



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin February 24, 2010

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

Biomonitoring Study Resource

In response to the release of several recent body burden/biomonitoring reports, the [Biomonitoring Reports web page](#) on the CHE website has been updated, compiling reports to give visitors easy access.

Additions to CHE's Portal to Science

CHE's [Portal to Science](#), a searchable database of books, videos, websites, databases and other resources, is updated from time to time. There are now 350 items in the Portal that can be searched by both environmental and health issues of interest to users, as well as by the intended audience of the materials.

Announcements

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

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

[Call for comments: Pesticides: Draft Guidance for Pesticide Registrants on Pesticide Drift Labeling.](#)

US Environmental Protection Agency has proposed guidance for new pesticide labeling to reduce off-target spray and dust drift in a draft Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice. The new instructions, when implemented, will improve the clarity and consistency of pesticide labels and help prevent harm from spray drift.

[EPA increases transparency of proposed regulations.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a new website giving the public additional opportunity to participate in the agency's rulemaking process. The online Rulemaking Gateway serves as a portal to EPA's priority rules, providing citizens with earlier and more concise information about agency regulations. It also allows users to search for EPA rules that relate to specific interests, including impacts on small business; children's health; environmental justice; and state, local and tribal government.

[Final rule reduces air toxics from existing stationary diesel engines.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is setting the first standards that will reduce emissions of formaldehyde, benzene, acrolein and other toxic air pollutants from certain stationary diesel engines. These pollutants are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems and environmental damage.

[Updated guide: Grow Smart, Grow Safe.](#)

The sixth edition of this guide includes environmental and health ratings of 600 pesticides, fertilizers and soil amendments, offering a comprehensive guide to lawn and garden products.

[Call for proposals: Developing Public Health Capacity and Adaptations to Reduce Human Health Effects of Climate Change.](#)

This funding opportunity award (FOA) will build the capacity of state health departments, U.S. Territories, and Native American Tribal Health agencies to address the public health consequences of climate change and its implications on human health. The deadline for letters of intent is March 22, 2010.

[Call for proposals: Environmental Health Sciences Core Center Grants.](#)

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) invites applications from qualified institutions for support of Environmental Health Sciences (EHS) Core Centers. These Centers are designed to establish innovative programs of excellence in the field of environmental health sciences by providing scientific and programmatic support for promising investigators and areas of research. Letters of intent are due March 1st.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Reducing PBDEs in the Columbia River Basin

Thursday February 25, 2010

Portland, Oregon

at the Ambridge Events Center, 1333 NE Martin Luther King Drive

Sponsor: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group

This watershed-based workshop will provide a forum to discuss strategies for reducing toxic contamination in the Columbia River Basin and involve local watershed councils, communities, agriculture, industry, tribal, federal and state governments, and nonprofit organizations. Please preregister by February 15th.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jason Braaten, 503-326-3250 or braaten.jason@epa.gov

2) Leadership In Green Health Care Course

February 27 - April 24, 2010

Sponsor: Teleosis Institute

Leadership In Green Health Care prepares health professionals to become leaders in the emerging discipline of Sustainable Medicine. Sustainable medicine recognizes the link between the environment, medicine and human health and seeks to provide better health care while protecting our limited environmental and medical resources. The Leadership in Green Health Care course reviews the most up-to-date theory and research behind sustainable medicine and introduces participants to the best practices for initiating green health care -- from greening their offices, to offering affordable and renewable medical treatments, and promoting community and environmental health. Participants collaborate online to exchange strategies and pioneer ideas for effecting change within their communities and medical practices. The online, interactive dialogue among like-minded professionals creates a supportive and inspiring learning environment. Continuing education credits are available for physicians and nurses.

