

*Tuesday, March 1, 8:00AM-12:00PM
Plenary Session*

Teratogen Update

Moderator: Angela Lin, MassGeneral Hospital for Children, and the Massachusetts Birth Defects Monitoring Program, DPH, Boston, MA

The Role of the Astute Clinician and Epidemiologist in Recognizing Human Teratogens

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Determination that a particular environmental exposure represents a human teratogen requires a critical and rigorous assessment process. As is well known to the teratology community, most well-established human teratogens were initially recognized by astute clinicians making observations of a rare defect occurring after a rare environmental exposure, usually during the course of clinical practice. This method has been referred to as the “astute (or alert) clinician model”. The basic premise of this approach is that the occurrence of a distinctive pattern of malformation associated with a particularly uncommon pregnancy exposure suggests causation simply because of the rarity of the events occurring together.

In this presentation the speaker will discuss clinical evidence in the determination of teratogenicity and illustrate the methodology by reviewing the recently described cases of the mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) embryopathy.