Pollutants such as Bisphenol A (a chemical found in plastics) as well as agricultural pesticides have become a ubiquitous presence in our environment. Exposure to these chemicals, especially at critical periods in development, may cause permanent changes in the brain and behavior. Arthur will summarize the current state of knowledge on some of the most common and infamous environmental pollutants as related to brain development.

Recreational drugs produce their effects through actions on the brain. The past decade has seen a loosening of regulations on the study of these substances and a concomitant burst in our knowledge of their actions and effects on the brain. Interest in the study of marijuana, MDMA (ecstasy), and psilocybin have been on the rise both within the biological and psychological sciences resulting in a passionate debate about the place of these substances in society and medicine. Arthur will discuss the impact that these substances have on the brain and the arguments that are driving the current debate.