

# Amanda N. Buerger, Ph.D., DABT

SENIOR SCIENTIST II

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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Dr. Amanda Buerger is a Senior Scientist II in ToxStrategies' Health Sciences practice. Her primary areas of experience include human health risk assessment and toxicology. She has provided support to a range of clients, including pharmaceutical companies, chemical manufacturers, universities, and producers of consumer products. She studies the health effects related to exposure to a wide range of chemicals including environmental contaminants like pesticides, plasticizers, industrial chemicals such as asbestos and talc, and ingredients used in consumer products like flavorants. In risk assessment, Dr. Buerger applies weight of evidence (WoE) approaches incorporating clinical, nonclinical, *in vivo*, *in vitro*, and *in silico* data. She utilizes new approach methodologies (NAMs) in her projects including applications such as the Organisation for Economic Coordination and Development Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship (QSAR) Toolbox and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Generalized Read-Across (GenRA) application. She is experienced in conducting statistical analyses using R (RStudio) and benchmark dose modeling.

Dr. Buerger has produced and contributed to a variety of products for clients including occupational exposure limit (OEL), occupational exposure banding (OEB), permissible daily exposure (PDE), and allowable daily exposure (ADE) derivation documents; U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) submissions; U.S. EPA submissions; and inhalation risk assessment courses. Dr. Buerger also has experience in providing litigation support related to pesticides, chlorine, asbestos, talc, and food flavorings.

## EDUCATION AND DEGREES EARNED

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- 2019 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Environmental and Global Health  
University of Florida
- 2015 Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Environmental Health (major), Sustainability (minor)  
University of Notre Dame

## HONORS/AWARDS

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- 2020 Outstanding Student Research Award, University of Florida, Department of Environmental and Global Health
- 2019 Outstanding Student in Public Health Service Award, University of Florida, Department of Environmental and Global Health
- 2019 Best Paper, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry journal
- 2018 Paper of the Year, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry journal

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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- 2016–Present Society of Toxicology
- 2015–2021 Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)
- 2019–2020 Membership Committee (SETAC)
- 2017–2019 North American Student Advisory Council, Member (SETAC)
- 2017–2018 North America Student Advisory Council, Southeast Chapter, Representative (SETAC)

## INVITED LECTURES

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- Buerger, AN. “Emerging contaminants and endocrine disrupting compounds.” Environmental Concepts in Public Health, Department of Environmental and Global Health, University of Florida.
- Buerger, AN. “Metabolic consequences of DEHP exposure in zebrafish: Convergence of host and microbial mechanisms.” Environmental and Global Health Seminar, University of Florida, October 3, 2018.
- Buerger, AN. “Probing phthalate-induced transcriptional changes related to obesity in zebrafish.” Environmental and Global Health Seminar, University of Florida, September 20, 2016.

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### *NAMs and Computational Toxicology*

Applied approaches like read-across and chemical grouping in risk assessment and exposure limit derivation for categories of flavorants, taking into account aspects of toxicokinetics and toxicodynamics from various lines of

evidence. Employed predictive toxicology approaches and tools, including QSAR modeling, to inform the toxicology of various substances in numerous inhalation risk assessments. Applied dosimetric tools in inhalation risk assessment to inform human equivalent concentration derivation. Created, managed, analyzed, and maintained quality control of large datasets in Excel and R software, including the calculation of hazard quotients and cancer risks.

### ***Exposure Limit Derivation***

Managed and contributed to a variety of occupational toxicology and risk assessment projects, and critically reviewed proposed and existing regulatory exposure limits for numerous chemicals. Contributed to the development of hazard banding frameworks for biocatalytic and medicinal enzymes based on sensitization potential, informed by data from clinical, *in vivo*, *in vitro*, and *in silico* streams of evidence. Generated standard operating procedures for derivation of OELs and assignment of OEBs.

### ***Exposure and Risk Assessments***

Supported clients in various sectors including pharmaceuticals, foods and flavorings, and biosolids, and worked on projects related to various acute respiratory irritants. Conducted risk assessments for a range of populations including consumers and workers. Assisted with the development and execution of inhalation risk assessment courses for a variety of clients. Created reports regarding the effects of acute exposures on chronic health outcomes, including aspects related to odor detection, respiratory irritation, and sensory irritation.

## **JOURNAL PEER REVIEWER**

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*Environmental Pollution*

*Science of the Total Environment*

*Chemosphere*

*Toxics*

## **MANUSCRIPTS**

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Borghoff SJ, Rivera B, Fitch S, **Buerger AN**, Choksi N, Franzen A, Vincent MJ, Covington T, Bus J, Rushton E, Lea IA. 2025. Systematic evaluation of the evidence base on methyl *tert*-butyl ether supporting a lack of concern for carcinogenic hazard in human based on animal cancer studies and mechanistic data. *Curr Res Toxicol* 8:100224; doi: 10.1016/j.crtox.2025.100224.

