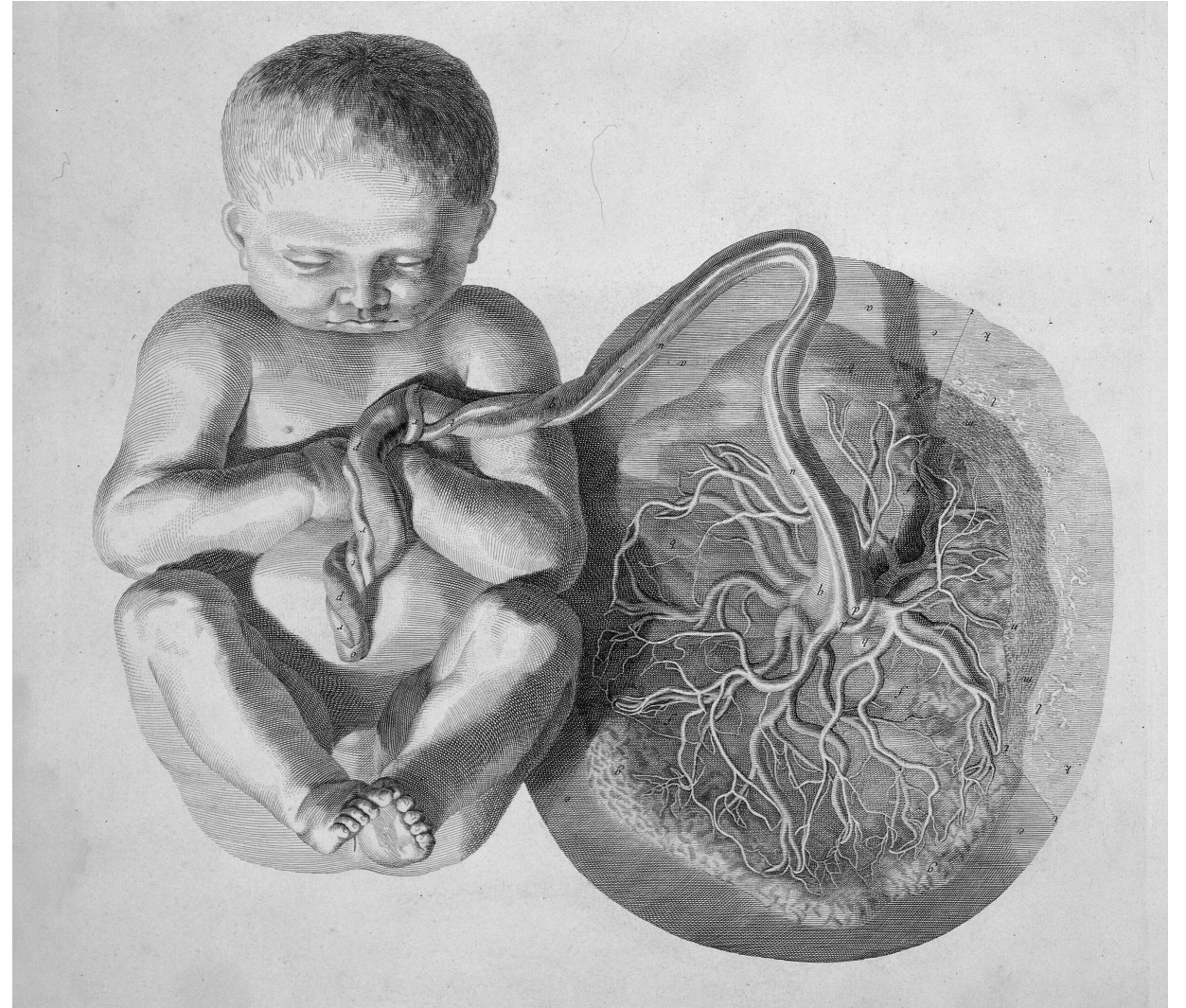
Razegheh Akhbarizadeh <sup>a, b</sup>, Sina Dobaradaran <sup>a, c, d</sup> ✉, Mehdi Amouei Torkmahalleh <sup>e</sup>, Reza Saeedi <sup>f, g</sup>, Roza Aibaghi <sup>c</sup>, Fatemeh Faraji Ghasemi <sup>a</sup>

# Research aims

Can microplastic be taken up/  
transported through the  
placenta?

Can microplastics cause harm  
to the placenta?

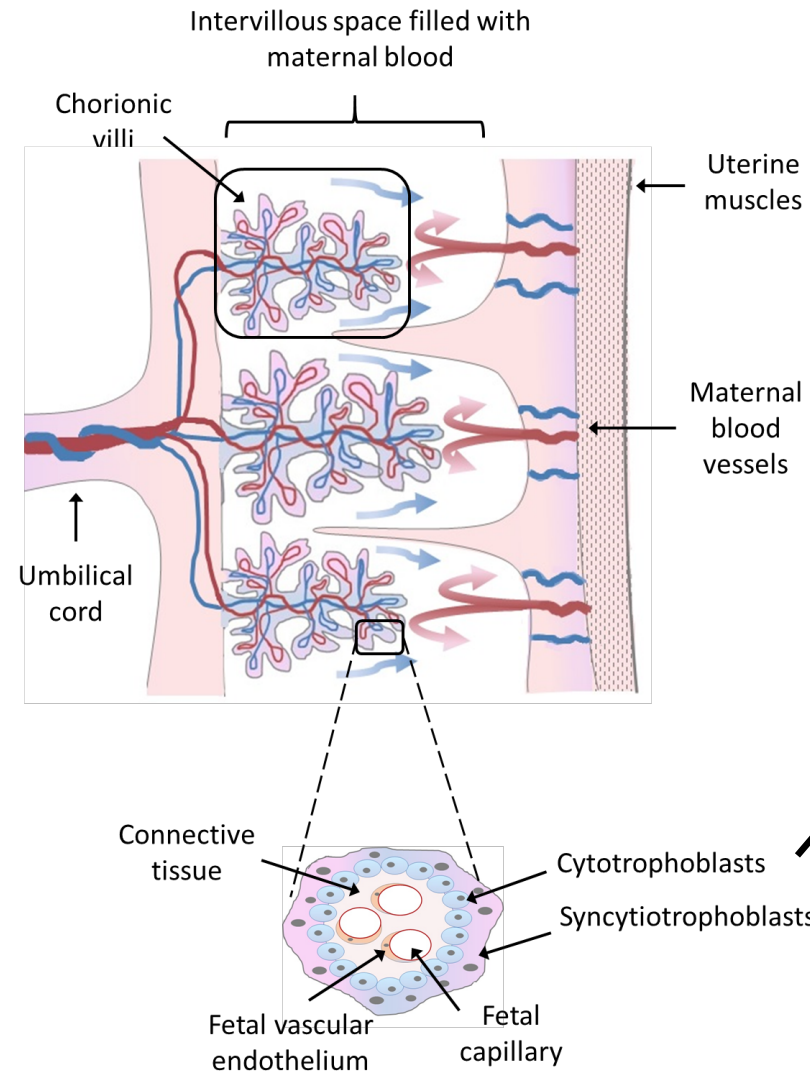
Can the chemicals associated  
with microplastics cause harm?



