



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin January 12, 2011

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to children's environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website:

[http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

## ICEH Highlights

### Partnership Call: Tuesday January 18th

The call topic is "Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Justice: A Conversation with Manuel Pastor." Given racial discrimination continues to be one of the strongest currents undermining the health and well-being of countless communities around the country, CHE is privileged to host a conversation with Manuel Pastor, PhD, professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, on this call. For more information, please see event #3 below.

### [Environmental Health Training for Moms.](#)

CHE, in partnership with MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe), is providing a training March 2 - 4, 2011, to teach mothers about environmental health science. The goal is to provide a basic scientific understanding so that mothers can be more confident and active as advocates for a healthier world. This training will address some basic things people can do in their everyday lives to avoid chemical exposure, but will primarily focus on evidence-based science in lay language that you can use for advocacy. Acceptance into the training is based, in part, on a commitment to apply what you learn to social change. The training is free, and travel scholarships may be available. Priority consideration given to applications received by January 15, 2011.

### New Members

The Initiative on Children's Environmental Health welcomes these new members:

- Chad Campbell, PA-C, Globe, Arizona
- Renee Hundley, Camarillo, California
- Lauren Jenks, MPH, CHES, Olympia, Washington
- Judy Jones, MD, San Francisco, California
- Brett Joseph, JD, LLM, Conneaut, Ohio
- Jane Levy, New York, New York
- Charles Mitchell, MS, Center Harbor, New Hampshire
- Dana Nachman, Los Altos, California
- Jamie Paparich, Winnemucca, Nevada
- Esther Papegaay, Surprise, Arizona
- Lars Perlmutter, MSPH, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Kelly Quinn, RN, San Francisco, California
- Anjana Solaiman, MS, Rockville, Maryland
- Stacey Thorburn, Perth, Australia
- Robbie Welling, MS, MPH, Oakland, California

## Announcements

*A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.*

**[Call for comments: National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy.](#)**

The National Prevention Council invites you to provide input and welcomes your comments on the draft National Prevention Strategy. This comment period will be open until January 13, 2011.

**[Draft Action Agenda available for public comment.](#)**

The Draft Action Agenda from the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures is available for public review and comment until January 21, 2011.

**[Reach the Decision Makers Training Program.](#)**

The Reach the Decision Makers Training Program is designed to help your organization directly inform the US Environmental Protection Agency on the issues that are important to your community. Applications are due February 11, 2011, and informational conference calls will be held on January 24th and 31st.

**[EPA seeks nominations for annual Environmental Quality Awards.](#)**

Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honors individuals, businesses and organizations that have contributed significantly to improving the environment and protecting public health in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations over the past year. The agency is accepting nominations for its Environmental Quality Awards until February 22, 2011.

**[Certificate Program in the Essentials of Green Chemistry.](#)**

Developed in association with the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, the Certificate Program in the Essentials of Green Chemistry trains professionals in chemistry, engineering, public policy, toxicology, and business so that they can work collaboratively with green chemistry colleagues in the U.S. and beyond. UC Berkeley Extension offers this professional certificate in both classroom and online environments.

*[See another online course: [Introduction to Green Chemistry](#) and a related article: [Green Chemistry: Could Minnesota industry, scientists lead the way?](#)]*

**[Call for abstracts: 139th APHA Annual Meeting.](#)**

The Environment Section is seeking abstracts and full session proposals for the 2011 APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition to be held October 29 - November 2, 2011, in Washington, DC. Abstracts will be accepted until February 11, 2011.

**[Call for comments: National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy.](#)**

The National Prevention Council has now developed a preliminary set of Draft Recommendations -- overarching priorities with a focus on communities -- that will greatly improve health and wellness in the United States. This comment period will be open until January 13, 2011.

