

University of Rhode Island
Department of Chemistry

Seminar

Room 234 Pastore Hall
4PM, Monday, December 2, 2013

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*Bisphenol A: A Possible Health Threat in our
Society*

Host

Prof. Joel Dain
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Abstract:

Bisphenol A has been widely used in plastics for the past few decades it has only been recently that the scientific community have look into concerns regarding the potential toxicity of this chemical. Bisphenol A or known as BPA, is an estrogen or an endocrine disruptor. It is an organic compound that consists of two phenols that are connected to a bridge of two methyl functional groups. Bisphenol is the key ingredient in making plastics that are most notable range from baby bottles to soda cans. With a high purity over 99% and the high demand in the industries, it makes difficult to get rid of the bisphenol A completely. With the high demand for this compound there has been an alarming concern of the health effects. Depending on the dosage of bisphenol A, these possible health effects are such as obesity, diabetes, cancer, and developmental problems. Although FDA have step in and have lowered exposure of BPA minimizing these health risks, the exposure continues to grow as BPA can be found in everywhere in what you eat, such as food packaging, what you drink, such as soda cans and water bottle, and it can be found outside where you breath from. With the concern of BPA exposure scientists have developed sensors for detecting bisphenol A. These biosensors and chemical sensors are cheap, quick, and sensitive to detect which will help minimized the exposure of bisphenol A for industries worldwide.