Price: \$945 for nonmembers, \$695 for members of Practice Greenhealth, \$350 for students in the health-care field

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

3) Lead-Safe Remodeling and Renovation Train-the-Trainer Program

Monday and Tuesday, March 1 - 2, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

Sponsor: Alliance for Healthy Homes in partnership with NeighborWorks Training Institute

This class will help prepare organizations to become accredited trainers under EPA's new Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule. By April 2010, this rule will require virtually every contractor working in pre-1978 homes to complete an 8-hour course in lead safe work practices or face a Federal fine of up to \$37,500 a day. The Train-the-Trainer course does not certify participants to be accredited trainers under the rule, but rather gives participants background on the requirements of EPA's rule and instruction on how to most effectively deliver the new lead safe work practices course for renovators.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [NeighborWorks Training Institute](#)

4) Environmental Exposures and Women's Health

Tuesday March 2, 2010

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Bethesda, Maryland

in Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10 (Clinical Center) on the main NIH Campus

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health

This afternoon of discussion with national experts on environmental exposures and women's health will feature four presentations: 1) Early Life Environmental Exposures: Lifelong Impact on Breast Development and Function, 2) Environmental Influences on Female Fecundity and Fertility, 3) Early Exposure to Endocrine Disruptors and its Effect on Women's Health: Evidence from Two Longitudinal Studies and 4) Implications of Endocrine Disruptor Exposure on Breast Cancer. No reservations are needed to attend, the event is open to the public, and interpreters will be available. The event will be available in the [videocast archive](#) after March 9th.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dorie Hightower, 301-594-1183 or DorieH@nih.gov

5) First International Conference on Environmental Pollution, Restoration, and Management

Wednesday through Friday, March 3 - 5, 2010

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

at Hotel Equatorial

Sponsor: Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology; Department of Environmental Protection of Vietnam; Institute for Nuclear Science and Technology in Hanoi; Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University

The goal of this conference is to bring environmental scientists from the developed and developing countries together to exchange experiences and to discuss existing environmental issues. During the conference, an interactive meeting is scheduled for environmental scientists and managers to engage one another and discuss issues and solutions to environmental problems. This conference is designed to initiate and to further strengthen ongoing collaborations between environmental scientists from all over the world. Public health is one of the conference topics.

Price: \$430 for residents of developed nations, \$60 for residents of developing nations, or \$200 for students from developed countries

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Tham Hoang, hoangt@fiu.edu

6) Environmental Justice and Air Quality at the US-Mexico Border: Case Studies

Thursday March 4, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room HSB D-209

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

The speaker will be Dr. PJE Quintana, associate professor at San Diego State University.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

7) Learning Disabilities: What Parents and Child Care Professionals Need to Know

Thursday March 4, 2010

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Paterson, New Jersey

at 4Cs of Passaic County, Two Market Street, Suite 300

Sponsor: 4Cs of Passaic County

All are welcome. Child-care providers will receive two professional development credits for attending.

Price: free

Contact: Sue Richards, CCHCC Child Care Health Consultant Coordinator, 973-981-0986 or 973-684-1904 ext.270

8) Second Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference

March 5 - 6, 2010

Portland, Oregon

at Oregon Health and Sciences University

Sponsor: Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Student Nurses Association, Oregon Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Multnomah County Environmental Health Services, Health Care Without Harm and others

This conference will host leading scientists, researchers and healthcare professionals in the field of environmental health and will focus on stimulating robust dialogue regarding the impact of the environment on health and healthcare practices. March 5th will cover current basic science, new approaches to patient care, facilities management and community practice, as well as policy issues surrounding environmental health. March 6th will be comprised of workshops providing hands-on training utilizing environmental health technology and toolkits for practitioners, educators, and advocates.

Price: March 5th: \$50 or \$25 for students; CNE credits and/or parking are available for additional fees

March 6th: Workshops are \$25 or \$15 for students

[Visit the website](#)

9) 2010 NJEHA Educational Conference & Exhibition

Sunday through Tuesday, March 7 - 9, 2010

Atlantic City, New Jersey

at the Tropicana Resort and Casino

Sponsor: New Jersey Environmental Health Association

This conference will offer informative and stimulating seminars, featuring expert speakers covering a wide range of environmental and public-health topics; an introduction to a multitude of new and existing technologies, products and services; and networking opportunities with local, state and national public health professionals.