**[The 2011 Cancer Theme Issue Call for Papers.](#)**

With the hope that publishing new research findings and clinical reports about cancer will prove helpful to physicians and other clinicians who care for patients with cancer, JAMA has always assigned a high priority to manuscripts examining the epidemiology, prevention, treatment, and outcomes of cancer. JAMA.

**[Request for proposals: Building Capacity to Reduce Children's Environmental Exposures in Child-Occupied Settings.](#)**

Under this competition, EPA is accepting proposals from eligible applicants for projects that build capacity to address children's environmental health in underserved, disproportionately impacted low-income communities, including minority or Tribal communities. Proposals are due February 18th.

**[Request for proposals: Source Reduction Assistance Grant Program.](#)**

EPA's Regional Pollution Prevention Program Offices (herein referred to as the Regions) anticipate having up to \$130,000 per region to issue Source Reduction Assistance (SRA) awards in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 to support pollution prevention (P2)/source reduction projects in FY 2012.

**[Request for proposals: EPA Region 10 Strategic Agricultural Initiative \(SAI\) Grant Program.](#)**

Project activities should support the adoption of reduced risk pest management practices, and/or ecologically based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Education, extension, demonstration, or studies in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington).

**[Job opening: Tallahassee, Florida.](#)**

The Department of Health (DOH), Public Health Medicine has an opening for an asthma prevention & control program epidemiologist. Applications are due by January 14, 2011.

**[Job opening: San Francisco, California.](#)**

The Breast Cancer Fund has a position open for a senior online marketing coordinator. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by Monday, January 24, 2011.

**[Job opening: New York, NY; Oakland, CA; Washington, DC.](#)**

Earthjustice has an immediate need for an attorney to work on litigation related to pesticides, drinking water, toxics, and other health issues.

**[Job opening: San Francisco, California.](#)**

Pesticide Action Network North America (PAN) is seeking a development director to lead the organization's fundraising program to obtain financial and other support to sustain its work. This position will remain open until filled, with the first interviews likely to begin in late January.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events, including requests for proposals and abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

**1) Childhood Lead Poisoning: The Investigation and Remediation of Mining-Contaminated Villages in Northern Nigeria**

Thursday January 13, 2011

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, room D-209

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

As part of the weekly Environmental Health Seminar, the speaker will be Sarah Weppner, MS, environmental health scientist with TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering, Inc.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-543-6991 or [ehadmin@u.washington.edu](mailto:ehadmin@u.washington.edu)

**2) IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium**

Thursday through Saturday, January 13 - 15, 2011

Washington, DC

at the Grand Hyatt

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The IAQ Tools for Schools Program is a nationwide initiative to help school officials assess, resolve, and prevent IAQ problems, and to reduce exposure to asthma triggers in school facilities. While school officials, administrators, facilities and operations personnel, teachers, school nurses, parents, and students traditionally attend, the Symposium is open to anyone with an interest in IAQ in schools.

Price: \$375

[Visit the website](#)

### **3) Partnership Call: Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Justice: A conversation with Manuel Pastor**

Tuesday January 18, 2011

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Given racial discrimination continues to be one of the strongest currents undermining the health and well-being of countless communities around the country, CHE is privileged to host a conversation with Manuel Pastor, PhD, professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, on this call. Dr. Pastor's groundbreaking research has generally focused on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion and the economic and social conditions facing low-income urban communities. He has co-authored *Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America's Future* (2010) and *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America* (2002), and authored numerous other influential publications and articles.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **4) What Healthy Communities Need from Their Transportation Networks**

Tuesday January 18, 2011

2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

Transportation decisions affect our individual lives, economy and health. All communities use highways, streets, sidewalks and trails to get to work or school, to get medical care, to access healthy foods and recreation and to participate in countless other activities every day. However, many communities are negatively impacted by transportation decisions that are detrimental to health. Through a diversity of expert speakers, this innovative, four-part webinar series explores the intersections between health and transportation, highlighting state and local programs that leverage opportunities in transportation that benefit health, and explains what the future may hold for the federal surface transportation authorization. This is the first of four webinars in a series.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Eloisa Raynault, [eloisa.raynault@apha.org](mailto:eloisa.raynault@apha.org)