Heintz MM, **Buerger AN**, Haws LC, Cullen JM, East AW, Thompson CM. 2025. Comparison of phenotypic and transcriptomic profiles between HFPO-DA and prototypical PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$ , and cytotoxic agents in wild-type and *Ppara*-null mouse livers. *Toxicol Sci* kfaf049; doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfaf049. Online ahead of print 11 April 2025. PMID: 40216583.

Lea IA, **Buerger AN**, Feifarek D, Mihalchik A, Heintz MM, Haws LC, Nyambego H, Goyak K, Palermo C, Borghoff SJ. 2025. Evaluation of the endocrine disrupting potential of Di-isononyl phthalate. *Curr Res Toxicol* 100220; doi: 10.1016/j.crtox.2025.100220. In press journal pre-proof, available February 1, 2025.

Rogers JM, **Buerger AN**, Heintz MM, Palermo CM, Haws LC, Lea IA. 2025. Evaluation of a hypothesized Sertoli cell-based adverse outcome pathway for effects of diisononyl phthalate on the developing testis. *Curr Res Toxicol* 8:100219; doi: 10.1016/j.crtox.2025.100219.

Bates CA, Vincent MJ, **Buerger AN**, Santamaria AB, Maier A, Jack M. 2024. Investigating the relationship between  $\beta$ -carotene intake from diet and supplements, smoking, and lung cancer risk. *Food Chem Toxicol* 194:115104; doi: 10.1016/j.fct.2024.115104.

Haber LT, Bradley MA, **Buerger AN**, Behrsing H, Burla S, Clapp PW, et al. 2024. New approach methodologies (NAMs) for the *in vitro* assessment of cleaning products for respiratory irritation: Workshop report. *Front Toxicol* 6:1431790; doi: 10.3389/ftox.2024.1431790.

Russel AJ, Vincent M, **Buerger AN**, Dotson S, Lotter J, Maier A. 2024. Establishing short-term occupational exposure limits (STELs) for sensory irritants using predictive and *in silico* respiratory rate depression (RD50) models. *Inhal Toxicol* 36(1):13–25; doi: 10.1080/08958378.2023.2299867.

**Buerger AN**, Allen HL, Divis HR, Encina E, Parker J, Boles C. 2023. The worker microbiome and enviromiomes in the agricultural industry: A narrative review of current applications and understanding. *J Pub Health Emerg* 7:21.

**Buerger AN**, Massarsky A, Russell A, Zoghby N, Hirn C, Mucs D, et al. 2023. Evaluation of chemical grouping workflows for flavor inhalation risk assessment: Selected furan moiety-containing chemicals as a case study. *Comp Toxicol* 26:100269.

Boles C, Zisook R, **Buerger AN**, Hamaji C, Mathis C, Lauer D, et al. 2022. Semi-quantitative microbial risk assessment: a narrative review and proposed framework for health and safety practitioners. *J Pub Health Emerg* 6:34.

Han AA, **Buerger AN**, Allen H, Vincent M, Thornton SA, Unice K, et al. 2022. Assessment of ethanol exposure from hand sanitizer use and potential for developmental toxicity in nursing infants. *J Appl Toxicol* 42(9):1424–1442.

Martyniuk CJ, **Buerger AN**, Vespalcova H, Rudzanova B, Sohan SR, Hanlon AT, et al. 2022. Sex-dependent host-microbiome dynamics in zebrafish: Implications for toxicology and gastrointestinal physiology. *Comp Biochem Physiol D-Genom Proteomi* 42:100993.

**Buerger AN**, Parente CE, Harris JP, Watts EG, Wormington AM, Bisesi JH. 2022. Impacts of diethylhexyl phthalate and overfeeding on physical fitness and lipid mobilization in *Danio rerio* (zebrafish). *Chemosphere* 295:133703.

Barnett LMA, Kramer NE, **Buerger AN**, Love DH, Bisesi JH, Cummings BS. 2021. Transcriptomic analysis of the differential nephrotoxicity of diverse brominated flame retardants in rat and human renal cells. *Int J Mol Sci* 22(18):10044.

Parker JA, Boles C, **Buerger AN**, Fung ES, Maier A. 2021. Derivation of an occupational exposure limit for  $\beta$ -glucans. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 123:104959.

Adamovsky O, **Buerger AN**, Vespalcova H, Sohag S, Hanlon A, Ginn P, et al. 2020. Evaluation of microbiome-host relationships in the zebrafish gastrointestinal system reveals adaptive immunity is a target of bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) exposure. *Environ Sci Technol* 54(9):5719–5728.

