Dr. Leslie Hart is an Associate Professor of Public Health and the Program Director for the Bachelor of Arts, Public Health at CofC, and is also an alumnus of the EVSS program! This is her seventh year as a faculty member, and she taught as an adjunct professor for the EVSS program prior to her full time position. Dr. Hart’s overarching OneHealth research theme focuses on environmental exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals, with particular emphasis on phthalates. As an environmental epidemiologist, she is interested in factors contributing to phthalate exposure and associated health impacts, with an emphasis on two study populations: bottlenose dolphins and college-aged students.

A current project Dr. Hart is working on is “Assessment and characterization of phthalate and microplastic exposure in bottlenose dolphins”. Dr. Hart just finished working with EVSS alumni Miranda Dziobak on her master’s thesis and plans to continue working with her throughout her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina.

Other current projects she is working on include “Assessment and characterization of personal care product use and risk of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in college students” and “An evaluation of sociodemographic, health, environmental, and societal factors influencing COVID-19 infection and susceptibility to infection among College of Charleston students”.

Some organizations she works with outside the college include the Arnold School of Public Health and the University of South Carolina’s NIEHS Center for Oceans and Human Health and Climate Change Interactions, the Chicago Zoological Society, NOAA, National Institute for Standards and Technology, The Citadel, and The Marine Mammal Foundation.