### **5) 2011 US EPA Benefits of Environmental Information Disclosure Meeting**

Tuesday January 18, 2011

Crystal City, Virginia

at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE), in cooperation with the

National Center for Environmental Research, is sponsoring a workshop "Benefits of Environmental Information Disclosure." The meeting will consist of a series of presentations by researchers from EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant program, NCEE, other EPA offices, and universities on the use of information disclosure mechanisms to achieve clean air, water quality, land use, and other environmental goals. Specific papers will be on the Toxics Release Inventory, energy efficiency labels, and the interaction of enforcement and information. The meeting is open to all who are interested in and want to learn more about this research area.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: William Wheeler, 202-566-2264 or [wheeler.william@epa.gov](mailto:wheeler.william@epa.gov)

#### **6) Toxic Chemicals around Us: Texans at Risk**

Wednesday January 19, 2011

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Houston, Texas

at New Living, 6111 Kirby Drive

Sponsor: unknown

This evening will present a conversation with environmental health advocates about the hidden dangers of chemical pollution in our state. Come hear from the state's leading environmental justice leaders as well as the EPA Regional Administrator, Al Armendariz, about the health needs of vulnerable communities that are sacrificed in the interest of the petrochemical industry. This event will be broadcast live on KPFT 90.1 FM.

Price: free

Contact: 713-521-1921 or [getgreen@newliving.net](mailto:getgreen@newliving.net)

#### **7) Health and Wellness Conference 2011**

Thursday through Saturday, January 20 - 22, 2011

Berkeley, California

at the Clark Kerr Conference Center and Great Hall, University of California Berkeley

Sponsor: The International Journal of Health, Wellness and Society

The 2011 Health, Wellness and Society Conference will address a range of critically important issues and themes relating to Health, Wellness and Society. Plenary speakers include some of the leading thinkers in these areas, as well as numerous paper, colloquium and workshop presentations.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

#### **8) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series**

Thursday February 3, 2011

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for

GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. The presenters and topics will be listed on the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

### **9) New Partners for Smart Growth Conference**

Thursday through Saturday, February 3 - 5, 2011

Charlotte, North Carolina

at The Westin Charlotte Hotel

Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; HDR, Inc.; National Association of REALTORS; Smart Growth Network; US Environmental Protection Agency and others

Today, more than ever, we are faced with environmental and economic challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience as cities, regions, states and a nation. Join leaders from across the US as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate solutions to curbing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, creating a green economy, and building more livable, walkable, and healthier communities.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

### **10) Environmental Health 2011**

Sunday through Wednesday, February 6 - 9, 2011

Salvador, Brazil

Sponsor: Elsevier Science & Technology and the journal *Environmental Research*

This conference will provide an interdisciplinary platform to exchange knowledge and learn about the latest issues in environmental health. Topics include, but are not limited to, climate change and human health, early exposures, resource development, industrial ecology, systems biology, ecosystems economics, impacts of environmental policies on health, environment and health disparities and the burden of disease due to lead. The conference theme is "Resetting Our Priorities."

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

### **11) An Evening with Dr. Margaret Kripke**

Monday February 7, 2011

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

San Francisco, California

at the Fort Mason Center Conference Center, Landmark Building A

Sponsor: Breast Cancer Fund and Commonweal

Join the for a very special evening with Dr. Margaret Kripke, co-author of the groundbreaking 2010 President's Cancer Panel report, *Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now*. Dr. Kripke is a professor of immunology and executive vice president and chief academic officer of the University of Texas MD Anderson Medical Center. The report, which informs the National Cancer Program, has brought unprecedented attention to the environmental exposures that increase cancer risk. Please join us for the special opportunity to hear firsthand from Dr. Kripke about the panel's findings and recommendations. Whether you've been touched by cancer

personally or you're a researcher, health care provider or advocate for cancer prevention, this is a conversation you don't want to miss. Seats are limited. Please RSVP through the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Heather Sarantis, [heather@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:heather@healthandenvironment.org)

