



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin November 4, 2009

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.

ICEH Highlights

New members

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

- Emily Barrett, PhD, Rochester, New York
- Rebecca Chung, MPH, Richmond, California
- Christina Cicack, Eugene, Oregon
- Pamela Collman, PhD, Asheville, North Carolina
- Sarah Dyles, Tampa, Florida
- Shannon Felty, Phoenix, Arizona
- Gary Hanes, Boise, Idaho
- Angel Ip, MS, MPA, Seattle, Washington
- Stephen Koos, OD, Amherst, Ohio
- Joanne Perron, MD, Pebble Beach, California
- Kathy Pierson, Everett, Washington
- Alex Stadtner, MS, LEED-AP, BBEC, Petaluma, California
- Jocelyn Vivar, MPH, Commerce, California

Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

[Comments invited: Healthy People 2020.](#)

The US Department of Health and Human Services invites comments on the proposed Healthy People 2020 objectives. Comments will be accepted through December 31, 2009.

[EPA proceeds with revoking regulations allowing carbofuran pesticide residues on food.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is moving forward to implement the agency's May 2009 final rule revoking tolerances, or residue limits, for the pesticide carbofuran. EPA continues to find that dietary exposures to carbofuran from all sources combined are not safe.

[EPA requests comments on survey for stormwater rule.](#)

EPA plans to propose a rule to control stormwater from newly developed and redeveloped sites and to take final action no later than November 2012. The proposed survey will be open for public comment for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

[EPA posts new schools air toxics monitoring initiative data.](#)

The first results from ongoing air toxics monitoring at 63 schools in 22 states are now available on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website.

[EPA releases guide to help scientists understand children's exposure to pollutants.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today released a user-friendly document to help risk assessors understand how children are exposed to pollution.

[Karmanos to launch health initiative focused on environmentally-associated cancers.](#)

Karmanos will offer this program to physicians to accurately identify who is at risk for disease before symptoms become apparent. It is not unusual for people to be unaware that they have even been exposed to these toxins.

[Call for proposals: EPA Environmental Education Grants.](#)

EPA's Environmental Education Division (EED), Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education, supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. The deadline for application for a 2010 grant is December 15, 2009.

[Environmental education grants available.](#)

Proposals for Environmental Education grants to develop new programs or to improve the quality of existing programs will be accepted through December 15, 2009, from communities in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska by EPA Region 7 in Kansas City, Kansas.

[Call for proposals: Environmental influences during windows of susceptibility in breast cancer risk.](#)

NIEHS and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) solicit cooperative agreement grant applications from institutions to conduct basic laboratory or ancillary research projects involving existing populations or clinical studies focused on gene-environment interactions, as well as the molecular mechanisms engaged, during specific windows of susceptibility that have the potential of modifying a woman's lifetime risk for developing breast cancer. Letters of application are due December 30, 2009.

[Call for proposals: Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.](#)

The primary purposes of proposed projects should be to develop an understanding of environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level, and educate and empower the community. Applications are due January 8, 2010.

[Job openings: Atlanta, Georgia.](#)

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has several openings on its leadership team.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) Technical Symposium on Corrosive Imported Drywall

Thursday and Friday, November 5 - 6, 2009

Tampa, Florida

at the Mainsail Suites Hotel & Conference Center

Sponsor: Florida Department of Health, University of Florida Hinkley Center, University of South Florida Sunshine Education and Research Center

Corrosive Chinese drywall has become the focus of health concerns, failing equipment and lawsuits. But what does the research really say about this controversial product and what is being done to fix the problem? This is the first conference to bring together researchers from the primary state and federal agencies to present their findings on materials analysis, emissions testing, exposure assessment and toxicology,

remediation/repair and disposal.

