to identify potential adverse effects of flame retardants, particularly polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), on child neurodevelopment and reproductive health outcomes. PBDEs are hormonally active as estrogens, anti-estrogens, anti-androgens depending on congeners, and also act as thyroid hormone disrupting chemicals. Dr. Chen et al. have found prenatal exposure to PBDEs to be associated with reduced cognitive function and increased externalizing problems such as aggression and hyperactivity at school age.

Nationally respected for his research on environmental exposures and human development, Dr. Chen joined this May in briefing U.S. Congressional members and staff regarding another major concern: lead (Pb) toxicity. Dr. Chen serves as a member of the Project TENDR alliance, which is calling for improved primary prevention of harmful environmental exposures.

New & Noteworthy


COEC Director Erin Haynes, MS, DrPH (far right) poses with colleagues Jen Veevers, PhD (3rd from left) and Rachael Shepler (3rd from right) following a meeting with Guernsey County Commissioners, Byesville Mayor Jay Jackson (2nd from right), and Guernsey County Emergency Management Director Gerry Beckner, et al. Photo Credit: The Daily Jeffersonian

As reported in The Daily Jeffersonian on August 23, 2017, these “citizen scientists” joined in collecting air quality samples that were subsequently analyzed for more than 60 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and formaldehyde. Air quality in the county is of concern to local commissioners in light of natural gas extraction activity in Guernsey, Noble and Belmont Counties. The joint study involving UC and local partners showed that the highest concentrations of VOCs were detected near a highway and truck stop fueling station. Levels did not, however, exceed EPA levels unacceptable for human health. In addition to print media coverage, regional radio also covered this successful community engagement project.

Save the Date: Friday October 27. CEG Pilot Research Symposium. Keynote speaker: Ghurjit Khurana-Hershey, MD, PhD; Director, Division of Asthma Research, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and Director, Medical Scientist Training Program, UC College of Medicine. 121 Kettering Research Complex, 8:45 AM - 3:30 PM.