

## ECPI runs an epidemiology project with the University of Maastricht

There is an increasing number of publications describing associations of clinical symptoms like reduced sperm counts, asthma, obesity and diabetes type II and phthalate exposure.

ECPI has initiated a project that intends to investigate whether the studies published do meet the basic quality requirements as outlined in the STROBE criteria for epidemiological studies. The corresponding author, first author and co-authors will be contacted and asked to participate. The project will be done by two researchers from Maastricht University in The Netherlands: Dr. Gerard Swaen, senior epidemiologist and Prof. Dr. Maurice Zeegers, senior epidemiologist and Department Head, Complex Genetics.

The study protocol has been reviewed before publication by an independent scientific advisory board.

Members of the scientific advisory board:

- Matthias Egger, Professor at Bern University, co-author of the STROBE guidelines
- Andre Knottnerus, University of Maastricht, former Chair of the Dutch Health Council, and chair of the chief science advisory committee to the Dutch Government
- Rebecca Smith University of Manchester, author of a recent Reporting Bias study published in BMJ

The final study protocol is available at:

<http://gcb.mumc.nl/ecpi>

The study is registered at PROSPERO, the International prospective register of systematic reviews:

[http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display\\_record.asp?ID=CRD42015016017#\\_VL\\_ck3Z0wVd](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.asp?ID=CRD42015016017#_VL_ck3Z0wVd)

**About ECPI:** The European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates is a Brussels-based trade association representing the common interests of European manufacturers of plasticisers, alcohols and acids. Member companies are BASF, Deza, Emerald Performance Materials, Evonik, ExxonMobil, Grupa Azoty and Perstorp. ECPI is a sector group of Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, which represents the interests of the European chemical industry.

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