

GRAND ROUNDS

Sponsored by: The Division of Epidemiology

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Farmworker Children and Pesticide Exposure

ABSTRACT

Concern regarding the widespread use of pesticides and potential impacts on children's health is an ongoing theme in both popular and scientific circles. In the United States, a mixture of pesticide residues are detected in the blood and/or urine of nearly all persons sampled. Organophosphorus pesticides (OP) are among those of greatest concern, due to their wide spread use throughout the world and their established neurotoxic effects. Scientific field investigations have focused on delineating the extent of exposure and potential health effects in agricultural and non-agricultural communities. Children have been the focus of many of these field investigations. Although children can be exposed to pesticides through residential use of pesticides and diet, children of agricultural workers are considered to have a higher risk of exposure to pesticides compared to the general population because of the close proximity of their homes to the fields where pesticides are applied and from take-home exposure. By adolescence, children are often working in agriculture and exposure occurs occupationally. Dr. Rohlman will present findings from two populations, school-age children living in an agricultural community and adolescent pesticide applicators in Egypt.

Food and beverages will be provided.