Albinus, Uterus II, Tab. V, illustration from 'Tabulae ossium humanorum', by Bernhard Siegfried Albinus (1697-1770)

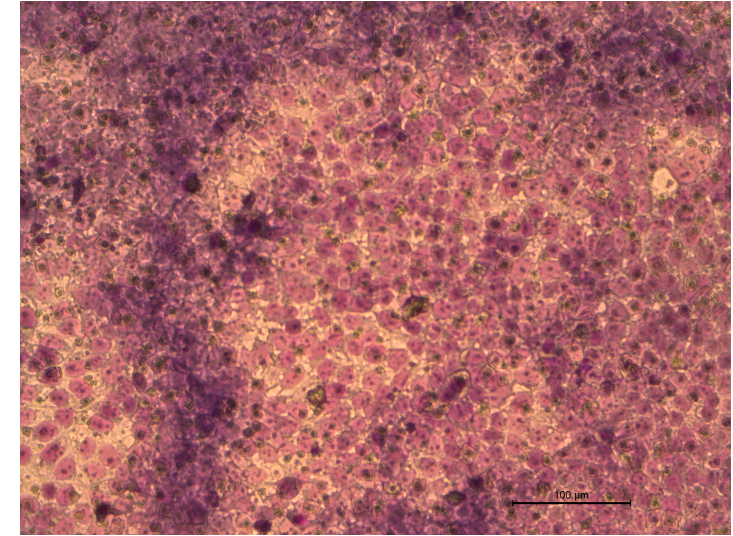
# Placenta cells in vitro

## A cross-section through placenta

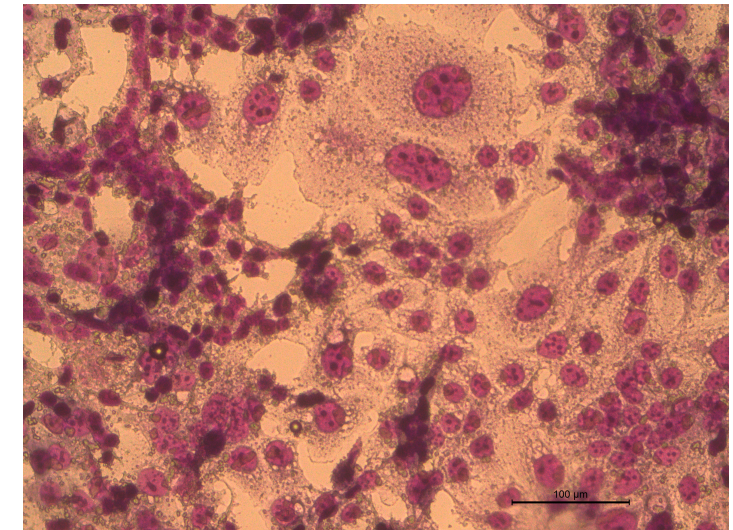


## BeWo b30 cells

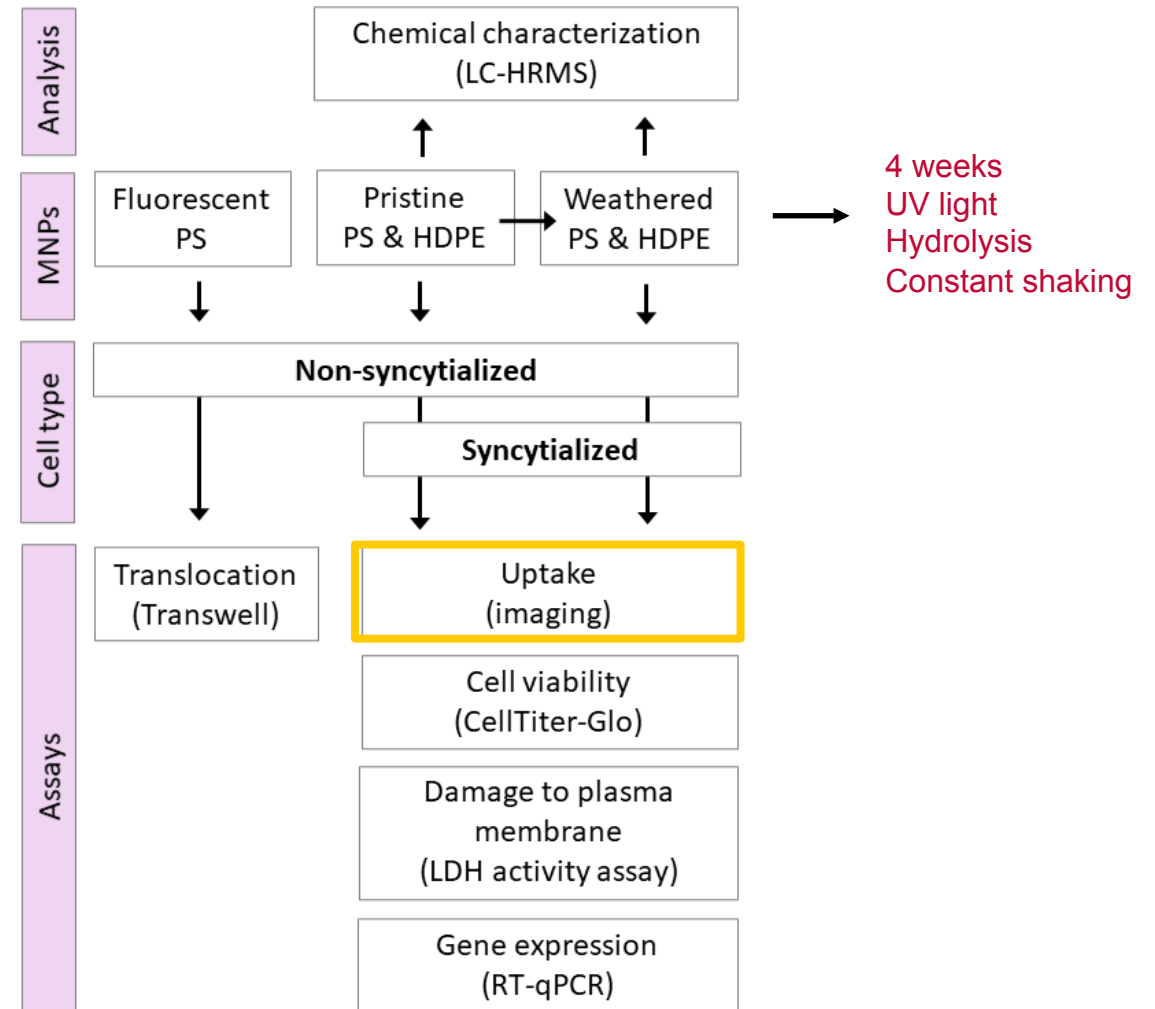
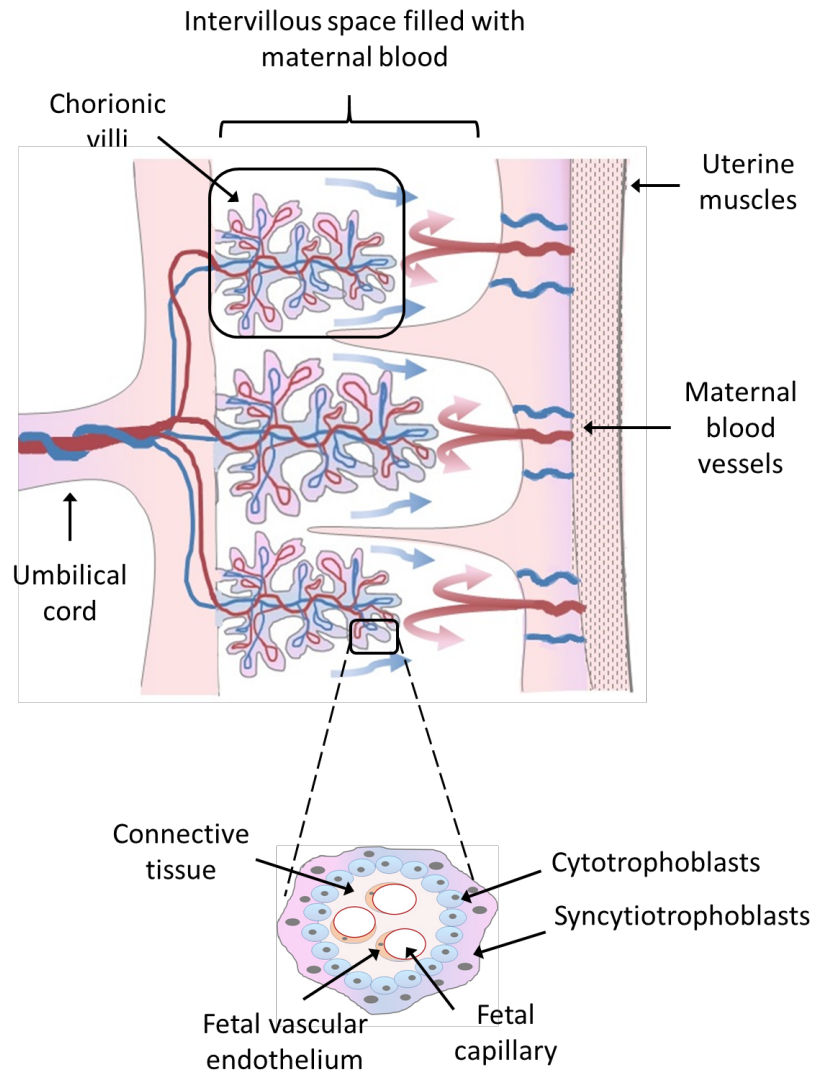
Non-syncytialized



