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Public Health and PFAS Expert to speak at Bennington College

Bennington, VT: On **Monday, April 29 at 7:00 PM**, Bennington College welcomes **Dr. Cindy Hu**, who will speak on **From Source to Dose: Modeling Human Exposure to Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances** as part of the Environmental Studies speaker series.

This event is free, open to the public, and will take place in the CAPA Symposium on Bennington's campus. Community members wishing to gain a greater understanding of PFOA drinking water contamination, which has significantly impacted the Bennington/Hoosick Falls area, are encouraged to attend.

"Dr. Hu's research demonstrates that drinking water contamination is a significant factor in determining whether or not individuals have elevated PFOA blood serum levels. This has particular relevance to our local PFOA contamination and efforts to develop effective policy solutions to address the problem," said faculty member **Tim Schroeder**.

Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs), including PFOA, are a class of synthetic organic chemicals that have been in production since the 1950s. They are detectable in virtually all Americans and have been linked to a suite of adverse health outcomes including developmental, metabolic and immunotoxic effects. Due to their ubiquitous nature and wide industrial use, PFAS can be introduced to humans from many possible sources, including marine foods, drinking water, and consumer goods.

Dr. Hu's research investigates the relative contribution of different PFAS sources to human blood serum levels. Building a better understanding of exposure pathways is critical for designing effective public health interventions to reduce exposure and prevent adverse health outcomes. Using diverse data sources including the latest national-level occurrence data and samples from a large U.S.-based prospective cohort, Dr. Hu has found that drinking water contamination by PFAS is prevalent and can be an important exposure pathway, even for the general population living far away from the point sources. Dr. Hu's research also demonstrates that the importance of environmental sources for PFAS exposure is increasing, as these compounds are being phased out in consumer products.

About the Speaker

Xindi (Cindy) Hu, ScD is a data scientist at Mathematica Policy Research. Her professional interest includes applying data science tools to analyze public health problems and providing

scientific evidence for better policymaking. She is trained as an environmental health scientist with special focuses on human health risk assessment and decision science. Cindy received her Doctor of Science and Master of Science degrees, both in environmental health, from Harvard University.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

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Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at bennington.edu.