Price: see the [Registration Brochure](#)

[Visit the website](#)

10) 13th Annual Meeting & Indoor Air Expo

Sunday through Tuesday, March 7 - 9, 2010

Tampa, Florida

at the Embassy Suites Downtown & Tampa Convention Center

Sponsor: Indoor Air Quality Association

The meeting program includes sessions sponsored by the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ), the Indoor Environmental Standards Organization (IESO), and the University of Tulsa. The president of ISIAQ, Dr. Richard Shaughnessy, and the IESO Consensus Body Chairman, Dr. Robert Brandys, will both be giving presentations, as well as dozens of leaders from private industry.

Price: see the [brochure](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 301-231-8388, ext. 20

11) Poisoned For Profit: The Toxic Assault on Our Children and Why It Continues

Tuesday March 9, 2010

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

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

Alice Shabecoff's webinar presentation will begin with an overview of the epidemic of chronic childhood illnesses among American children today and what is now known about the role toxics, from man-made chemicals and heavy metals to nuclear waste, play in triggering that epidemic. She will offer a layman's understanding of a few of most recent scientific breakthroughs - gene expression, polymorphisms, and endocrine disruption - that allow us to assert that there's a cause-and-effect connection. The major part of the talk will focus on the topic of corporate America's knowing acts of repeated pollution, enabled by their network of hired scientists, lawyers, p.r. professionals and legislators. Alice hopes to engage in a give-and-take discussion of what we can all do to counteract the power of polluters. Registration is required: [open the registration page](#).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, Laura@aaidd.org

12) Human Health Risk Assessment Workshop: Practical Approaches to Estimating Risk and Developing Site-specific Cleanup Levels

Thursday and Friday, March 11 - 12, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kirkland, Washington

at the Kirkland Computer Lab, Yarrow Bay Office Park, One North Building, 10604 NE 38th Place, Suite 118

Sponsor: Northwest Environmental Training Center

Risk assessments are now being performed at almost all sites, whether part of a Risk-

Based Correction Action (RBCA) analysis, to determine remediation strategies, or for litigation support and prevention. This class is hands-on, covering each of the steps in a risk assessment. Emphasis will be placed on fate and transport modeling to estimate exposure point concentrations. RISC software will be used for classroom exercises, however the principles learned are can be applied to other risk-assessment software. Each participant will have their own computer workstation throughout the class.

Price: \$945/\$895

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NWETC, 206-762-1976

13) A Conversation with Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Monday March 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

We will hear from Birnbaum on the priorities and challenges facing the NIEHS in the coming years as well as discuss other pressing environmental health concerns.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

14) California's Toxics Information Clearinghouse: Scientific Approaches to Implementation

Monday and Tuesday, March 15 - 16, 2010

Sacramento, California

at the Cal/EPA building, 1001 I Street

Sponsor: UCLA Law and Environmental Health Sustainable Technology Policy Program, the UC Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), with primary funding from the UC Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program

The first of two workshops, this will focus on indicators for human health hazards in three sessions: 1) state of the science on identifying chemical hazards; 2) human health hazard indicators for cancer, developmental neurotoxicity and endocrine disruption; and 3) moving forward with human health hazard indicators. The second workshop will be May 12 - 13th in Berkeley.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sara Hoover of OEHHA, shoover@oehha.ca.gov

15) Annual East Tennessee Environmental Conference

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 16 - 17, 2010

Kingsport, Tennessee

at the Meadowview Marriott Conference Resort & Convention Center

Sponsor: see the [Sponsors page](#)

The conference presentations will be in four tracks: Environment, Health, Economics and Industry

Price: \$100 until February 28th or \$200 thereafter. special rates are available for students and nonprofit exhibitors

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jan.Compton@state.tn.us

16) 2010 Michael & Susan Dell Lectureship in Child Health and Social and Environmental Solutions to Obesity Conference