Syncytialized

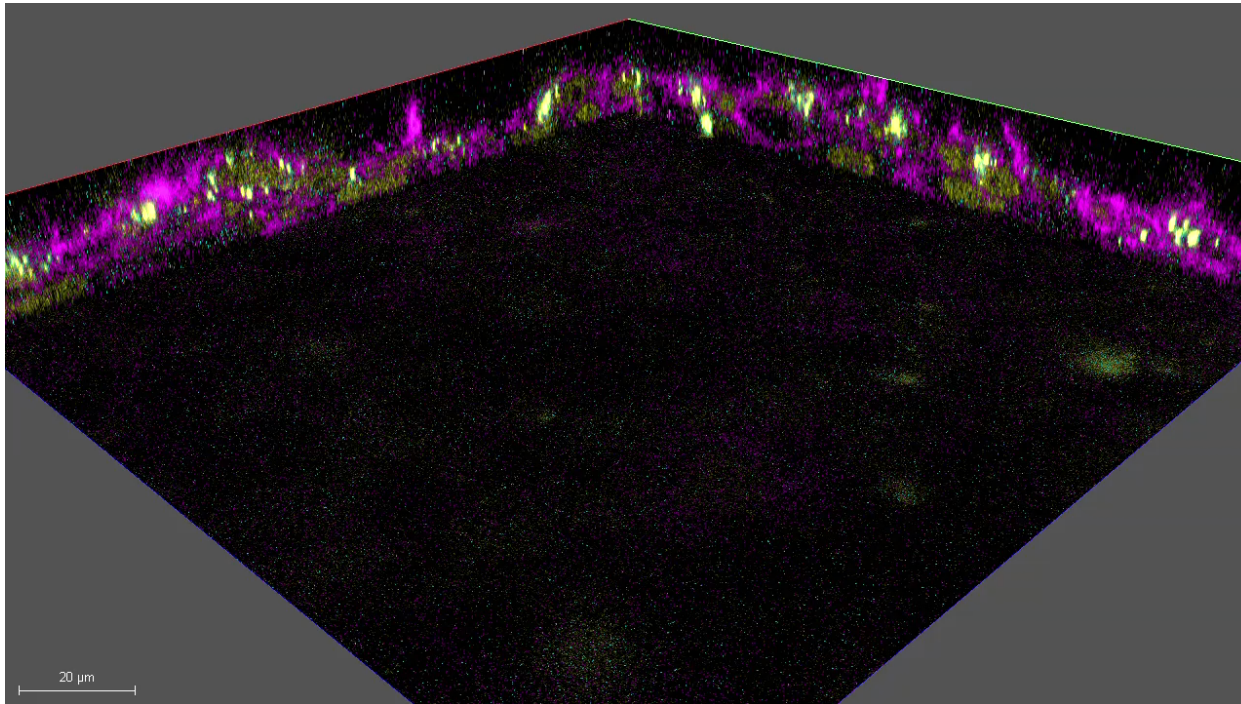


# Placenta cells in vitro

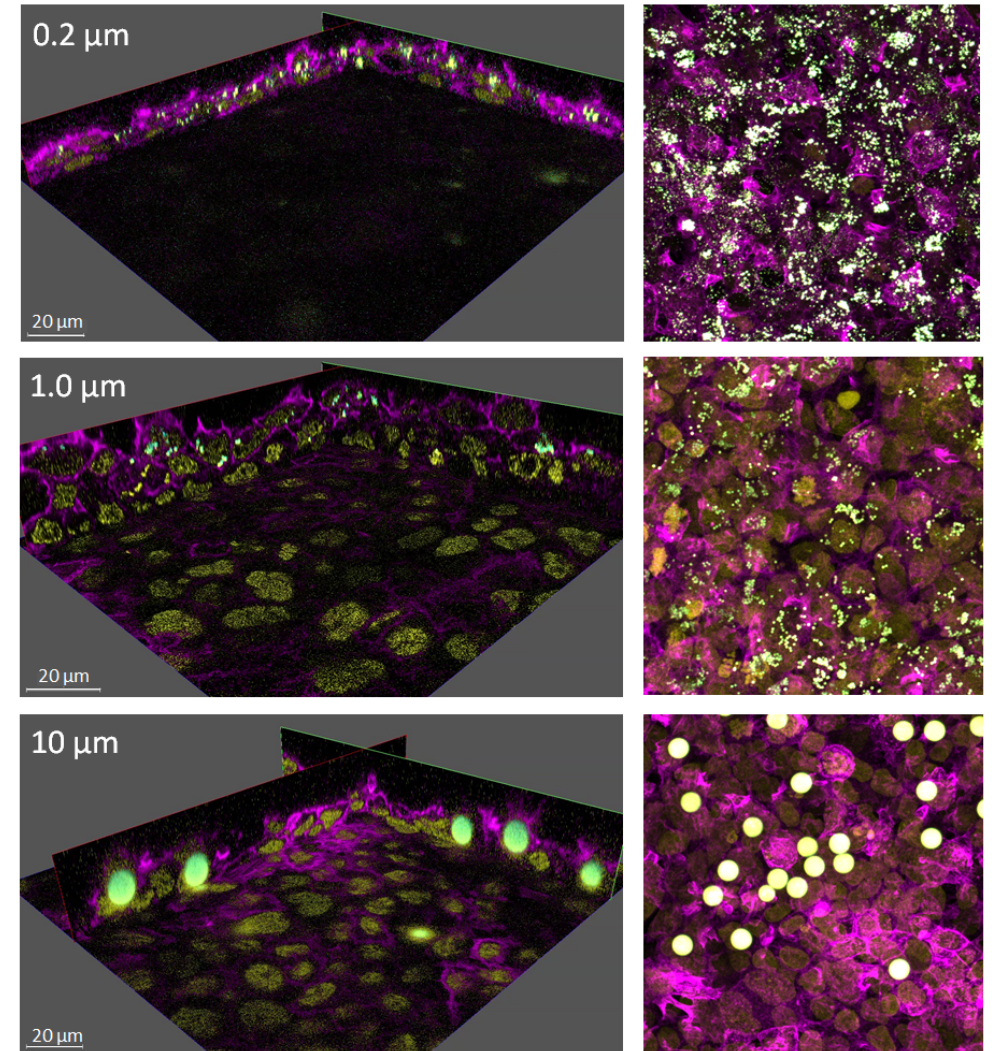




# Uptake of microplastics in placenta cells



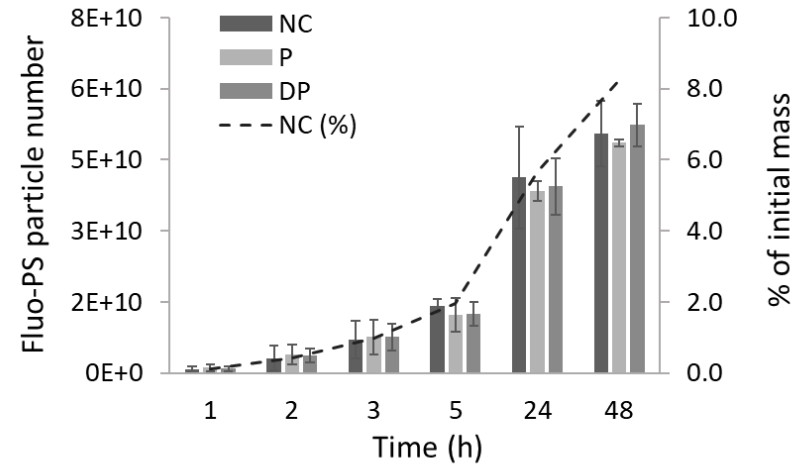
BeWo b30 cells (Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope)



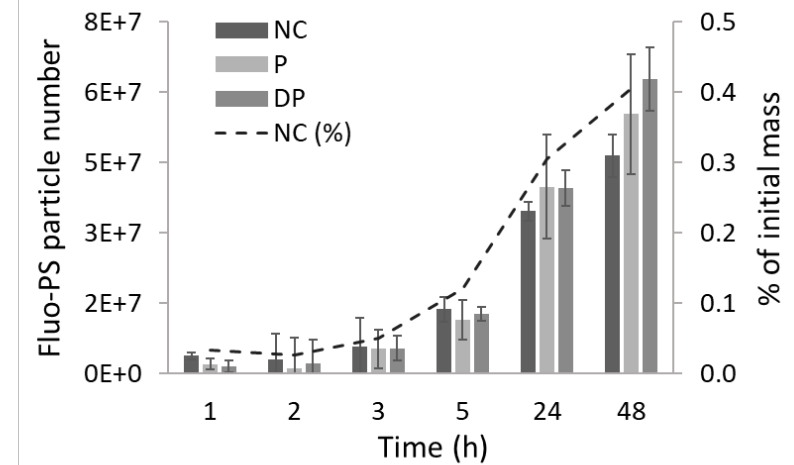
# Transport of micro- and nanoplastics through placenta cells



