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Collaborative on Health and the Environment

November 2014



Upcoming Partnership Events

CHE Partnership call:

[BPA and Health: New Research Focuses on Routes of Exposure](#)

Wed, Nov 19 at 1pm Eastern

CHE Partnership call:

[Working for a Toxics-Free Future: International Efforts to Protect the Arctic from the World's Most Dangerous Chemicals](#)

Wed, Nov 19 at 5pm Eastern

Hosted by the CHE Alaska



The First 1000 Days: A Healthy Return on Investment

Elise Miller, MEd, CHE Director, and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director at SEHN and CHE, contributed the following article to the current edition

of [San Francisco Medicine](#), focused on human health and the environment, and especially

HOSTED BY THE CHE ALASKA
Working Group

CHE Partnership call:
[The First Thousand Days:
Chemical Exposures in Early Life
and Beyond](#)

Tues, Dec 2 at 1pm Eastern

CHE Partnership call:
[Health Effects of Perinatal
Exposures to BPA and Other
Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals
\(EDCs\): State of the Science
and Policy Update](#)

Wed, Dec 10 at 1pm Eastern
*Hosted by the CHE Alaska
Working Group*

Visit the [CHE Partnership call
archives](#) to listen to MP3
recordings of past calls.

Special Announcements

CHE launches new Healthy Aging and the Environment listserv

CHE invites all Partners to sign
up for the new Healthy Aging
and the Environment listserv.
This listserv combines the
former Neurodegenerative

*the effects of early-life exposures. The full
article can be found on the San Francisco
Medical Society's website. Join CHE on
[December 2nd](#) for a call with contributors to
the journal as they discuss neurotoxicants,
climate change, cancer, and much more.*

Upward trends in a number of childhood
diseases and disabilities are featured almost
daily in the media. As many as one in six
children in the US has a neurodevelopmental
disability, including autism, ADHD, and speech
or cognitive delays. The number of children
needing special education has increased by
200 percent from a quarter century ago. The
incidence of childhood leukemia and brain
cancer is also on the rise, and asthma is still
the number one reason for school absenteeism
among school children.

Meanwhile, we have been learning a great deal
more about how children's earliest experiences,
beginning in utero, can significantly influence
their lifelong health.

Many studies show that "toxic stress"--
intense, sustained adverse experiences--in
childhood increases the risk of many health
and behavioral problems in the short and long
term, including intellectual delays, obesity,
diabetes, and heart disease. This evidence has
in turn prompted a surge of programs that
provide support for new mothers and improved

Diseases and the Environment listserv with CHE's Healthy Aging Initiative work to create one listserv focused on emerging research and relevant articles on environmental contributors to neurological challenges **and** other disease endpoints in the later stages of life. To see a full list of CHE's current listservs and working groups, please visit our [Initiatives page](#). To join the Healthy Aging and the Environment listserv, please email your request to join to info@healthandenvironment.org. You must be a CHE Partner to join a working group or listserv. You can join CHE [here](#).

Resources

[CHE's Toxicant and Disease Database](#)

CHE's searchable [Portal to Science](#) of reports, books, videos, databases, and other resources.

[CHE's searchable calendar](#) of events related to environmental

child care, such as Zero to Three and Early Head Start.

Other environmental influences on fetal development, starting even before conception, can of course be critical for lifelong health as well. Initiatives like the Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) take this into consideration with their emphasis on healthy nutrition before, after and during pregnancy. Efforts to address other social stressors like poverty and violence are also included in some maternal health programs in different health care systems as well as at local, county, and state levels across the country.

Various biologic mechanisms mediate the influence of environmental variables on child development, including genetic and epigenetic changes, altered molecular signaling patterns, and influences on hormonal and metabolic set points, which can lead to disturbances of organ structure and function over varying timeframes.

Another highly influential factor: Chemical exposures in early life

In addition to excessive stress and inadequate nutrition, a large and growing body of research shows that the developmental effects of pre- and post-natal exposures to toxic chemicals-- now ubiquitous in air, water, food, soil, and

health.

[CHE's blog](#) of commentary on current topics.

[CHE's podcast](#) of teleconference call recordings.

[CHE's news feed](#) of news articles, studies, reports, calls for proposals, job openings and other announcements. Relevant items are sent to CHE's listservs several times each week, or visitors can subscribe via RSS.

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consumer products--must also be considered. Most chemicals circulating in maternal blood can and do pass through the placenta and can adversely impact the developing fetus. Lead, alcohol, mercury, some pesticides, and flame retardants are among the best known, but in its Proposition 65 program, California lists 652 chemicals as reproductive/developmental toxicants. Biomonitoring programs, like CDC's NHANES, show how commonly the general population is exposed to chemicals that can interfere with normal development with lifelong health consequences.

[Continue reading the article on pages 10-11 of the journal...](#)

Working Groups and Initiatives

Visit the webpages of CHE's groups for the latest news, research, and announcements:

Topic-based Working Groups

[Asthma](#)

[Autism](#)

[Breast Cancer](#)

[Cumulative Impacts](#)

[Database](#)

[Diabetes/Obesity](#)

[Integrative Health](#)

[Learning and Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Cancer](#)
[Children's Health](#)
[Climate Change](#)

[Electromagnetic Fields \(EMF\)](#)
[Fertility/Reproductive Health](#)
[Healthy Aging](#)

[Pet](#)
[Neurodegenerative Disease](#)
[Science](#)

State-based and International Groups

[Alaska](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Washington](#)

[Europe/HEAL](#)

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Collaborative on Health and the Environment | P.O. Box 316 | Bolinas | CA | 94924