### **12) Combustion Particles and Global Health: Cooking, Smoking and Climate**

Tuesday or Wednesday, February 8 or 9, 2011

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles, California

at the Health Sciences Campus, Harlyne Norris Research Tower, Aresty Conference Center (February 8th) and the University Park Campus, Davidson Conference Center, Vineyard Room (February 9th)

Sponsor: Institute for Global Health with USC Energy Institute and the Wrigley Environmental Institute

Smith's research work focuses on environmental and health issues in developing countries, particularly those related to health-damaging and climate-changing air pollution, and includes ongoing field projects in India, China, Nepal and Guatemala.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Ivette Flores, 323-865-0419 or [global.health@usc.edu](mailto:global.health@usc.edu)

### **13) 3rd Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference**

Friday February 11, 2011

Portland, Oregon

Sponsor: Oregon Environmental Council

The tracks for the 2011 Northwest Environmental Health Conference are 1) Emerging Science & Research: Presentations that address new and innovative research on environmental factors affecting human health; 2) Direct Practice & Real World Applications: Presentations that describe programs that engage, directly affect, and/or are led by members within a community or procedures and protocols that nurses, doctors, and other health care professionals are taking to integrate issues of health, environment and safety into facilities and practices and 3) Policy & Future Directions: Presentations that address federal, state, county, local or organizational policies and initiatives about environmental health issues and concerns. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$60 for professionals, \$75 for professionals with continuing education credits, or \$30 for students

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [nwehc@oeconline.org](mailto:nwehc@oeconline.org)

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[New year, new rules on teen tanning in New York.](#)**

*Sunday, January 09, 2011*

A new state law intends to protect teens from indoor tanning's dangerous effects by restricting their access to tanning salons. The law, which took effect on Dec. 21, prohibits anyone age 13 or younger from using ultraviolet radiation devices, and requires parental consent for teens ages 14 to 17 who choose to tan. Glens Falls Post Star, New York.

### **[Biodiversity loss: More disease trouble for Nigeria.](#)**

*Saturday, January 08, 2011*

Experts have expressed fears that lots of new diseases are emerging in Nigeria due to deforestation, global transportation, encroaching cities, and other environmental changes. Lagos Daily Independent, Nigeria.

**[Hormone disruptors linked to genital changes and sexual preference.](#)**

*Saturday, January 08, 2011*

From the carpets in our living rooms to the liners of our canned goods we're exposed to manmade chemicals every day. They eventually make their way from our farms, households or industry into the environment -- and into our bodies. And they may be affecting our reproductive health -- indeed, even our sexual preferences. Living On Earth.

**[Deadly medicine.](#)**

*Friday, January 07, 2011*

The authors investigate the globalization of the pharmaceutical industry, and the U.S. Government's failure to rein in a lethal profit machine. Vanity Fair.

**[EPA and HHS announce new scientific assessments and actions on fluoride.](#)**

*Friday, January 07, 2011*

HHS is proposing that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water can be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay, and EPA is initiating review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water.

[See a related article: [Fluoridation around the world](#)]

**[Pollutants' passage from mother to child.](#)**

*Thursday, January 06, 2011*

An international team of researchers has for the first time quantified how effectively mothers pass 87 common environmental contaminants to their children. Chemical & Engineering News.

**[New Year's resolution: Exercise to prevent colon cancer.](#)**

*Thursday, January 06, 2011*

Researchers have found that consistent exercise is associated with a lower risk of colon cancer death. Environmental News Network.