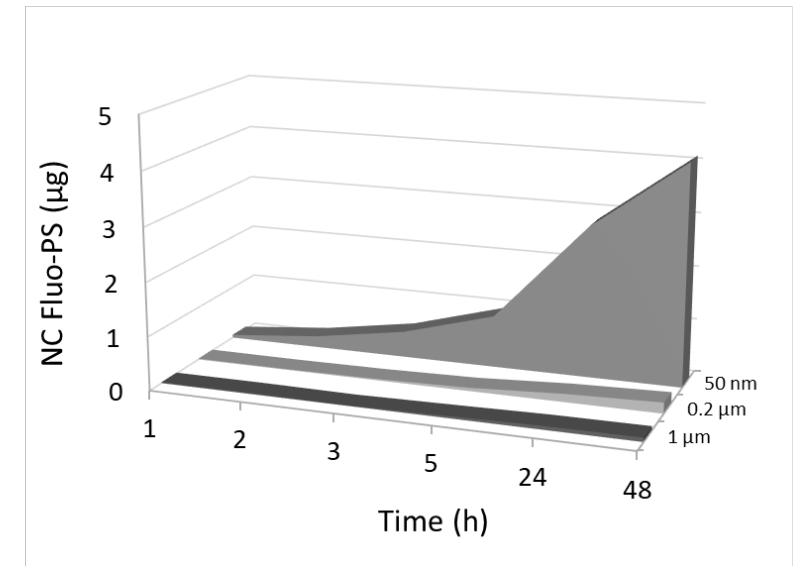
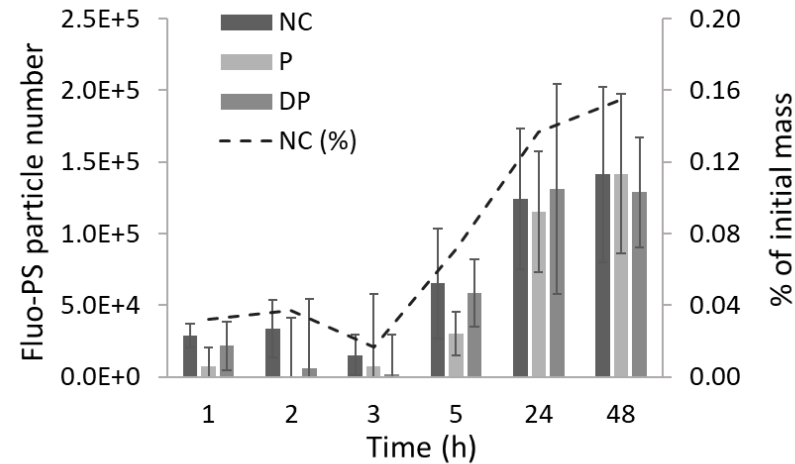
### 50 nm



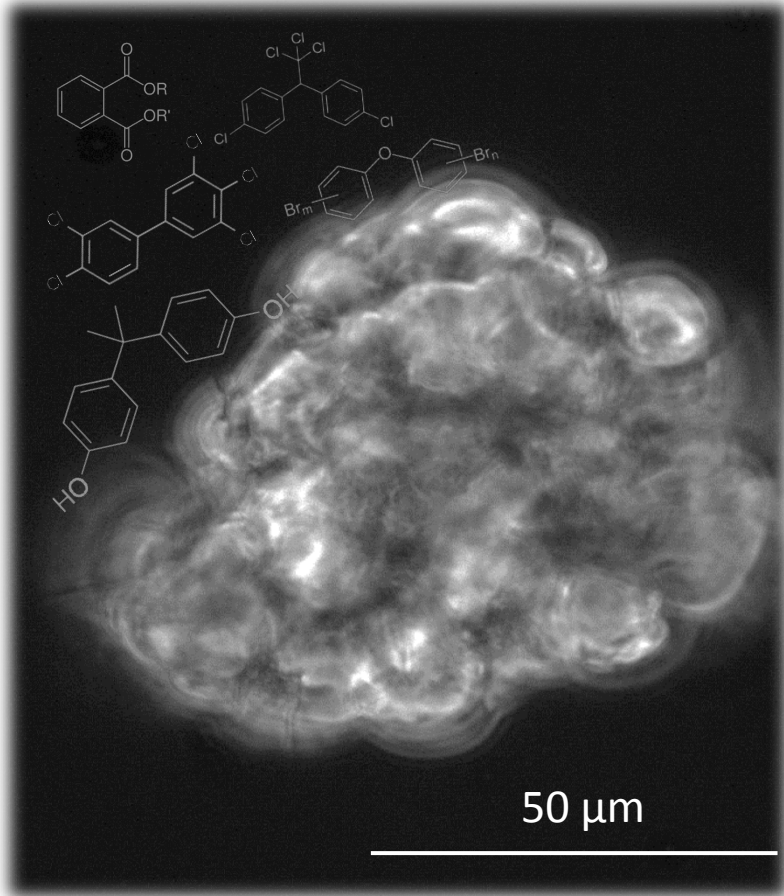
### 200 nm



### 1 μm



# Particle or chemical toxicity?

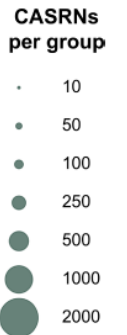


PE microplastic (Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope)

