

Friends of NIEHS Convenes Child Health Congressional Briefing



From right to left: Joe Laakso, Endocrine Society, Margaret Karagas, Ph.D., Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., Rebecca Fry, Ph.D., and Nuala Moore, ATS Staff.

On October 10, 2018, the *Friends of NIEHS* held a successful U.S. Congress briefing on child health entitled, *A Healthy Start for Every Child: How the Environment Influences Health and Development*. The educational event for congressional staff featured a panel of three speakers, which included National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., Margaret Karagas, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at Dartmouth College, and Rebecca Fry, Ph.D., Carol R. Engle Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health.

The issue focus of the briefing was heavy metals exposures such as arsenic, lead and mercury through water supply's, power plant emissions and foods, which cause health effects including gestational diabetes in pregnant women and low birthweight in babies. Dr. Fry discussed how the NIEHS-funded Well Empowered study at the University of North Carolina is providing water filters to affected communities in North Carolina.