Wednesday March 17, 2010

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

Austin, Texas

at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, University of Texas at Austin Campus

Sponsor: Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, HEB, The University of Texas System, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, The University of Texas School Public Health, and the Texas Medical Association

Speakers will be Kelly Brownell, PhD, director of the Yale University Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity; Lew Kuller, MD, DrPH, Distinguished University Professor of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health; and Kenneth Warner, PhD, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 512-482-6163 or 512-346-6163 or Emily.B.Hines@uth.tmc.edu

17) Strengthening Environmental Justice Research and Decision Making: A Symposium on the Science of Disproportionate Environmental Health Impacts

Wednesday through Friday, March 17 - 19, 2010

Washington, DC

at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Research and National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, the Office of Environmental Justice, and the Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education

This is a science symposium on disproportionate environmental health impacts. The primary goal is to lay the foundation for developing analytical tools that federal, state and local governments can use to better quantify and characterize disproportionate environmental health impacts on minority and low-income populations that may result from their programs, policies and activities.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact web page](#)

18) 2010 Food Safety Education Conference

Tuesday through Friday, March 23 - 26, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Sponsor: USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service; USDA, Food and Nutrition Service; USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service; NSF International; US Food and Drug Administration; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; NSF/WHO Collaborating Centre for Food Safety; Partnership for Food Safety Education

Foodborne illness is a preventable and underreported disease that presents a major challenge to both general and at-risk populations. Empowering consumers worldwide with knowledge and safer food-handling behaviors is one of the best lines of defense against pathogens causing these illnesses. The intended audience for this conference includes

public-health educators, health-care providers, medical communicators, food-safety educators, cooperative-extension educators, sanitarians, consumer representatives, and health writers and journalists

Price: \$295, \$195 for nonprofit or government employees, \$95 for students

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact Us](#) web page

News and Journal Articles

[Childhood poverty can alter kids' brains.](#)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Living in poverty can shape the neurobiology of a developing child "in powerful ways", affecting children's behaviour, health and how well they do later in life, a study presented here on Sunday shows. Agence France-Presse.

[See related articles: [In sickness and in health](#) and [Study reveals poverty, poor facilities make Bronx the unhealthiest county in New York](#)]

[The true cost of tobacco.](#)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Researchers find that poor smokers' children are the victims of the habit: Their nutrition takes a hit when their parents divert precious resources to pay for tobacco. Miller-McCune.

[See related articles: [Secondhand smoke raises TB risk: study](#) and [Cigar, pipe smoking may raise lung disease risk, too](#)]

[IVF may raise risk of diabetes, hypertension and cancer in later life.](#)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

While IVF is generally considered to produce healthy babies, doctors have identified subtle genetic changes that may raise the risk of particular medical conditions in later life. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[China studies long-term impact of tainted milk.](#)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

More than one in 10 Chinese children sickened by contaminated milk showed signs of kidney damage six months afterward, researchers have found, raising concerns about the long-term effects of the country's massive food safety scandal. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [China sets up national food safety commission](#)]

[Using systematic reviews and meta-analyses to support regulatory decision-making for neurotoxicants: Lessons learned from a case study of PCBs.](#)

Monday, February 22, 2010

Our findings add support to previous calls for establishing consensus standards for the conduct, analysis and reporting of epidemiologic studies in general, and for those evaluating the effects of potential neurotoxic exposures in particular. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Law slows efforts to control chemical used by dry cleaners.](#)

Monday, February 22, 2010

For dry cleaning, nothing gets stains out like perchloroethylene. But for decades, officials at the U.S. EPA have been studying the chemical as a cancer threat. That points to an even-bigger problem - a federal law that keeps the government from protecting people from dangerous chemicals. Columbus Dispatch, Ohio.

[Toxic electronic waste poses increasing risk.](#)

Monday, February 22, 2010

Developing countries face increasing environmental and health hazards from electronic waste unless toxic materials are collected and recycled properly, according to a United Nations report released on Monday. Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Germany.