Parker J, Boles C, Leleck O, **Buerger AN**, Egnot N, Sunderman A, et al. 2020. Advancing toward normal operations for arenas and stadiums. *Toxicol Ind Health* 36(9):718–727.

**Buerger AN**, Dillon DT, Schmidt J, Yang T, Zubcevic J, Martyniuk CJ, et al. 2020. Gastrointestinal dysbiosis following diethylhexyl phthalate exposure in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*): Altered microbial diversity, functionality and network connectivity. *Environ Pollut* 265(Pt B):114496.

**Buerger AN**, Schmidt J, Chase A, Paixao C, Patel TN, Brumback BA, et al. 2019. Examining the responses of the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) gastrointestinal system to the suspected obesogen diethylhexyl phthalate. *Environ Pollut* 245:1086–1094.

Lavelle C, Smith LC, Bisesi JH, Yu F, Silva-Sanchez C, Moraga-Amador D, **Buerger AN**, et al. 2018. Tissue-based mapping of the fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*) transcriptome and proteome. *Front Endocrinol* 9:611.

Adamovsky O, **Buerger AN**, Wormington AM, Ector N, Griffitt RJ, Bisesi JH, et al. 2018. The gut microbiome and aquatic toxicology: An emerging concept for environmental health. *Environ Toxicol Chem* 37(11):2758–2775.

**Buerger AN**, Howe K, Jacquart E, Chandler M, Culley T, Evans C, et al. 2015. Risk assessments for invasive plants: a Midwestern US comparison. *Invas Plant Sci Manage* 9(1):41–54.

## WHITE PAPERS

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LeClaire RD, McGill A, **Buerger AN**, Boles C, Cappello T, Parker J. 2021. Promoting health equity among part-time and temporary workers of large event venues.

Boles C, Leleck O, **Buerger AN**, Parker J, Egnot N, Sunderman A. 2020. Advancing towards normal operations for arenas and stadiums.

Boles C, Leleck O, **Buerger AN**, Parker J, Egnot N, Sunderman A. 2020. Advancing towards normal operations for sporting venues.

Boles C, Leleck O, **Buerger AN**, Parker J, Egnot N, Sunderman A. 2020. Advancing towards normal operations for entertainment venues.

Lynch H, **Buerger AN**, Nembhard M, Hallett L. 2020. Summer camps and campgrounds: COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

## PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

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Borghoff SJ, Rivera BN, Fitch S, **Buerger A**, Choksi N, Franzen A, Bus J, Rushton EK, Lea I. Systematic evaluation of the evidence base on methyl tert-butyl ether for carcinogenic potential in humans; Low concern based on animal cancer studies and mechanistic data. Abstract 4702, Society of Toxicology 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2025.

**Buerger AN**, Vincent MJ, Fitch S, Rushton EK, Borghoff SJ. Evaluation of potential obesogenicity through a mode of action approach: A case study with MTBE. Abstract 3928, Society of Toxicology 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2025.

Fitch S, Wikoff D, Foreman J, **Buerger A**, Haws L, Palmero C. Assessment of relative potency factors for six phthalates. Abstract 4235, Society of Toxicology 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2025.

Heintz MM, **Buerger AN**, Haws LC, East AW, Cullen JM, Thompson CM. Comparison of phenotypic and transcriptomic profiles between HFPO-DA and prototypical PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$ , and cytotoxic agents in wild-type and PPAR $\alpha$  knockout mice. Abstract 3972, Society of Toxicology 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2025.

Massarsky A, **Buerger AN**, O'Neill HC, Gaffner J, Mucs D, Baskerville-Abraham I, Maier A. Derivation of Maximum Acceptable Group Levels (MAGLs) for ionones and related compounds. Abstract 4764, Society of Toxicology 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2025.

Cooper LM, Callis CM, Fung ES, Parker JA, **Buerger AN**, Bandara S, Maier AS, Jolly RA. Framework for setting health-based exposure limits for amino acids in a pharmaceutical setting. Society of Toxicology 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, 2024.

Fung ES, Jolly R, Cooper L, Parker JA, **Buerger AN**, Maier A, Callis CM. Framework for determining ADE values for substituted saturated fatty acids observed as extractables. Society of Toxicology 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, 2024.

Hirn C, Mucs D, **Buerger AN**, Massarsky A, Russell A, Zoghby N, Maier A, Baskerville-Abraham I. Chemoinformatics and data processing challenges in chemical grouping workflows for toxicological risk assessments. Society of Toxicology 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, 2024.