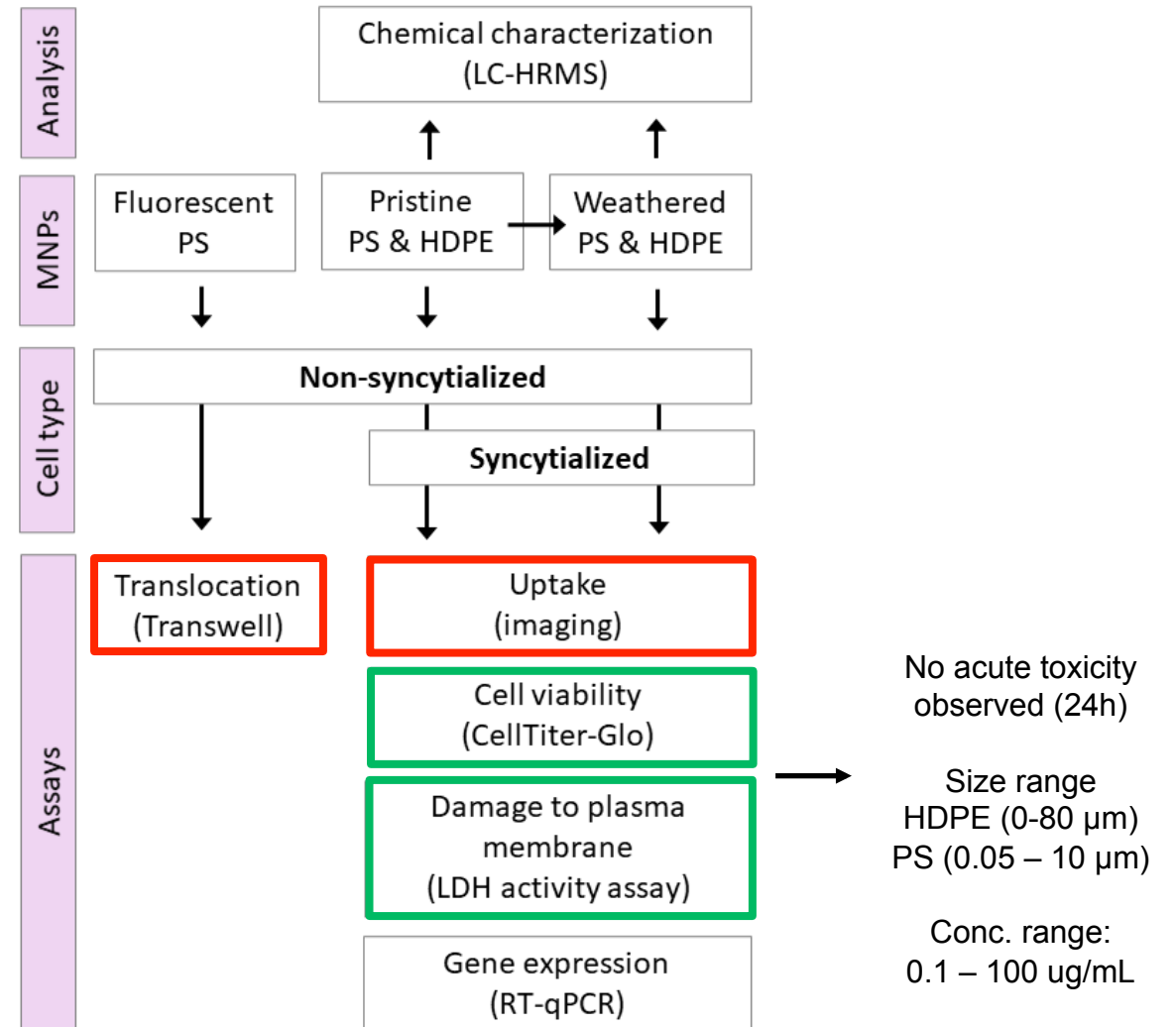
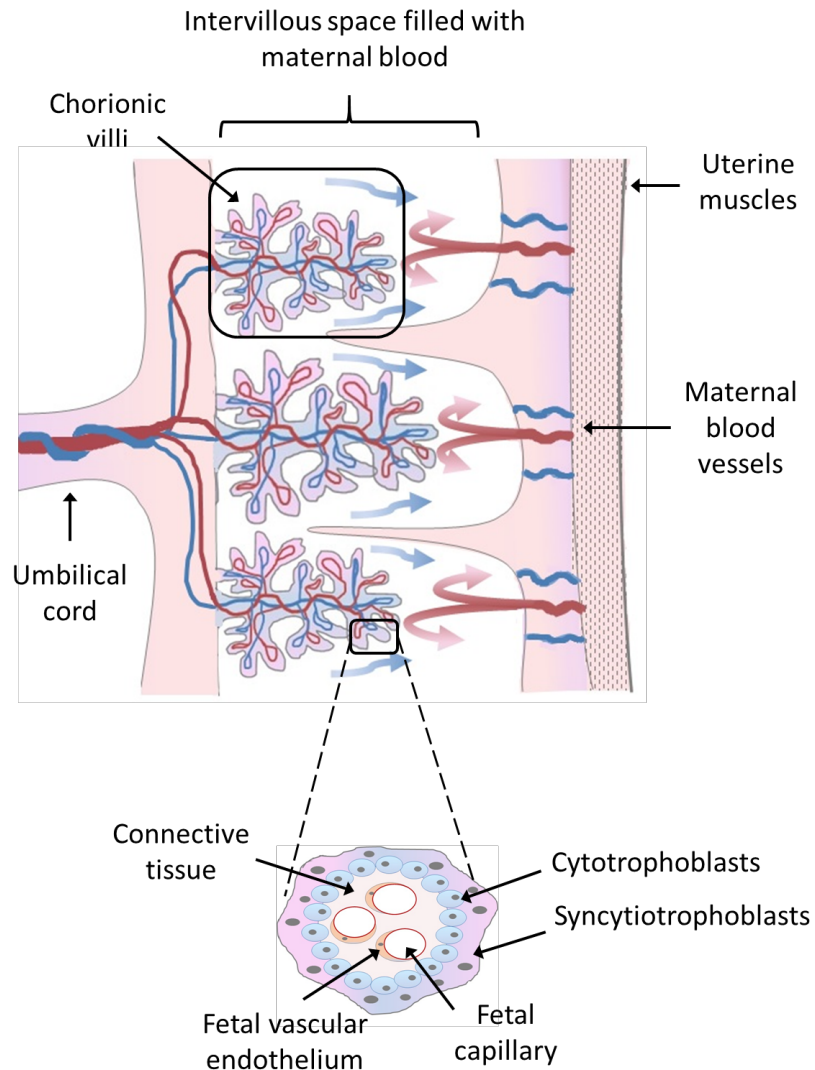
## Deep Dive into Plastic Monomers, Additives, and Processing Aids

Helene Wiesinger,\* Zhanyun Wang,\* and Stefanie Hellweg

|   |                    | CASRNs                         | Substance type   | Polymer type       | Industrial sector   | Production volume  | Hazard classification                            |   |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Data availability</b><br>[% of the substances] |                    |                                | 98%  | 28%                | 42%   | 42%  | 61%  |   |
| <b>Functions</b>                                  |                    |                                |  |                    |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Monomers</b>                                   | Monomers           | 948                            | • Metal<br>• Organophosphor<br>• Organohalogen<br>• UVCB | • One<br>• Several | • One<br>• Several<br>• Packaging<br>• B&C<br>• Automotive<br>• IEEE<br>• Agriculture<br>• Household<br>• Medical items<br>• Textiles | • Confidential<br>• <10<br>• 10-100<br>• 100-1 000<br>• >1 000 | • IPBT<br>• CMR<br>• EDC<br>• AqTox<br>• STOT_RE |   |
|   | Intermediates      | 1 740                          | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Antioxidant        | 581                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Biocide            | 1 242                          | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Colorant           | 3 663                          | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Filler             | 1 833                          | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | <b>Additives</b>   | Flame retardant                | 364  | •                  | •   | •  | •  | • |
|   |                    | Impact modifier                | 31   | •                  | •   | •  | •  | • |
|   |                    | Light stabilizer               | 762  | •                  | •   | •  | •  | • |
|   |                    | Nucleating agent               | 25   | •                  | •   | •  | •  | • |
| Odor agent  |                    | 843                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| Plasticizer                                       |                    | 864                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| Antistatic agent                                  |                    | 200                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| Blowing agent                                     |                    | 102                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| Catalyst  |                    | 708                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| Crosslinking agent                                |                    | 895                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| <b>Processing aids</b>                            | Heat stabilizer    | 213                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Initiator          | 478                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Lubricant          | 1 679                          | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Solvent            | 73                             | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Viscosity modifier | 128                            | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
|   | Others             | 2 974                          | •  | •                  | •   | •  | •  |   |
| <b>Uncategorizable</b>                            | 3 282              | •                              | •  | •                  | •   | •  |  |   |
| <b>Total CASRNs</b>                               | <b>10 547</b>      | 2 332<br>272<br>1 464<br>2 703 | 1 317<br>1 671   | 1 488<br>2 538     | 2 489<br>2 069<br>2 203<br>1 940<br>721<br>1 340<br>247<br>2 429  | 1 246<br>86<br>921<br>1 123<br>3 975                           | 57<br>951<br>30<br>1 646<br>891                  |   |