Price: \$300

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 352-392-1701 conferences@dce.ufl.edu

2) Healthy People 2020 Public Meeting

Saturday November 7, 2009

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson School of Population Health

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services

This meeting will help set national public health goals and objectives for Healthy People 2020. The public meeting is open to everyone, but seating is limited. The public is invited to submit a question or comment ahead of time, via the website, about the development of Healthy People 2020. Your questions will be addressed at the public meeting. An agenda will be posted before the meeting.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 2020regional@air.org

3) APHA 137th Annual Meeting & Exposition

Saturday through Wednesday, November 7 - 11, 2009

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at the Pennsylvania Convention Center

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

The APHA Annual Meeting theme is "Water and Public Health: the 21st Century Challenge." The APHA Annual Meeting will address a wide range of public-health issues associated with water, including water-borne diseases, flood, droughts, ground water contamination, water treatment and sanitation. The APHA Public Health Nursing, Environment and Occupational Health and Safety sections are sponsoring a special session on climate Change, nursing and public health on Monday November 9th.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

4) 1 + 1 + 1 = 300: The Effect of Multiple Environmental Toxins on the Developing Brain, Bowel, and Immune System

Tuesday November 10, 2009

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Environmental Health Initiative

Cindy Schneider, MD, will present evidence to support genetic vulnerability to environmental toxins in individuals with autism. She will discuss ways in which mercury, lead, viruses and/or pesticides could lead to neurological, gastrointestinal, and immune-system damage in individuals who have inherited certain genes that affect their ability to clear these toxins and infections. Potential treatments to overcome these metabolic weaknesses will be reviewed, and the success of many popular interventions will be explained using this model.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, Laura@aaidd.org

5) Toxic Environmental Threats to Children's Development: What We Know and What We Can Do

Saturday November 14, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Boston, Massachusetts

at Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, 221 Rivermoor Street

Sponsor: the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, the Boston Institute for the Development of Infants and Parents (BIDIP) and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society

Emerging scientific evidence alerts us to the ways that environmental toxins affect children's brains, bodies and behavior. As family members and as professionals, it is critical that we understand the role that these substances play in children's development, and understand what we can do to minimize these risks. This conference will present cutting-edge research on the effects of toxins - such as lead, food additives, and endocrine disruptors found in plastics, cans and other sources - on intellectual, emotional and physical development. We will hear about practical approaches, programs and interventions that have successfully reduced exposure to these chemicals, including programs targeting families living in urban housing. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss how to apply the information learned at the conference in their own practices, communities and family lives. Speakers include Philip Landrigan, MD; David Bellinger, PhD; Bernard Weiss, PhD; Megan Sandel, MD; and Barbara Brenner, DrPH.

Price: \$135 for 6 CE credits, \$155 for 6 CME credits, or \$67.50 for 6 CE/CME credits for graduate students, unemployed or retired professionals

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: MSPP, 617-244-1682 or ce@mspp.edu

6) Oregon DEQ Toxics Reduction Opportunities Workshop

Tuesday November 17, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at The Ambridge, 1333 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Sponsor: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ will be hosting a day-long workshop on reducing toxic pollutants in Oregon's environment. Speakers will share their perspectives on toxics in the environment, and DEQ will present information about existing efforts to reduce toxics. Participants will brainstorm positive solutions for the future during focused small group sessions. This workshop will be an exciting event for those interested in what could be done in the arenas of pollution prevention, public education, incentive-based programs and cooperative efforts to reduce toxics. Please pre-register by Monday November 9th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Chris Gannon, 503-229-5622 or gannon.chris@deq.state.or.us

7) Sixth Annual Early Environmental Exposures Meeting

Thursday and Friday, November 19 - 20, 2009

Sausalito, California

at Cavallo Point

Sponsor: Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers

The Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers (BCERC) network is conducting epidemiologic and biologic studies investigating the influence of early environmental exposures on pubertal maturation and mammary-gland development and the potential of these developmental changes to alter the risk of breast cancer in later life. This scientific meeting seeks to build on the growing interaction between biologic and epidemiologic lines of research inquiry. The latest scientific findings from the BCERC and other relevant studies will be presented. Community participation and advocacy concerns will continue to be integrated into the program. Content will include the basic biology of breast development; environmental exposures that influence pubertal maturation, breast development and adult breast cancer; and public health communication of the risks associated with these exposures. Environment is defined to include diet, chemical and physical exposures, radiation and psychosocial factors. All participants must preregister and will be expected to stay for the entire duration of the meeting.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: admin@bcerc.org

8) World Congress on Disabilities Conference and Expo

Thursday and Friday, November 19 - 20, 2009
Jacksonville, Florida
at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center

Sponsor: World Congress on Disabilities

The conference will present issues facing the disability community from experts. Some presentations address nutritional and other environmental contributors to disabilities, especially autism spectrum disorders. See the full list of sessions on the website.

