

GETA NEWSLETTER

Genetic & Environmental Toxicology Association of Northern California



‡ 2025 Fall Symposium ‡ GETA Posters & Best Abstract Award
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2025 Fall Symposium

Please mark your calendars for our 2025 Fall Symposium, “*Tox or Treat: Exploring Potential Health Risks lurking in our Food*”, taking place on **October 21st** from 1 pm to 5 pm PST. This will be a hybrid occasion with in-person and virtual attendance options available. We are delighted to welcome **Drs. Alyson Mitchell, Michele La Merrill, and Carla Ng** who will present their research on this timely and critical topic.



Dr. Alyson Mitchell, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis

For [in-person registration](#)



Dr. Michele La Merrill, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis

For [virtual registration](#)



Dr. Carla Ng, Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh



Call for Posters and Best Abstract Award

We will be hosting a poster session at the 2025 GETA Fall Symposium, and invite you to sign up to bring a poster and share your research with the GETA community. We are also holding our annual Best Abstract Award competition. We encourage students and post-doctoral researchers to apply. Winners will receive a cash prize (students \$250 and post-doctoral researchers \$300) and be invited to present their research in a 5-min lightning talk (in-person or virtually).

If interested, please submit your abstract to GETA President Kim Truong at Kim.Truong@oehha.ca.gov by midnight October 10, 2025 (PST). Please specify if you are submitting your abstract for the Best Abstract Award competition, the poster session, or both.

2026 Open Board Positions

We are currently accepting (self-) nominations for the following GETA board positions:

- ◆ Website Officer
 - * Duties of the website officer are to maintain the GETA website and work in collaboration with the newsletter editor to post relevant site related information (3-yr term)
- ◆ Government Representative
 - * Any individual employed by a federal, state, or local agency who can represent the governmental interests and initiatives (2-yr term)
- ◆ President-Elect
 - * Duties include assisting in technical aspects of meetings, membership, and presiding in place of the President in their absence (3-yr term, with automatic transition to President, then Past President)
- ◆ Student or Post-Doc Representative
 - * Any undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral student attending a college, university, or a non-profit research institute (2-yr term)

Please email GETA president Kim Truong (Kim.Truong@oehha.ca.gov) if you are interested in joining or learning more about our amazing team!

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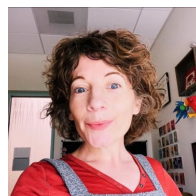


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Highlights from the 2025 Spring Symposium

From Shelf to System: How Consumer Products Affect Our Health and the Environment

Dr. Susanna Brander (Oregon State University) discussed the widespread presence and toxicity of microplastics. Her team found fibers and plastics like polypropylene and PETE in Oregon wastewater bio-solids and is tracking their fate in farms and recycling facilities. Laboratory studies show that micro- and nano-plastics impair growth and reproduction in aquatic species and cause fetal growth restriction in mice, with smaller particles and fibers posing greater risks. She emphasized the need for standardized tests, multigenerational studies, improved detection, and strategies to reduce production and emissions.



Dr. Jennifer Kay (Silent Spring Institute) presented research on potential breast cancer–relevant chemicals (BCRCs). By combining animal studies with in vitro screening, her team identified hundreds of BCRCs that disrupt hormones or damage DNA. These chemicals are widespread in consumer products, pesticides, food, water, and building materials. A cross-analysis with the PlastChem Database revealed over 400 BCRCs in plastics alone, many with genotoxic or high-priority structures. Dr. Kay highlighted the importance of prioritizing exposures for reduction based on biology, usage, and emissions.



Together, their talks underscored the urgency of advancing research and regulation to address contaminants that threaten ecological and human health.

Career Opportunities

The following positions are open for your consideration:

- Associate Toxicologist positions at [DPR](#)
- Cancer Toxicologist, Senior Toxicologist, Microplastics Toxicologist at [OEHA](#)

GETA on LinkedIn

Follow us on LinkedIn [@GETA NorCal](#) for updates on upcoming events, interesting new publications, career opportunities, and industry insights.

Donate

Formed in 1979, GETA hosts exciting environmental and genetic toxicology discussions. Join us in supporting cutting-edge science education and career development with your tax-deductible donations. For more information, please visit <https://getanorcal.org/donation.html>

Join & Connect

Join GETA and be part of a dynamic community dedicated to advancing genetics and environmental toxicology! As a member, you'll gain access to valuable networking opportunities, professional development resources, and the latest research in the field. Additionally, students and postdoctoral fellows can join free of cost. GETA NorCal is a non-profit organization and appreciates any donations, which are tax-deductible! Visit [GETA NorCal](#) to learn more about GETA and becoming a member. Together, we can foster collaboration and drive meaningful impact in environmental science!