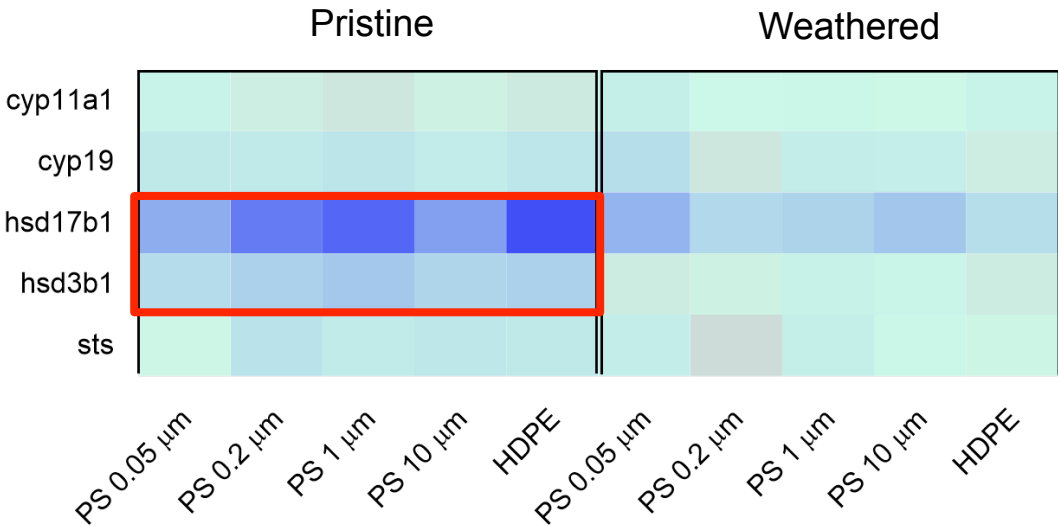
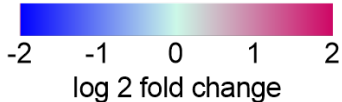


# Placenta in vitro

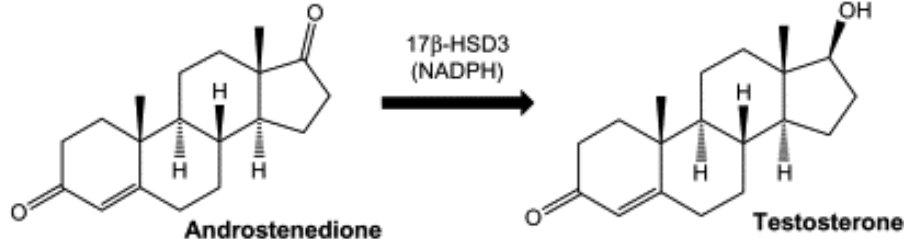
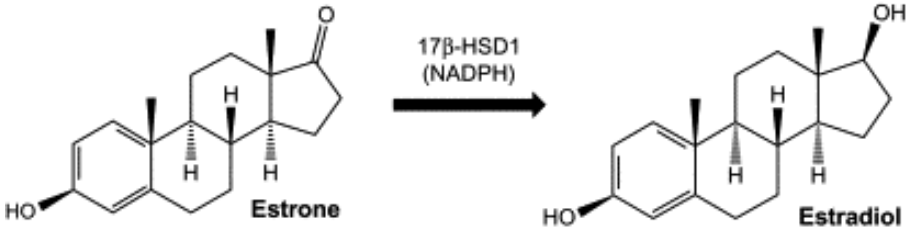