[See other articles about cancer: [Mesothelioma cases likely are significantly underreported worldwide](#) and [Oestrogen 'may fuel oral cancer' in young women](#)]

**[State approves coal ash landfill in South Baltimore.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 05, 2011*

State environmental officials approved new coal-ash landfill in southeast Baltimore Tuesday, saying "state-of-the-art" pollution controls there should allay nearby residents' fears that the power plant waste will blow into their neighborhoods and leak into the Patapsco River. Baltimore Sun, Maryland.

**[Review emphasizes potential dangers of e-waste.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 05, 2011*

A new NIEHS-funded analysis is sending a wake-up call on the emerging health concerns posed by electronic waste (e-waste) disposal practices worldwide that have resulted in what the researchers described as "an unprecedented mixture of exposure to heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants." NIEHS Environmental Factor.

[See related articles: [In 27 states, don't call your old computer 'trash'](#) and [Where computers go to die](#)]

**[Study proposes new paradigm for the field of environmental toxicology.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 05, 2011*

A new NIEHS-funded paper offers insight into how organic pollutants impact the delivery of therapeutic drugs to the central nervous system (CNS). NIEHS Environmental Factor.

**[Polybrominated diphenyl ethers in relation to autism and developmental delay: A case-control study.](#)**

*Wednesday, January 05, 2011*



Children with autism/autism spectrum disorder and developmental delay were similar to typically developing controls for all PBDE congeners, but levels were high for all three groups.

[See other articles related to autism: [Guest lecture underscores environmental links to autism](#) and [Study: Spacing babies close may raise autism risk](#)]

### **EPA requires testing of 19 widely used chemicals.**

Wednesday, January 05, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requiring manufacturers of 19 high production volume (HPV) chemicals to test the health and environmental effects of the chemicals and submit the data to the agency.

[See a related article: [A new way to assess chemicals](#)]

### **Asthma problems rise in Mid-Valley.**

Tuesday, January 04, 2011

In a region with many of the conditions for a high asthma rate, a greater share of Mid-Valley residents have trouble catching their breath. Marysville-Yuba City Appeal-Democrat, California.

[See other articles about asthma: [Giving antibiotics to babies could increase asthma risk](#) and [Housing laws are breath of fresh air for city's children at risk for asthma](#)]

### **State proposes tougher standards for chemical in drinking water.**

Tuesday, January 04, 2011

California environmental health officials are proposing a tough new goal for hexavalent chromium in drinking water, citing new concerns about the toxic chemical's effect on children. Riverside Press-Enterprise, California.

[See a related article: [Closer look at new public health goal for chromium 6 in drinking water](#) and other articles about water contamination: [Pa. allows dumping of tainted waters from gas boom](#); [EPA approves Klamath River salmon plan](#); [New nonprofit offering help with tests that may link contaminated water to hydraulic fracking](#); [A love hate relationship with chlorine](#); [Oregon poised to adopt the strictest standard for toxic water pollution in the U.S.](#) and [Lower public health goal for perchlorates proposed](#)]

### **Radiation exposure from imaging common in kids.**

Tuesday, January 04, 2011

Children and teens often get diagnostic tests that expose them to radiation, increasing the risk of cancer later in life, U.S. researchers say. The study is among the first to look at radiation exposure among children and teenagers, who have the biggest long-term cancer risk from early and repeated exposure to radiation. Reuters.

[See other articles about radiation: [Its official now: Radiation from your cell phone may be killing you](#); [Botched precision radiation therapy exposes patients to unexpected dangers](#); [Patients underestimate CT scan radiation, risks](#) and [Health concerns over 'smart' electric meters gain traction in Calif.](#)]

### **Violations of no-burn rules continue.**

Tuesday, January 04, 2011

The Valley's chilly weather may seem like the perfect time to huddle around the fireplace, but that is exactly what worries Maricopa County air-quality officials: the health risks posed by emissions from wood-burning. Arizona Republic.

