

Dr. Elena Craft is a Health Scientist at Environmental Defense Fund, a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-partisan environmental organization. Dr. Craft's background is in molecular toxicology; she holds a M.S. degree in toxicology from NC State University, and a PhD from Duke University. She also holds an adjunct assistant professorship at the University of Texas School of Public Health in the Division of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, & Environmental Sciences. Her research experience includes work at both the US EPA and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, where she studied the health effects resulting from exposure to environmental pollutants such as PCBs, dioxins, and metals. Over the last 7 years, she has worked to identify, monitor, and mitigate risk from environmental pollution in highly industrial areas, most specifically around port areas and petrochemical facilities. The citizens who live and work near this massive petrochemical complex are exposed to a disproportionate burden of health risks, as many of the areas surrounding these facilities are pollution "hotspots," where the concentrations of specific pollutants in the areas exceed health-based guidelines.

In the course of her work, Dr. Craft has served in a variety of capacities to advise local, regional, and national planning organizations on a diverse set of environmental and environmental justice issues, including serving as the current chair for the Houston Regional Air Quality Planning Committee, advisor to the Clean Air Task Force of Central Texas, and advisor to the Texas state environmental agency in developing a remediation program for pollution hotspot areas around the state. In addition, Dr. Craft has participated in research endeavors regarding the health effects associated with living in areas where the concentrations of certain pollutants exceed state-adopted health-based screening guidelines, most recently presenting her efforts at the Society of Toxicology Annual meeting on incorporating risk assessment methods as a practical tool for assessing health risks from environmental exposures. Dr. Craft has testified at a number of national hearings, given lectures at a number of universities, and has been interviewed by local, national, and international media on environmental issues, presenting scientific information from a health-based perspective. She is also a member of the Society of Toxicology and Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and has authored several peer-reviewed papers.