# Particle or chemical toxicity?

Gene expression  
qPCR analysis

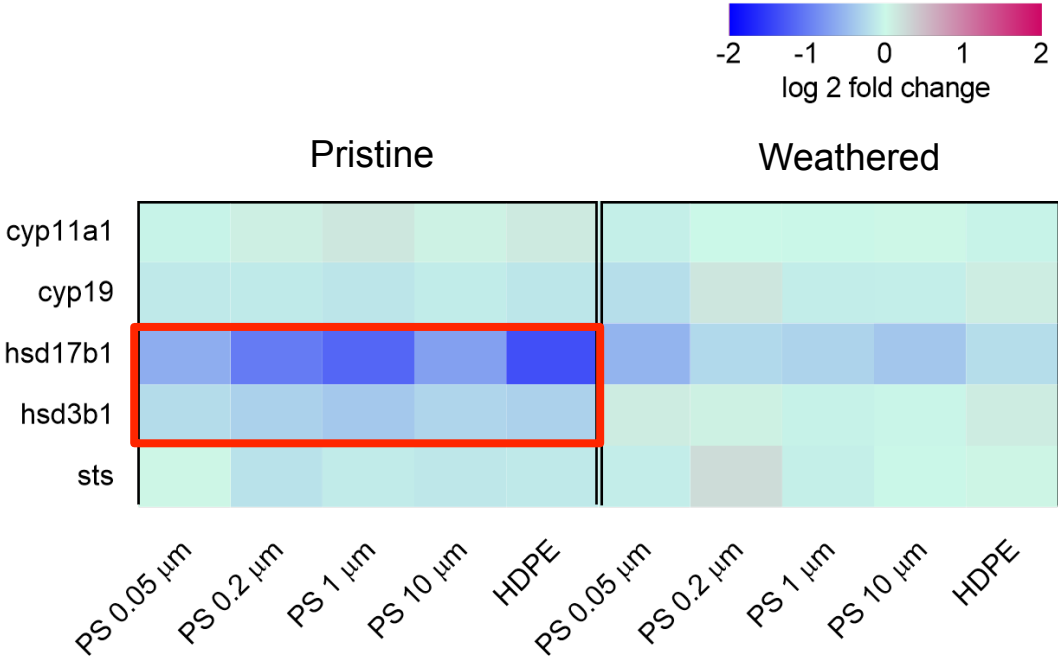


Chemical features  
HR-LCMS

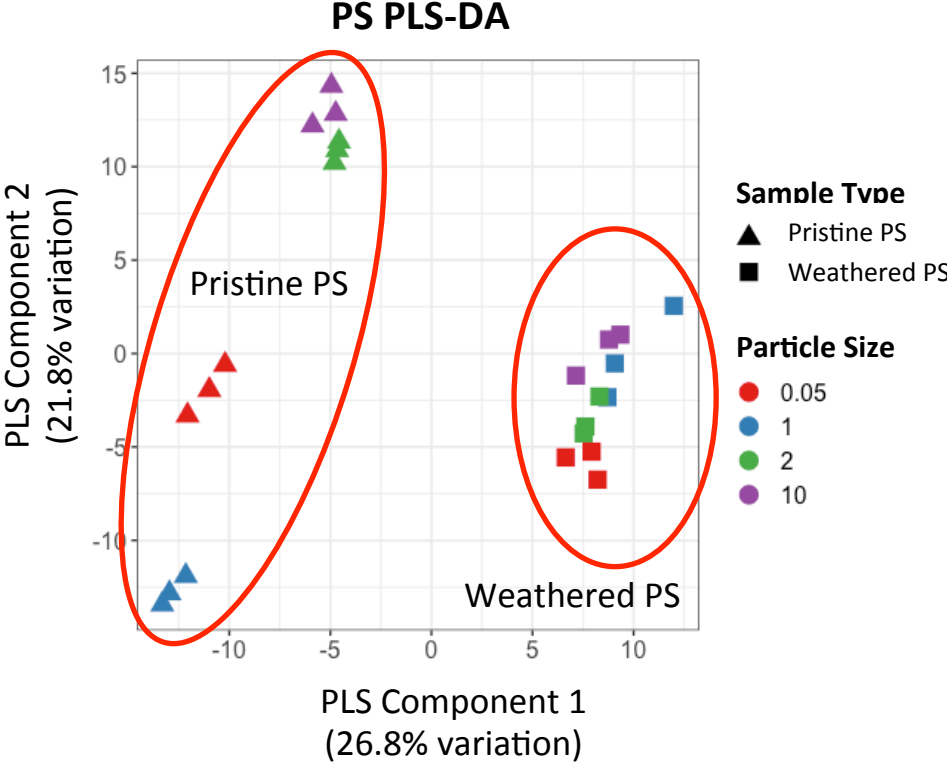


# Particle or chemical toxicity?

Gene expression  
qPCR analysis



Chemical features  
HR-LCMS



# First evidence of MNPs in foetal environment



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Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



## Plasticenta: First evidence of microplastics in human placenta

Antonio Ragusa<sup>a</sup>, Alessandro Svelato<sup>a,\*</sup>, Criselda Santacroce<sup>b</sup>, Piera Catalano<sup>b</sup>,  
Valentina Notarstefano<sup>c</sup>, Oliana Carnevali<sup>c</sup>, Fabrizio Papa<sup>b</sup>, Mauro Ciro Antonio Rongioletti<sup>b</sup>,  
Federico Baiocco<sup>a</sup>, Simonetta Draghi<sup>a</sup>, Elisabetta D'Amore<sup>a</sup>, Denise Rinaldo<sup>d</sup>, Maria Matta<sup>e</sup>,  
Elisabetta Giorgini<sup>c</sup>



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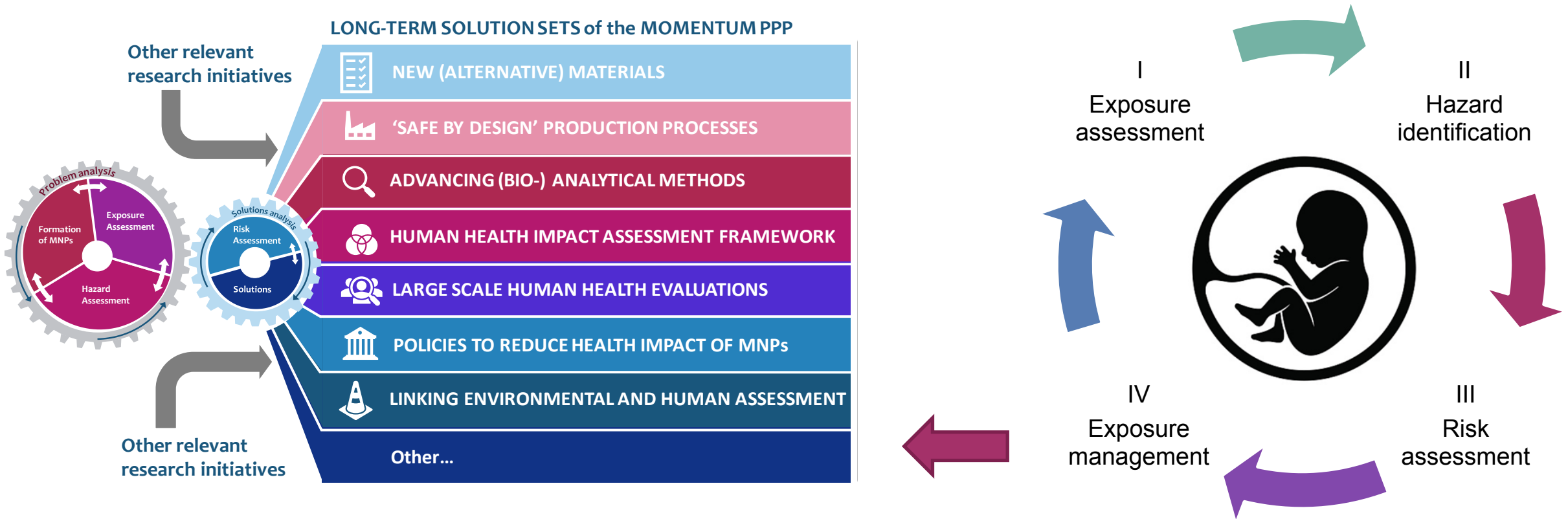
Letter

## Occurrence of Polyethylene Terephthalate and Polycarbonate Microplastics in Infant and Adult Feces

Junjie Zhang, Lei Wang, Leonardo Trasande, and Kurunthachalam Kannan\*



# Future directions





# Multiple stressors

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Cite This: *Environ. Sci. Technol.* XXXX, XXX, XXX–XXX