[See other articles about outdoor air quality: [Schools keep eye on pollution levels to protect their students](#); [Grant to go green](#); [Ohio air-monitoring data stirring cancer concern](#); [State prisons agree to meet federal air pollution standards](#) and [Effects of air pollution on neonatal prematurity in Guangzhou of China, a time-series study](#)]

### **Eating lots of red meat ups women's stroke risk.**

Monday, January 03, 2011

The study team found that those in the top tenth for red meat consumption, who ate at least 102 grams or 3.6 ounces daily, were 42 percent more likely to suffer a stroke due to blocked blood flow in the brain compared to women who ate less than 25 grams (just

under an ounce) of red meat daily. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about food and health: [Antioxidants tied to lower stroke risk](#); [Do synthetic food colors cause hyperactivity?](#); [Diet may mitigate toxic effects of arsenic](#); [Highlighting the role of nutrition in host susceptibility](#); [German dioxin scandal: More contamination than feared](#); [Kenya receives \\$40m to fight aflatoxin in maize](#); [Meat nutritional guidance in black and white](#) and [Franken: New food safety law will save lives](#)]

### **As cadmium limit looms, safety debate emerges.**

Monday, January 03, 2011

In October scientists at the Consumer Product Safety Commission suggested an "acceptable daily intake" of cadmium that was three times greater than what was previously considered safe. Consumer and environmental groups were not pleased. California Watch.

### **Mercury cancels brain benefits of fish oil, study confirms.**

Monday, January 03, 2011

Prenatal mercury exposure from a mother's fish-rich diet can reduce the beneficial effects fish oil has on brain development, report an international group of researchers. The babies exposed in the womb to higher methyl mercury levels scored lower on skills tests as infants and toddlers than those exposed to lower levels of the pollutant.

Environmental Health News.

[See other articles about mercury and health: [Threat of mercury poisoning rises with gold mining boom](#); [Mercury-free fillings healthy, says dentist](#); [High mercury levels in Colombia port raise concern](#); [Town sees mercury spike](#) and [Child flu vaccine contains mercury](#)]

### **Flushing out lead, metals with chelation therapy.**

Monday, January 03, 2011

Although hospitals offer the treatment, some desperate parents are turning to home-based chelation kits and over-the-counter pills, which doctors say can be more dangerous. Morning Edition, NPR.

[See other articles about metals and health: [Almost all that glitters is deadly](#); [Unlicensed battery plant blamed for lead poisoning](#); [Arsenic-laced water ups TB risk: report](#); [UN warns lead poisoning outbreak in northern Nigeria 'a neglected, underfunded emergency'](#) and [State environmental commission plans meeting to discuss lead pollution in Frisco](#)]

### **The coming health crisis.**

Saturday, January 01, 2011

Indirect effects of global climate change threaten the health of hundreds of millions of people. The very uncertainty that shrouds this issue must serve as an organizing principle for adaptation to its ill effects. The Scientist.

[See other articles about climate change and health: [Can social science combat climate change?](#); [Global warming takes its toll on rice production -- Association chief](#); [Balbus reports on US federal climate change and health initiatives](#) and [The burning question in Washington state](#)]

### **So young and so many pills.**

Saturday, January 01, 2011

More than a quarter of U.S. kids and teens are taking a medication on a chronic basis, according to Medco Health Solutions Inc., the biggest U.S. pharmacy-benefit manager with around 65 million members. Wall Street Journal.

[See another article about children's health: [Nintendo warns on 3-D for children](#)]

### **Smoking tied to miscarriage risk.**

Friday, December 31, 2010

A new study may offer women one more reason to kick the smoking habit before becoming pregnant: a potentially reduced risk of early miscarriage. Reuters.