Price: \$150 until October 16th, \$175 from October 17th to November 15th, or \$195 after that

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: WCD, 201-722-9233 or info@wcdexpo.com

9) Healthy People 2020 Public Meeting

Friday November 20, 2009
Seattle, Washington
at Red Lion Hotel on Fifth Avenue

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services

This meeting will help set national public health goals and objectives for Healthy People 2020. The public meeting is open to everyone, but seating is limited. The public is invited to submit a question or comment ahead of time, via the website, about the development of Healthy People 2020. Your questions will be addressed at the public meeting. An agenda will be posted before the meeting.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 2020regional@air.org

10) New Habits of Mind for New Solutions

Friday November 20, 2009
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Seattle, Washington
at NWETC Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This eight-hour class is about systems thinking, systems in the natural world, and ways to increase our ability to address complex problems. Our class will give you the competence and confidence to start using systems thinking in your organizations and communities to better understand complex problems - whether you find them in the natural environment or in social systems. Participants will learn what makes a system a system, and why systems thinking is so useful and so necessary in our world. We'll share our understanding of the ways and habits of systems thinking, as well as how to apply these habits. We'll learn about some systems thinking tools, such as causal loops and behavior over time graphs, and how to identify feedback loops. We'll use the "iceberg model" to deepen our understanding of leverage points for change. At the end, we'll put it all together - applications and practice. Learning will occur through hands-on activities such as small group conversations, large group dialogue, individual reflection, system thinking games, viewing personal stories through a new lens, and the collaborative exploration of complex problems. Both instructors' intense interest in the natural world has been enriched through the study and application of systems thinking.

Price: \$195, \$155 reduced tuition for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

11) Making Healthy Babies, Raising Healthy Children: Living Well in a Toxic World

Saturday November 21, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Berkeley, California

at the UC Berkeley Art Museum Theatre, 2625 Durant Avenue

Sponsor: Sage Femme, Ryder Foundation, Midwifery Today, Autism Recovery Consortium

The 2009 CIA World Factbook ranks the USA 45th among nations for infant mortality -- the worst among all industrialized countries. The autism rate in our country is now 1 in 100. How can we understand and take appropriate steps to ensure healthy mothers, births and children? Take a unique look at the entire system that affects our future generations. This symposium brings together scientists, doctors, researchers and professionals for a compelling conversation about environmental influences around birth and childhood. It features plenary speakers, panels, audience questions and film clips. Revolutionary new software will also be introduced that will help parents assess the risks our children may encounter from the environment before birth, at birth and during childhood. Our three-part program will make clearer to attendees what they should know about environmental health, their world, and how it affects them and their children.

Price: \$60 until October 31st, \$75 after that; a student discount is available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Links between city walkability and air pollution exposure revealed.](#)

Tuesday, November 03, 2009

A new study compares neighborhoods' walkability (degree of ease for walking) with local levels of air pollution and finds that some neighborhoods might be good for walking, but have poor air quality. ScienceDaily.

[Certain antibiotics may up birth defect risk.](#)

Tuesday, November 03, 2009

Some of the antibiotics used to treat urinary tract infections during pregnancy may

increase the risk of several birth defects if a woman uses them early in pregnancy, a new study in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine shows. Reuters Health. [See a story about a beneficial effect during pregnancy: [Veggies in pregnancy lowers child's diabetes risk](#)]

[Smoking while pregnant linked to behavioural problems in children.](#)

Tuesday, November 03, 2009

Smoking during pregnancy significantly increases the risk of having a child with behavioural problems, according to research published today. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See related articles: [Smoking parents 'risk children's health'](#) and [Great American Smokeout can help pets, too](#)]

[Soy foods: eating too much of a good thing might be bad, scientists say.](#)

Tuesday, November 03, 2009

Americans consume over \$4 billion of soy foods each year because of their many health benefits. But new studies suggest that eating large amounts of soy's estrogen-mimicking compounds might reduce fertility in women, trigger early puberty and disrupt development of fetuses and children. Environmental Health News.

