

(**Note:** The following article is an excerpt of a longer article that appeared on the website of the Fluoride Action Network (FAN), posted on Dec. 11, 2015. FAN is the primary anti-fluoride group in the United States.)



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# NEW FLUORIDE/BRAIN STUDY COULD END FLUORIDATION

Fluoride Action Network | December 11, 2015

## NTP Proposes Landmark Fluoride/Brain Study

Thanks to your support, the Fluoride Action Network (FAN) has been able to raise public awareness about the serious, permanent risks that fluoride poses to the **developing brain**. This was once a lonely battle — but, fortunately, that is starting to change.

In 2012, a team of **Harvard scientists** published a meta-review of available fluoride/IQ research (including many studies that FAN had translated into English) which concluded that elevated fluoride exposure is consistently associated with reductions in childhood intelligence.

In 2014, a study in the prestigious medical journal **The Lancet** concluded that fluoride is one of only 11 chemicals that can now be classified as a known developmental neurotoxin in humans.

And now, in what could be the most significant scientific development of them all, the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) has announced that there is now sufficient evidence linking fluoride to impaired brain development to warrant an NTP investigation into fluoride's detrimental effects on learning and memory.

### What is the NTP?

The NTP was established in 1978 to develop **cutting-edge scientific tools** to investigate "concerns about the human health effects of chemical agents in our environment." The

NTP was created because “Many human diseases were thought to be directly or indirectly related to chemical exposures; therefore, it was thought that decreasing or eliminating human exposures to those chemicals would help prevent some human disease and disability.”

### **NTP Proposes Fluoride/Brain Study**

On October 7, 2015, the NTP **proposed** using its cutting-edge scientific tools to study the “developmental neurotoxicity” of fluoride (i.e., the toxic effects that fluoride causes to the developing brain).

NTP’s proposal was made based on a nomination submitted earlier this year by FAN dental adviser Dr. Bill Osmunson. The purpose of NTP’s announcement was to solicit information on both (1) the current state of exposure to fluoride in the U.S., and (2) the current state of research (past, present, and future planned studies) on fluoride and the brain.

### **NTP Holds Hearing on Proposed Fluoride/Brain Study**

On December 2, NTP’s Board of Scientific Counselors held a hearing in which it considered the proposed fluoride/brain study. Thankfully, Doug Cragoe videotaped the entire hearing, which you can watch online [here](#).

At the hearing, Dr. Kristina Thayer, of NTP’s Office of Health Assessment and Translation (OHAT), outlined the studies that NTP seeks to conduct on fluoride. These studies include (1) a **systematic review** of the existing research on fluoride’s developmental neurotoxicity, including human, animal, and cellular studies, and (2) NTP’s own animal experiments that will be conducted to clarify fluoride’s effects on learning and memory and the doses that cause these effects.

After hearing Dr. Thayer’s presentation, the NTP’s Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) provided very positive feedback, with the consensus being that the study was of “medium-to-high priority” for the agency. The positive response from the BSC augurs very well for NTP formally approving the study — which we expect will happen within the next few months.

### **The NTP Study = A Crack in the Veneer of Fluoride’s “Safety”**

Fluoridation proponents never tire of claiming that “thousands of studies” prove the safety of fluoridation, and that the “science is settled.” The NTP’s proposed study puts a lie to these claims as it confirms that (1) a substantial body of scientific research indicates that fluoride negatively impacts brain development, and (2) despite our widespread exposures to this neurotoxin, government health officials have little idea whether our current exposures are actually safe.