[See a related article: [UN conference to tackle growing problem of 'e-waste'](#)]

[Scientists vacuum up the data on dust.](#)

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Most public health focus has been on particulates from human sources, such as from combustion of fossil fuels, but there is increasing attention to potential health effects from dust from such sources as volcanic ash or of smoke and ash from wildfires. Associated Press.

[Diabetes helps explain obesity-birth defect link.](#)

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Studies on whether obesity raises the odds of birth anomalies such as spina bifida, cleft palate and heart defects have so far come to conflicting conclusions. One question is whether obesity, per se, is the problem -- or whether certain factors associated with obesity are at work. Reuters Health.

[Very high omega-3 intakes linked to big health benefits.](#)

Friday, February 19, 2010

High levels of the omega-3 fatty acids EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) were associated with lower levels of triglycerides, as well as higher levels of HDL cholesterol. NutraIngredients-USA.com.

[See a related article: [Omega-3, vitamins, minerals may reduce aggressive behaviour](#).]

[Years later, MTBE still a danger to water supply.](#)

Friday, February 19, 2010

The additive MTBE was supposed to help air pollution by making gasoline burn cleaner in our cars, but it fouled water supplies across the state. Years after it was banned, we are still feeling the effects. San Francisco KGO TV, California.

[The aftertaste of more milk and meat.](#)

Friday, February 19, 2010

The links between diseases, livestock and climate change are raised in the flagship annual report of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which put the spotlight on livestock. UN IRIN.

[See a related article: [Does red meat give you bowel cancer?](#)]

[Mark Leno bill would require radiation labels for cell phones.](#)

Friday, February 19, 2010

Because of emerging international health studies, Sen. Leno has introduced a bill that would require all cell phones sold in California to include information about their radiation emissions on sales boxes, instructional materials and model displays in stores. Sacramento Bee, California.

[See a related article: [Not exactly a ringing endorsement](#).]

[Use of emerging science and technologies to explore epigenetic mechanisms underlying the developmental basis for disease.](#)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

On July 30 - 31, 2009, the National Academies Standing Committee on the Use of Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions held a public workshop to further understanding of the implications of epigenetic effects on public health and of the research that would be most important for efforts to inform public health leaders about epigenetic effects of chemicals. Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions.

[The 'cancer risk' of frying steak on a gas hob.](#)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Scientists believe hotter gas flames release more harmful chemicals from oil in the cooking process and warn that chefs may be particularly at risk. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[Fed probe urged on cancer chemical in Marine water.](#)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

An environmental contractor dramatically underreported the level of a cancer-causing chemical found in tap water at Camp Lejeune, then omitted it altogether as the Marine base prepared for a federal health review, an Associated Press review has found.

Associated Press.

[See related articles: [Navy agrees to fund toxic water study at NC base](#) and [Agency says military base water tainted](#)]

Consumer agency tells industry to put safety first.

Thursday, February 18, 2010

One of the nation's top safety officials is delivering a stern warning to the makers of toys, cribs and other children's products, telling them to put safety first -- or face potential fines, lawsuits or other actions. Associated Press.

Grave impact of US banned weapons use on Iraqis.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Experts say that the use of chemical weapons during the war on Iraq will bring about serious consequences in the future, as the used bombs also contained radioactive materials that remain in the soil for decades. Doha Islam Online, Qatar.

Report compares health county-by-county.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

For the first time, a new report reveals how counties across America stack up when it comes to health. Today, whether you live in Malibu or Atlanta, you can learn if your community is holding its own in health. USA Today.

[See related articles: [Chronic health conditions increasing in children, study finds](#) and [Immigrants struggle with declining health](#)]

Study finds C8 in wide variety of foods.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Researchers have found low levels of the toxic chemical C8 [also known as perfluorooctanoic acid or PFOA] in a wide variety of foods, ranging from hamburgers and bacon to tilapia, olive oil and peanut butter, according to a new scientific paper. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

The case against plastics and BPA.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

The future of certain plastics isn't looking so bright thanks to BPA (or bisphenol-A), a chemical that seeps out of some plastic products and ends up in us. A growing number of studies is raising health concerns. Miami Herald, Florida.

