World Health Organization

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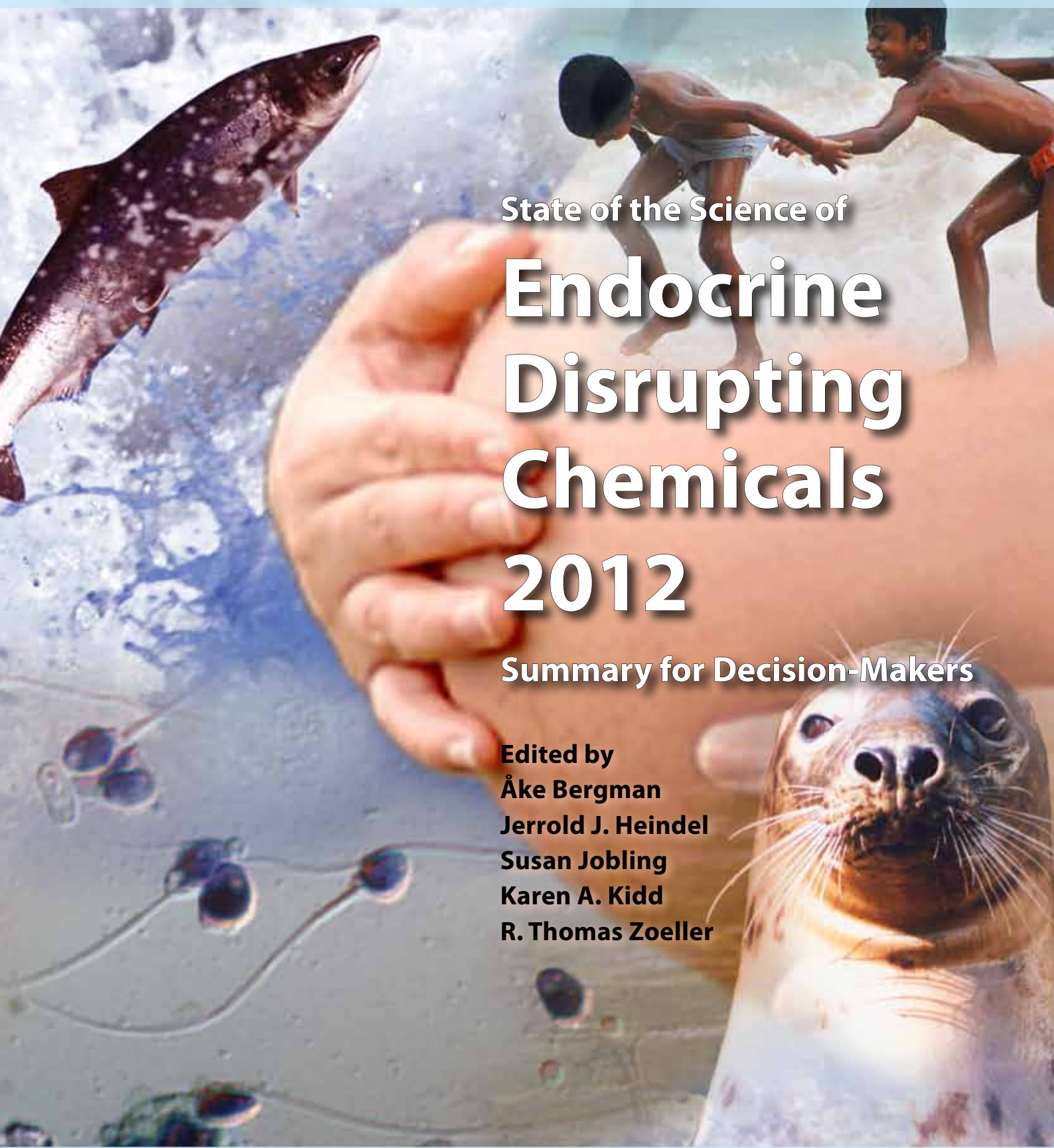

State of the Science of

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012

Summary for Decision-Makers

Edited by
Åke Bergman
Jerrold J. Heindel
Susan Jobling
Karen A. Kidd
R. Thomas Zoeller

IOMC INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among **FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD**

This publication was developed in the IOMC context. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or stated policies of individual IOMC Participating Organizations.

The Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen co-operation and increase international co-ordination in the field of chemical safety. The Participating Organisations are FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote co-ordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organisations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

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State of the Science of

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012

Summary for Decision-Makers

An assessment of the state
of the science of endocrine disruptors
prepared by a group of experts
for the United Nations Environment Programme
and World Health Organization.

Edited by
Åke Bergman
Jerrold J. Heindel
Susan Jobling
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R. Thomas Zoeller

World Health Organization

UNEP

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1972-2012:
Serving People
and the Planet

Contents

Preface

This *Summary for Decision-Makers*, together with the main document, *State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals—2012*, presents information and key concerns for policy-makers on endocrine disruptors as part of the ongoing collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to address concerns about the potential adverse health effects of chemicals on humans and wildlife. The main messages from the three chapters of the main document are presented as well.

We live in a world in which man-made chemicals have become a part of everyday life. It is clear that some of these chemical pollutants can affect the endocrine (hormonal) system, and certain of these endocrine disruptors may also interfere with the developmental processes of humans and wildlife species. Following international recommendations in 1997 by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the Environment Leaders of the Eight regarding the issue of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), WHO, through the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), a joint programme of WHO, UNEP and the International Labour Organization, developed in 2002 a report entitled *Global Assessment of the State-of-the-Science of Endocrine Disruptors*.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was established by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in February 2006, with the overall objective to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

SAICM recognizes that risk reduction measures need to be improved to prevent the adverse effects of chemicals on the health of children, pregnant women, fertile populations, the elderly, the poor, workers and other vulnerable groups and susceptible environments. It states that one measure to safeguard the health of women and children is the minimization of chemical exposures before conception and through gestation, infancy, childhood and adolescence.

SAICM also specifies that groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies, such as for the development and use of safe and effective alternatives, include chemicals that adversely affect, inter alia, the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous systems. A resolution to include EDCs as an emerging issue under SAICM was adopted in September 2012 by ICCM at its third session.

EDCs represent a challenge, as their effects depend on both the level and timing of exposure, being especially critical when exposure occurs during development. They have diverse applications, such as pesticides, flame retardants in different products, plastic additives and cosmetics, which may result in residues or contaminants in food and other products. Therefore, EDCs may be released from the products that contain them.

The protection of the most vulnerable populations from environmental threats is a key component of the Millennium Development Goals. As the challenge in meeting the existing goals increases, with work under way in developing countries to overcome traditional environmental threats while dealing with poverty, malnutrition and infectious disease, emerging issues should be prevented from becoming future traditional environmental threats. Endocrine disruption is a challenge that must continue to be addressed in ways that take into account advances in our knowledge.

UNEP and WHO, in collaboration with a working group of international experts, are taking a step forward by developing these documents on endocrine disruptors, including scientific information on their impacts on human and wildlife health and key concerns for decision-makers and others concerned. The well-being of future human and wildlife generations depends on safe environments.

From late 2010 until mid-2012, the working group developed, contributed to and revised sections of the main document during three separate meetings, as well as through teleconferences. Professor Åke Bergman led the working group and facilitated the development of this summary with the editors in coordination with the working group, UNEP and WHO.

The following international scientific experts were part of the working group that developed the documents:

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Editorial assistance was provided by Susan Jobling, and reference processing was performed by Ioannis Athanassiadis, Åke Bergman and Hans von Stedingk. Further editorial assistance was provided by Kathy Prout (WHO) and Marla Sheffer. John Bellamy assisted with the design of drawings and figures and the layout of the two documents. Nida Besbelli, consultant to the UNEP Secretariat, provided organizational support and assisted with the finalization of references, tables, and lists of abbreviations and species. A list of chemicals, including abbreviations/common names and Chemical Abstracts Service registry numbers, was provided by Derek C.G. Muir and Åke Bergman. A list of species discussed in the summary and main documents was prepared by Nida Besbelli, Åke Bergman, Poul Bjerregaard and Susan Jobling. Further contributions and reviews were received from Heli Bathija (WHO), Timothy J. Kasten (UNEP), Desiree Montecillo Narvaez (UNEP), Maria Neira (WHO) and Sheryl Vanderpoel (WHO).

The working group members, scientific experts and contributors of text served as individual scientists and not as representatives of any organization, government or industry. All individuals who participated in the preparation of these documents served in their personal capacity and were required to sign a Declaration of Interest statement informing the Responsible Officer if, at any time, there was a conflict of interest perceived in their work. Such a procedure was followed, and no conflicts of interest were identified.

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