

PFAS: Ethical and Social Issues

Kevin Elliott, PhD
Michigan State University

Building on the recent NAS report, *Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing and Clinical Follow-Up*, this talk will highlight major ethical and social issues involved in responding to PFAS pollution. First, it will discuss the report's five principles for decision making under situations of scientific uncertainty about environmental health threats. It will give particular focus to the principles of justice and autonomy, which are discussed most extensively in the report. Second, the talk will highlight the important role that communities affected by PFAS contamination played in informing the report, and it will discuss a variety of reasons for thinking that community engagement should be central to future research and policy making concerning PFAS. Third, the talk will move beyond the report to identify a few of the ethical issues at the intersection of research and policy that will be important to consider in future work on PFAS.