

History- Analytical Chemistry Section



The laboratory was one of the pioneers in pesticide residue analysis and served as one of the community Study Laboratories from 1965 to 1970 under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). For next ten years, it served as a contract laboratory for USEPA's National Tissue Monitoring Program, gaining considerable experience, knowledge and expertise in the analysis of biological media for organic

contaminants.

The laboratory was the first to identify polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in human tissues and body fluids with confirmation of the findings performed by USEPA. In 1981, members of the staff co-authored with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) an analytical method for PCB and PBB in human blood, which was accepted by the Association of Analytical Chemist (AOAC) as a standard method in 1991.

The laboratory conducts the analyses for numerous projects funded by state and federal agencies involving human blood and/or tissue specimens for PCB, PBB and other organic contaminants. The cohorts for epidemiological studies, such as the Fisheater and Long Term PBB studies, are unique and among the largest and longest standing scientific cohorts in the country.

Further studies are being designed to determine the relationship between exposure to environmental contaminants and human health. Presently the laboratory analyzes 700 - 1,000 fish samples a year for environmental contaminants under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Fish Monitoring Program which results in the [Michigan Fish Advisory](#) publication.

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