[Applying research to public health questions: Timing and the environmentally relevant dose.](#)

Tuesday, November 03, 2009

There are several recent examples of how research supported by the NIEHS is leading to paradigm shifts in understanding how environmental toxicants -- even at very low-level exposures -- can have significant consequences, including dysfunction and disease. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Built to heal.](#)

Monday, November 02, 2009

Community groups, city officials and project developers are pioneering the use of Health Impact Assessment as a way to calculate the health effects of land-use decisions, with the goal of promoting health and mitigating negative impacts. Sustainable Industries.

[UN says £23.7 billion would stem child pneumonia deaths.](#)

Monday, November 02, 2009

Pneumonia kills more young children than any other disease, but an investment of \$39 billion (23.7 billion pounds), or just \$12.9 per child, could save 5.3 million lives in developing countries by 2015, the U.N. said Monday. Reuters.

[Climate change threatens lives of millions of children, says charity.](#)

Monday, November 02, 2009

A quarter of a million children could die next year due to the effects of climate change, Save the Children warned today. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Only five states have plans to address the health impact of climate change, new report finds](#) and an announcement about a related report: [A call to Copenhagen -- Health effects of climate change](#)]

[Toxic contaminants: The other scourge.](#)

Monday, November 02, 2009

As the world focuses on the impact of climate change, little attention is being paid to yet another environmental bane: increasing contamination of air, water and soil. Inter Press Service.

[Paint it green.](#)

Sunday, November 01, 2009

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, indoor air is three times more polluted than outdoor air. Indianapolis Star, Indiana.

[State law bans electronic waste in landfills.](#)

Sunday, November 01, 2009

A new state law banning electronics in landfills could make it easier for consumers to

recycle their old TVs, computers and DVD players, and might even save them money. Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, Wisconsin.

[Definitive answers lacking on danger of smoke.](#)

Sunday, November 01, 2009

Just how dangerous is the smoke plume rising from the burn pit in Balad, Iraq? Military studies show different results. Tacoma News Tribune, Washington.

[High fructose corn syrup linked to high blood pressure.](#)

Saturday, October 31, 2009

High fructose corn syrup is pervasive in the standard American diet and increases the risk of developing a pervasive health problem, high blood pressure, according to new research. EmaxHealth.

[EPA works quickly to regulate mercury, other toxic emissions.](#)

Saturday, October 31, 2009

A settlement agreement requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate mercury and other toxic pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants puts the agency on a very tight timeline. Charleston State Journal, West Virginia.

[See related articles: [Mercury study to be pared down](#) and [Mercury exposure, nutritional deficiencies and metabolic disruptions may affect learning in children](#)]

[C8 linked to high cholesterol in children.](#)

Saturday, October 31, 2009

Children with more of the toxic chemical C8 [also known as PFOA] in their blood are more likely to have high cholesterol, according to a new scientific study filed Friday in Wood Circuit Court. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[See a related article: [Widespread chemicals may affect cholesterol levels](#)]

[Horrendous legacy.](#)

Saturday, October 31, 2009

In the city of Bhopal, in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, hundreds of children are being born with deformities and mental health problems 25 years after the world's worst industrial accident. Melbourne Age, Australia.

[Low vitamin D tied to heart, stroke deaths.](#)

Friday, October 30, 2009

Low vitamin D levels in the body may be deadly, according to a new study hinting that adults with lower, versus higher, blood levels of vitamin D may be more likely to die from heart disease or stroke.

[See related articles: [Low vitamin D again linked to higher mortality](#) and [Study says 1 in 5 children lack vitamin D](#)]

[California Office of Environmental Health Hazard assessment review verifies safety of synthetic turf.](#)

Friday, October 30, 2009

Representing the latest convincing data on the safety of synthetic turf, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency, released a report last week dated July 2009 which indicated there is a negligible human health risk from inhaling the air above synthetic turf. Reuters.

[Chinese drywall study: No solid link to health issues.](#)

Friday, October 30, 2009

A federal report on Chinese drywall found it contains higher concentrations of bothersome chemicals, but said these would not cause the health issues or physical degradation that have been seen. National Underwriter Property & Casualty.