[See related articles: [Bans sought for chemical BPA in baby, toddler products](#); [Assembly backs limits on BPA in baby bottles](#); [Oregon Senate shoots down ban on BPA in baby bottles, sippy cups](#); [Md. hearing held to ban BPA in baby products](#); [Flawed experimental design reveals the need for guidelines requiring appropriate positive controls in endocrine disruption research](#) and [Alternatives to BPA containers not easy for U.S. foodmakers to find](#), plus guidance from the Food and Drug Administration: [Update on bisphenol A for use in food contact applications: January 2010](#)]

Human testing at heart of debate over U.S. toxics law.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Scientific advances that have made it possible to detect the tiniest traces of chemicals in the human body and the environment are shaping efforts to modernize U.S. chemical policies and regulations. Greenwire.

[See related articles: [Vermonters surprised by chemicals found in their bodies](#) and [Study: Bay Area girls have higher chemical levels than others](#)]

Project to reduce mercury in lakes gets good reviews.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

While scientists might not know why a popular fishing spot is so polluted, they think they might have a means of dramatically reducing the danger levels. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

[See related articles: [Mackenzie River's fish contaminated with dangerous toxins: Scientists, Too much mercury in canned tuna -- or is there?](#) and [Mercury on the loose](#)]

51 pc schoolkids in metros at high risk of lead poisoning.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Sudden decline in IQ levels of children and unexplained retardation or hyperactivity

among them can now be traced to unacceptably high levels of lead in their blood-sugar levels. Chandigarh Tribune, India.

[Benzene exposure linked to sperm abnormalities that cause birth defects.](#)

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Men exposed to benzene at levels close to the U.S. permissible limit are more likely to have an abnormal number of chromosomes in their sperm, researchers report. Environmental Health News.

[Wanted: Volunteers, all pregnant.](#)

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Authorized by Congress in 2000, the National Children's Study began last January. With several hundred participants so far, it aims to enroll 100,000 pregnant women in 105 counties, then monitor their babies until they turn 21. New York Times.

[Salmonella blamed as hundreds fall ill after eating Italian sausages.](#)

Monday, February 15, 2010

Federal officials say 225 people in 44 states and the District are thought to have been sickened by salmonella in imported black pepper used in the preparation of salami and other types of Italian sausage made by a Rhode Island company. Washington Post.

[See related articles: [Why some foods are riskier today](#) and [Washington company recalling 3 soft cheeses](#)]

[Pesticide exposure, family history raise risk of prostate cancer.](#)

Monday, February 15, 2010

A study of professional pesticide applicators suggests that exposure to the insecticide coumaphos may increase their risk of prostate cancer if they had a family history of the disease. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles: [Weed killer in the crosshairs](#), [Underactive thyroid linked to pesticide exposure](#), [Experts warn that any type of pesticide can be dangerous](#), [Study: Salinas Valley house dust carries pesticides](#), [Pesticide use and cutaneous melanoma in pesticide applicators in the Agricultural Health Study](#), [Pesticides to blame for wave of Parkinson's in Israeli Arab town](#), [Researchers say toxic pesticides poisoning Indonesia's farmers](#)]

[Anger fuels water-fluoridation debate in Watsonville.](#)

Monday, February 15, 2010

Suspicion of fluoridation comes from the right and the left. Some see it as a dangerous erosion of liberty. Others believe it's an underhanded way for businesses to get rid of industrial waste. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Breast cancer fears grow around household cleaners.](#)

Monday, February 15, 2010

Doctors and environmental scientists are growing more concerned that chemicals found in many household cleaning supplies, such as floor cleaners and glass cleaners, are behind the ongoing increase in breast cancer cases in the U.S. Daily Finance.