[See other articles about smoking: [Smoking remains most common lung cancer cause](#); [Tampa Bay hospitals ring in the new year by going tobacco-free](#); [China fails pledge on indoor smoking ban](#); [Bronx's high smoking rate puts kids at risk for asthma](#); [Chinese](#)

[smokers get dire warning and FDA looks to regulate tobacco products -- but not electronic cigarettes](#)]

### [Gulf of Mexico oil spill continues to foul 168 miles of Louisiana coastline.](#)

Friday, December 31, 2010

Louisiana's coastline continues to be smeared with significant amounts of oil and material from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, with teams struggling to remove as much as possible of the toxic material by the time migratory birds arrive at the end of February. New Orleans Times-Picayune, Louisiana.

[See a related article: [Illnesses linked to BP oil disaster](#) and articles about other contaminated sites: [Minnesota gets after 3M to pay for cleanup](#); [Abandoned uranium mines: an 'overwhelming problem' in the Navajo Nation](#); [Rare earths leave toxic trail to Toyota Prius, Vestas](#); [Are we poisoning](#); [Worried homeowners want bailout from DuPont](#); [Military town residents take Ottawa to court in \\$200 million suit](#); [The warriors of Qiugang](#); [Public meeting on Kalamazoo Superfund site set for Thursday in Kalamazoo, Mich.](#); [Residents sue Defence Department, complaining cannon cleaner tainted water](#) and [Two 'cancer clusters' identified in industrial areas near Istanbul](#)]

### [EPA recommends radon testing in January.](#)

Friday, December 31, 2010

January is an especially good time to test homes and schools because windows and doors are closed tightly and people spend more time indoors.

[See other articles about indoor air quality: [Cold months bring more carbon monoxide poisonings](#) and [The Right View: Airtight houses can make you sick](#)]

### [Research links rise in Falluja birth defects and cancers to US assault.](#)

Friday, December 31, 2010

A study examining the causes of a dramatic spike in birth defects in the Iraqi city of Falluja has for the first time concluded that genetic damage could have been caused by weaponry used in US assaults that took place six years ago. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See another article about birth defects: [Likely no tie between male birth defect, chemical \[trihalomethanes\]](#)]

### [The San Antonio Statement, with Ake Bergman.](#)

Thursday, December 30, 2010

In this podcast, Åke Bergman discusses the San Antonio Statement on Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants, drafted in September 2010, in which an international group of scientists calls for greater awareness of and responsibility for this group of chemicals, including better life-cycle management. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### [State: Pesticide use dropped in 2009.](#)

Thursday, December 30, 2010

Pesticide use dropped in California in 2009 by 5 percent from a year earlier, the fourth consecutive yearly decline, state Department of Pesticide Regulation Director Mary-Ann Warmerdam says Wednesday. Central Valley Business Times, California.

[See other articles about pesticides: [Study shows pesticides in local foods way below hazardous levels](#); [Methyl iodide's use in state challenged by suit](#); [Use of toxic pesticides stirs debate on LI](#) and [Idukki faces grave health risks from pesticides](#)]

### [Obesity caused by what you breathe?](#)

Thursday, December 30, 2010

At least one study found that air pollution -- known to contribute to asthma -- also spurs both obesity and diabetes in young mice, suggesting that it may also contribute to the ubiquitous problems in humans. San Francisco Chronicle, California. [See another article about obesity: [Why are men getting so tubby?](#)]

### [Westville oil refinery will be cleaned.](#)

Thursday, December 30, 2010

After more than two decades, one of the nation's most polluted sites -- the former Cam-

Or waste oil refinery in Westville, Indiana -- will finally be completely cleaned up around 2013. From the 1950s to 1978, waste oil was stored in 11 unlined lagoons, and contaminants leached into soil and groundwater. Merrillville Post-Tribune, Indiana.

### [7 germiest places: Germs lurk on menus, lemon wedges, condiment and soap dispensers.](#)

Thursday, December 30, 2010

Just the thought of all the sneezing people who have touched the subway turnstiles, bus poles, shopping cart handles and doorknobs is to send even the sanest human into a plastic bubble. New York Daily News.

