Prenatal alcohol exposure is a leading preventable cause of birth defects and neurodevelopmental abnormalities in the U.S. Despite the Surgeon General’s Warning about drinking during pregnancy, results from recent studies at specific sites estimated the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) in the U.S. to be more than 2 cases per 1,000 and the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to be at least 20 cases per 1,000. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can have devastating effects on the developing embryo and fetus, including at the earliest stages and before a woman knows that she is pregnant. It can also cause a range of developmental, cognitive, and behavioral problems which can appear at any time during childhood and last a lifetime. Although the problems that result vary in severity, they create a variety of health and functional challenges that come under the umbrella term FASD which includes FAS.

Speakers

George F. Koob, Ph.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/NIH, will provide an overview of the Institute’s research efforts towards treatment and prevention of FASD.

Kenneth R. Warren, PhD, Deputy Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/NIH, will provide an historical overview of how research has changed basic understanding of alcohol and pregnancy.

Edward P. Riley, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Behavioral Teratology at San Diego State University, will describe recent findings on the consequences of prenatal alcohol exposure, focusing on the changes that occur in the brain and how these impact behavior.

Kathleen T. Mitchell, MHS, LCADC, Vice President and National Spokesperson for the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, will describe Circle of Hope, an international program for birth mothers of children with FASD.

Sponsoring Organizations

Alkermes · American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases – American College of Neuropsychopharmacology · American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists · American Psychiatric Association · American Psychological Association · American Society of Addiction Medicine · Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America · Community of Concern – Friends of the National Institute on Drugs Abuse – Friends Research Institute · IC&RC · National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors · National Council for Behavioral Health · National Foundation for Prevention of Chemical Dependency Disease – National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome · Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation · Phoenix House—Research Society on Alcoholism · Society for Research in Child Development · State Associations of Addiction Services -University of Florida, Department of Psychiatry

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