[Studies find pregnant mothers' flu shots help babies.](#)

Friday, October 30, 2009

Newborns whose mothers got seasonal flu shots during pregnancy were less likely to be born premature, underweight, and in need of hospital care for respiratory illnesses, three new studies found. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[See a related article about the H1N1 flu vaccine: [Flu study reassures pregnant women, children](#)]

[Polybrominated diphenyl ethers \(PBDEs\) and hexabromocyclodecane \(HBCD\) in composite U.S. food samples](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2009

PBDEs and HBCDs currently contaminate some food purchased in U.S, although PBDE intake estimated in this study is lower than reported in our previous market basket surveys. HBCD is in food at higher levels than expected based on previously reported levels in milk and blood compared to PBDE levels, and is comparable to European levels. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[FDA plans to ban sales of raw oysters from Gulf.](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Federal officials plan to ban sales of raw oysters harvested from the Gulf of Mexico unless the shellfish are treated to destroy potentially deadly bacteria -- a requirement that opponents say could deprive diners of a delicacy cherished for generations. Associated Press.

[Global pollution-fighters find scant success.](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Twelve of the worst pollution problems in the developing world are being cleaned up, demonstrating that tens of thousands of others also could be improved, according to a report released on Wednesday. Reuters.

[U.S. government plans major study of the safety of BPA.](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2009

The National Institutes of Health will devote \$30 million to study the safety of bisphenol A, an estrogen-like chemical used in many plastics, including sippy cups and the linings of metal cans. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Study cites prevalence of BPA](#) and an opposing report: [Consumer Reports BPA study filled with factual errors](#)]

[Idling school buses spew black carbon, fine particles.](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Idling longer than one minute in a school zone is illegal in New York City, but the laws are rarely enforced. That puts children at risk when they leave school. Idling vehicles in New York City spew out as much pollution as nine million diesel trucks driving from the Bronx to Staten Island. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Shut off that school bus!](#)]

[Cancer society focuses on risks of pollution](#)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Although many carcinogens have been removed from working and living environments, many potential hazards remain, including building materials, additives or contaminants in food and water, and pollutants indoors, and out, the American Cancer Society reported in a major statement on environmental dangers. MedPage Today.

[Halloween costume makeup has lead.](#)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Some children's face paints are laced with undisclosed heavy metals that are known to be both acutely poisonous and to cause long-term health problems, ranging from skin sensitivity and brain damage. Daily Green.

[See a related article: [The scariest part of Halloween](#)]

[Coal ash poses significant risk: EPA report says.](#)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

A new EPA report says that the potentially toxic pollutants in coal ash -- from mercury to arsenic -- are of particular concern because they can concentrate in large amounts that are discharged to waterways or seep into groundwater. Nashville Tennessean, Tennessee.

[See other stories about water-pollution problems: [New concerns raised over blacktop](#)]

[sealant runoff, Portland harbor contamination poses risk to humans, environment, study shows, Toxic waste trickles toward New Mexico's water sources and Ground control: Farmers part of the problem, solution to water pollution\]](#)

[Relationship between tap water hardness, magnesium and calcium concentration and mortality due to ischemic heart disease or stroke in the Netherlands.](#)

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

No evidence for an overall significant association between tap water hardness, magnesium or calcium concentrations, and IHD- or stroke-mortality was found. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[New pesticide is no strawberry shortcake.](#)

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Leading scientists who have reviewed the proposed use of methyl iodide on strawberries have serious concerns about this chemical. Woodland Daily Democrat, California.

[Pollutants in students' blood unrelated to recent food/dust exposure.](#)

Monday, October 26, 2009

Persistent pollutants measured in the blood of college students may be the remnants of past exposures instead of current exposures through food and dust, researchers conclude in a recently published study. Environmental Health News.

[Firestorm over smokeless cigarette.](#)

Monday, October 26, 2009

Electronic cigarettes are opening a new front in the tobacco wars as state and local lawmakers try to restrict the product, which may allow users to circumvent smoking bans. USA Today.

[Carbon nanotubes can affect lung lining.](#)

Monday, October 26, 2009

Carbon nanotubes which are used in everything from sports equipment to medical applications can affect the lining of the lungs, say researchers. Indo-Asian News Service. [See a related article: [Nanotechnology: A risky frontier?](#)]

[Kids' cereals: 85% more sugar, 65% less fiber than adults'.](#)

Monday, October 26, 2009

A new study confirms what savvy consumers have long suspected: Most breakfast cereals advertised to kids are chockfull of sugar and low on fiber. USA Today.