### [EPA issues national guidance to address proper maintenance, removal, and disposal of PCB-containing fluorescent lights.](#)

Thursday, December 30, 2010

The guidance, part of EPA's ongoing efforts to address potential PCB exposures in schools, is based on evidence that the older ballasts contain PCBs that can leak when the ballasts fail, leading to elevated levels of PCBs in the air of schools that should not represent an immediate threat but could pose health concerns if they persist over time.

[See articles about PCBs: [Pollutants in boys' blood tied to lower growth](#); [Link between PCBs and blood pressure broader than suspected](#) and [PCB warning issued for lake, river fish](#)]

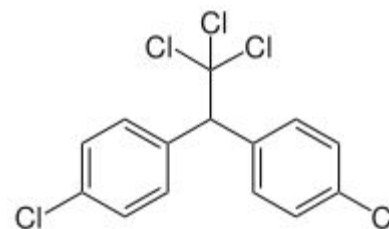
## Lessons Learned

### DDT - The Chemical Revolution Stumbles into Health and Environmental Issues

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

"We are rightly appalled by the genetic effects of radiation; how then, can we be indifferent to the same effect in chemicals we disseminate widely in our environment?"  
-From: *Silent Spring* by Rachel Louise Carson

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, or DDT, was first synthesized in 1874 by Othmar Zeidler (1859-1911), an Austrian chemist. In 1939, Swiss scientist Paul Hermann Müller (January 12, 1899 - October 12, 1965) resynthesized DDT and recognized its insecticidal properties. In 1948 he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for this discovery and the use of DDT in the control of vector diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. This organochlorine compound was both cheaper -- as low as \$0.25 per pound (in the 1940s) -- and less hazardous than lead-arsenic-based insecticides which it rapidly replaced. It was hailed as "the wonder insecticide of World War II" for its seemingly low human toxicity while being deadly to insects, particularly disease-carrying mosquitoes. It was quickly adopted by the military. DDT was promoted for a range of uses including wallpaper. It was touted as safe for all.



DDT structure

In the 1960s, 400,000 tons of DDT were applied annually worldwide, largely for agricultural use, and is credited with eradicating malaria in the southern US. DDT is a neurotoxicant that kills insects by opening a neuron's sodium ion channels, causing the neurons to fire spontaneously and leading to spasms and eventual death. Insects naturally adapted with mutations in their sodium channel gene, resulting in resistances to DDT and similar insecticides.

DDT is nearly insoluble in water but highly soluble in fats. Organochlorine insecticides, including DDT, are very persistent, biodegrade slowly, and build up in the food chain (bioaccumulate). They can also be passed to the next generation through breast milk and have long-term health effects. Often referred to as a PBT (persistent,

bioaccumulative and toxic), DDT has a disastrous effect on a variety of animals, including the thinning of eggshells in birds, especially eagles and hawks, resulting in dramatic population declines. In humans, DDT is linked with cancer, endocrine disruption, and reproductive and developmental effects.



Sweden banned DDT in 1970, and after months of hearings the US banned it in 1972 because of environmental concerns.

DDT's other distinction is its role in giving birth to the modern environmental movement. Rachel Carson dramatically highlighted the environmental health hazards of DDT in her book *Silent Spring*. This book documented that even a very effective chemical can have extremely serious hazardous properties that must be studied and considered before wide environmental distribution. DDT and its metabolites are still regularly found in women's breast milk and the fat of wildlife, even after its banning almost 40 years ago.

The story of DDT illustrates the importance of scientific research to fully understand the properties of a chemical and then taking a precautionary approach to its use. Only in this way can we have the chemicals we need while ensuring that all creatures develop in an environment in which they can reach and maintain their full potential.

DDT at Toxipedia: <http://toxipedia.org/x/JwU>

Paul Hermann Müller at Toxipedia: <http://toxipedia.org/x/Www>

### Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](mailto:Steve.Gilbert@iceh.org).

Past Lessons Learned - Looking back to go forward: <http://toxipedia.org/x/O6Jb>

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the ICEH Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)