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## Method Development for Effect-Directed Analysis of Endocrine Disrupting Compounds in Human Amniotic Fluid

Hanna M. Dusza,<sup>†</sup> Elwin Janssen,<sup>‡</sup> Rakesh Kanda,<sup>§</sup> and Juliette Legler<sup>\*,†,||</sup>



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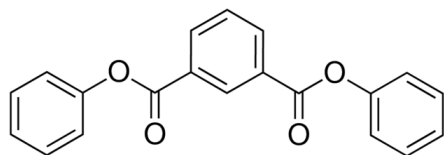
Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



## Identification of known and novel nonpolar endocrine disruptors in human amniotic fluid

Hanna M. Dusza<sup>a,\*</sup>, Katherine E. Manz<sup>b</sup>, Kurt D. Pennell<sup>b</sup>, Rakesh Kanda<sup>c</sup>, Juliette Legler<sup>a</sup>



Diphenyl isophthalate



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**Prof. Juliette Legler**, Utrecht University,  
Institute for Risk Assessment (IRAS)



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Sinai

**Douglas Walker, PhD, Assistant Professor**, Mount  
Sinai, New York, Environmental Medicine & Public  
Health



**Prof. Dick Vethaak**, Vu Amsterdam  
Environment and Health; and Deltares



Utrecht University

**Eugene Katrukha, PhD**, Biology Imaging  
Center, Utrecht University, the Netherland



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