[See a related article about another complaint about cereals for children: [Critics blast Kellogg's claim that cereals can boost immunity](#)]

[Asbestos risk in new code.](#)

Sunday, October 25, 2009

A new code that scraps the need for council approval for construction for many renovations and new homes allows asbestos to be removed from building sites without the normal safeguards, a Sydney council has warned. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[Meta-analysis of vitamin D, calcium and the prevention of breast cancer.](#)

Sunday, October 25, 2009

These results provide strong evidence that vitamin D and calcium have a chemopreventive effect against breast cancer. Breast Cancer Research and Treatment.

[See related news articles about breast cancer: [Meat, dairy and breast cancer](#), [How to prevent breast cancer: 20 risk factors](#) and [Expert: A healthy lifestyle can help prevent cancer](#)]

[Mobile phone users face new cancer alert.](#)

Sunday, October 25, 2009

The Interphone investigation has been probing whether exposure to mobile handsets is related to three types of brain tumour and a tumour of the salivary gland. Dr. Elisabeth Cardis, head of the study, said the report would include a "public health message" and she recommended the use of mobiles by children be curbed. Edinburgh Scotsman, United Kingdom.

[See an opposing interpretation: [Mobile phone cancer study inconclusive](#) and related articles: [As new evidence links mobile phones to a greater risk of tumours, could using one cost your child their life?](#) and [What do you know about towers plan?](#)]

Treaty may force farms to halt use of pesticide.

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Australian farmers may be forced to stop using a dangerous insecticide already banned in more than 60 countries. Endosulfan has been linked to breast cancer, immunosuppression and birth defects, and was recently implicated in the discovery of millions of two-headed fish larvae in a Noosa River hatchery. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

Mineral could cut cancer risk.

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Selenium is known for its cancer-combating properties, and an Australian study has shown how it could dramatically cut the incidence of bowel cancer. Researchers warned, however, that in higher doses selenium can be toxic. Australian Associated Press.

DDT exposure is associated with urogenital birth defects in newborn boys.

Friday, October 23, 2009

Women who lived in villages sprayed with DDT to reduce malaria gave birth to 33 per cent more baby boys with urogenital birth defects (UGBD) between 2004 and 2006 than women in unsprayed villages, according to research published online by the UK-based urology journal BJU.

[See a related article: [New vaccine offers hope in Africa's malaria battle](#)]

Survey and health assessment of the exposure of 2 year-olds to chemical substances in consumer products.

Friday, October 23, 2009

It can be concluded that not only is there a need to reduce exposure to anti-androgens and oestrogen-like substances from food products, indoor air and dust, but also to reduce exposure to the studied product groups, as these contribute to both indoor air and dust and to direct exposure, based on the assumptions made in this report.. Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

Pesticide exposure and suicidal ideation in rural communities in Zhejiang province, China.

Friday, October 23, 2009

A potential marker of chronic pesticide exposure was found to be associated with suicidal ideation, which supports findings from previous studies. Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

Low dose radiation 'harms heart.'

Friday, October 23, 2009

Low doses of radiation can cause cardiovascular disease, according to work carried out by mathematicians at Imperial College. But experts said it was too early to draw such conclusions without the biological research to back it up. BBC.

Six diseases you never knew you could catch.

Friday, October 23, 2009

A growing number of diseases that were thought to be down to genetics or lifestyle, like obesity and breast cancer, may turn out to have an infectious origin. New Scientist.

[See a related article: [Can you catch Alzheimer's disease?](#)]

EPA aims to widen rules on lead paint in older homes.

Friday, October 23, 2009

The Environmental Protection proposed expanding requirements on how contractors must deal with lead-based paint to more, older homes, part of a broader effort by the agency to tighten environmental protections for consumers. Wall Street Journal.

[See related articles: [Landlords decry ordinance forcing them to clean up lead paint](#), [Wisconsin enacts new rules to protect children from lead](#), [New law: No more lead in California](#) and [N.J. health officials propose tighter standards for lead poisoning](#)]

[Traffic pollution may be to blame for miscarriages, say researchers.](#)

Friday, October 23, 2009

A study of 400 women having IVF treatment found that those who became pregnant in winter, when pollution levels are particularly high, were twice as likely to miscarry in the first eight weeks as those who conceived at other times of the year. London Times, United Kingdom.