Massarsky A, **Buerger AN**, O'Neill H, Gafner J, Babcock A, Neilson L, Baskerville-Abraham I, Maier, A. Derivation of maximum acceptable group levels (MAGLs) for carvones in tobacco and nicotine products. Society of Toxicology 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, 2024.

Reichard JF, Massarsky A, Evans VJB, Fung ES, Yang LGL, Rogers KL, **Buerger AN**, Maier A. A Framework approach for evaluation of potential degradation of active pharmaceutical ingredients in long-duration spaceflights. Society of Toxicology 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City UT, 2024.

Sabo-Attwood T, Lavelle C, Robinson S, Bisesi JH, **Buerger AN**, Denslow ND. Modulation of immune-relevant transcriptional profiles in fish tissues after largemouth bass virus infection. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, 2023.

Lynch H, O'Neill H, **Buerger AN**, Rogers K. Mode-of-action analysis of thyroid hormone effects of perfluorobutane sulfonic acid. Society of Toxicology 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, 2023.

Bisesi JH, **Buerger AN**, Parente C, Martyniuk CJ. Effects of endocrine disrupting compounds on host microbiome dynamics: Implications for gastrointestinal physiology and health. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, 2022.

Vincent M, O'Neill HC, Maier A, **Buerger AN**, Madl AK. Analysis of toxicity assay options for data poor chemical inhalation limit setting: Flavors as a case study. Tobacco Science Research Conference, 2022.

**Buerger AN**, Bates C, Boles C, Vincent M, Dotson GS. Ochratoxin A and pesticides in craft beers: A pilot study. Society of Toxicology 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2022.

Han AA, **Buerger AN**, Allen H, Vincent M, Thornton AA, Unice K, Maier A. Assessment of ethanol exposure in nursing infants from maternal hand sanitizer use and potential for developmental toxicity. Poster presentation P514 at Society of Toxicology 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2022.

**Buerger AN**, Boles C, Reichard J, Fung E, Dahm C, Schmid K, et al. A framework for establishing occupational exposure limits for medicinal enzymes. Poster presented at Society of Toxicology 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Virtual, 2021.

Fung ES, **Buerger AN**, Parker JA, Boles C, Masuada-Herrera M, Trejo-Martin A, et al. Determining occupational hazard control categories for biocatalytic enzymes. Poster presented at American College of Toxicology Annual Meeting, virtual event, 2021.

Parker JA, Boles C, **Buerger AN**, Fung ES, Maier A. Derivation of an occupational exposure limit for  $\beta$ -glucans. Poster presented at Society of Toxicology 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Virtual, 2021.

**Buerger AN**, Dillon DT, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi, JH. Gastrointestinal mediated impacts on lipid metabolism following chronic exposure to a phthalate plasticizer in zebrafish. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America Meeting, 2019.

**Buerger AN**, Dillon DT, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi JH. Molecular and microbial responses in the zebrafish gastrointestinal system following exposure to the suspected obesogen diethylhexyl phthalate. Society for Risk Analysis/Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Africa, 2019.

**Buerger AN**, Dillon DT, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi JH. Coupled host and microbial responses to phthalate exposure: Implications for obesity. Society of Toxicology 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2019.

**Buerger AN**, Dillon DT, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi JH. Host-microbiome alterations in fatty acid metabolism in *Danio rerio* following dietary phthalate exposure. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America Meeting, 2018.

**Buerger AN**, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi JH. Phthalate disruption of the gastrointestinal microbiome as a potential obesogenic mechanism: A multigenerational study using *Danio rerio*. Society of Toxicology 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2018.

**Buerger AN**, Schmidt J, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi JH. Host-microbiome responses to DEHP exposure: A multigenerational obesity study in *Danio rerio*. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America Meeting, 2017.

**Buerger AN**, Schmidt J, Paixao C, Tiblier A, Martyniuk CJ, Bisesi JH. Does oral exposure to phthalates alter obesity related transcriptional networks in the gastrointestinal system through PPAR $\alpha$ ? Society of Toxicology 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2017.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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SETAC North America, Professional Training Course, Introduction to Microbiome Sample Collection, Sequencing, and Analysis Methods for Microbial Community Research: 16S Microbial Sequencing. 2020, 2021.

The University of Florida, Center for Pre-collegiate Education and Training, Summer Health Professional Education Program: Water Quality and Ecosystem Health.

The University of Florida, Center for Pre-collegiate Education and Training, Research Explorations: Environmental Health: Dose-Response and *Daphnia Magna* Toxicity Testing.

The University of Florida, Center for Pre-collegiate Education and Training, Student Science Training Program: Environmental Health and Toxicology Course.

Southeastern Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry: RNA Extraction and Quantitative PCR Short Course.