[See another article about health effects of traffic pollution: [Air pollution linked to early form of dementia](#) and articles about responses to air pollution: [Power plants face potentially costly new air-pollution rules](#), [Wilmington hauls off and hits truck expressway plan with lawsuit](#), [Houston, Harris County team up to fight pollution](#), [Burn wise for safer, healthier winter: EPA's Burn Wise campaign seeks to reduce wood smoke pollution](#), [Thousands protest trash incinerators in southern China](#), [EPA move to cut Great Lakes ship emissions stirs the waters](#) and [Deal struck on Great Lakes ship pollution](#)]

[The impact of transportation infrastructure on bicycling injuries and crashes: a review of the literature](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Evidence is beginning to accumulate that purpose-built bicycle-specific facilities reduce crashes and injuries among cyclists, providing the basis for initial transportation engineering guidelines for cyclist safety. Environmental Health.

[Environmental report gives NWI another bad mark.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Indiana industries led the nation in toxic chemical discharges in 2007 at 27.3 million pounds, according to a new report about toxic water pollution. Merrillville Post-Tribune, Indiana.

[See related articles from Pennsylvania: [Waterways burdened by pollution, report says](#), Georgia: [Savannah River fourth most polluted in nation](#), Iowa: [Group: Water pollution must be stopped](#), Ohio: [Ohio River leads nation in toxic discharge](#) and New Mexico: [Report: Morgan Lake pollution a health concern](#)]

[Dow Chemical and dioxins: Cleanup deal's outcome could affect future initiatives.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Dow Chemical is responsible for poisoning a river valley that stretches more than 50 miles into Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. Now, after three decades, the Obama administration is stepping in with a new plan intended to scour away decades of contamination. Chicago Tribune, Illinois

[See an announcement of a related event: [EPA extends comment period on proposed Dow Chemical agreement: meeting Nov. 5, 7 p.m.](#)]

[Campaign tries to stop pesticides near school.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Tests of pesticides in the air near a St. Johns County elementary school have become ammunition in a national campaign to put new controls on farmers' use of sprays. St. Augustine Record, Florida.

[Baby food recalled, may be tainted with botulism.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Plum Organics of Emeryville, Calif., is recalling some of its apple and carrot portable pouch baby food over concern that the baby food may be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum. Associated Press.

[Oil -- soil tests expose high toxic levels.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Oil tests by the Uganda Wildlife Authority have shown unacceptable levels of heavy metals in the waste water and mud cuttings left behind by the oil companies in the process of their exploration activities. Kampala New Vision, Uganda.

[Kicking formaldehyde out of bed.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

A bill backed by industry and environmental groups would set federal limits on a

potentially dangerous chemical inside your home: formaldehyde. But it could mean a small increase in furniture prices for consumers. Wall Street Journal.

[Stress impact on male fertility.](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Exposure to a combination of excess stress hormones and a chemical [dibutyl phthalate] while in the womb could affect a man's fertility in later life, a new study suggests. BBC.

[Mexican bean pots have dangerous levels of lead.](#)

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mexican bean pots with up to 30 times the level of lead permitted by federal guidelines have been pulled from the shelves of a local food chain after a health inspector found one in a Concord home and tested it in a county lab. Contra Costa Times, California.

[Are artificial sweeteners really that bad for you?](#)

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

This week marks the 40th anniversary of the Food and Drug Administration's decision to ban cyclamate, the first artificial sweetener prohibited in the U.S., and yet scientists still haven't reached a consensus about how safe (or harmful) artificial sweeteners may be. Time Magazine.

[See a related article about a natural sweetener: [Stevia is sweet -- but is it safe?](#)]

[St. Louis baby teeth yield new findings on nuclear fallout.](#)

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

A New York-based research group released new findings that suggest male tooth donors who ended up with cancer as adults had twice as much of a radioactive isotope created by nuclear fallout as healthy donors who participated in a St. Louis study. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri.

Most of the news articles above come from [Environmental Health News](#).

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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.

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Nancy Snow
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