[See related articles: [Key cancer gene 'link to poverty](#) and [Using residential history and groundwater modeling to examine drinking water exposure and breast cancer](#)]

[New safety rules for school lunches due by July.](#)

Monday, February 15, 2010

By this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will have launched its most sweeping safety reforms in a decade for the food it buys for school lunches. USA Today.

[Study finds traffic pollution can speed hardening of arteries.](#)

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Los Angeles residents living near freeways experience a hardening of the arteries that leads to heart disease and strokes at twice the rate of those who live farther away, a study has found. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See related articles: [Air pollution and mortality in the Canary Islands: a time-series analysis](#), [New Jersey restaurants cooking up pollution along with pizza and hamburgers](#), [Study delay creates alarm over school heaters](#), [Kids at schools close to busy roads breathe more pollution](#), [Pollution: the biggest killer on Britain's roads](#), [City plans](#)

[phaseout of 'dirty oil' and *Something in the air*](#)]

[Water-well worries run deep.](#)

Sunday, February 14, 2010

More than 450 private wells fall within a quarter mile of at least one of almost 400 sites in Brevard County where underground tanks or piping once leaked petroleum -- and left behind chemicals linked to increased risk of cancer and birth defects. Melbourne Florida Today, Florida.

[Electromagnetic field studies reach different conclusions.](#)

Sunday, February 14, 2010

How could respectable scientists armed with the same data on electromagnetic fields end up on opposite sides of the spectrum? The studies themselves are largely to blame. Some suggest a link between EMF and health problems, and some don't. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See a related article: [On different wavelengths over EMFs](#)]

[Controversy brews over asbestos deaths in Mexico.](#)

Saturday, February 13, 2010

The death toll from mesothelioma, a rare cancer almost always caused by asbestos exposure, is rising rapidly in Mexico, a major market for Canada's exports of the mineral, and could be as high as 500 a year. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See a related article: [Asbestos danger 'in many schools'](#)]

[Researchers warn of arsenic.](#)

Friday, February 12, 2010

About 60 percent of the state relies on water from public sources, which is tested and treated for arsenic under mandate by the federal government. The other 40 percent - as many as 250,000 private wells in New Hampshire - are unregulated and may contain unsafe levels of arsenic, a carcinogen, studies show. Concord Monitor, New Hampshire.

[Toxicologists say methyl iodide poses health risks.](#)

Friday, February 12, 2010

An independent panel of toxicologists, asked by state regulators to assess the potential risks of a controversial new soil fumigant called methyl iodide, being considered as a replacement for ozone-damaging methyl bromide, say it presents "significant health risks." Ventura County Star, California.

[Even if you're careful, drugs can end up in water.](#)

Thursday, February 11, 2010

The federal government advises throwing most unused or expired medications into the trash instead of down the drain, but they can end up in the water anyway, a study from Maine suggests. Associated Press.

[Cleaning naturally improves indoor air quality.](#)

Thursday, February 11, 2010

While commercial cleaning products present a bevy of environmental health hazards, there are plenty of natural cleaning solutions that will keep you and your family healthy and squeaky-clean. San Mateo Daily Journal, California.

[Bipartisan effort to improve air quality.](#)

Thursday, February 11, 2010

A bipartisan group of senators has introduced a bill that would sidestep the stalled climate debate on carbon emissions and reduce other harmful gases by large margins in the next few years. Scripps Howard News Service.

[Spent ammo's harm to environment is debated.](#)

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Lead in paint, gasoline and drinking water is prohibited as dangerous for health and the environment. But tons of lead from ammunition can accumulate on the ground over years. No federal law addresses lead containment at outdoor shooting ranges. Nashville Tennessean, Tennessee.

[See a related article: [New investigation launched at CAAP](#)]

Mom's anemia may raise schizophrenia risk in offspring.

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Doctors have long recommended iron supplements for the support of a healthy pregnancy, but new research adds even more weight to the sage advice: By increasing her iron intake, a pregnant woman may also decrease her baby's risk of schizophrenia later in life. Reuters Health.

[See a related article about problems associated with too much iron: [Blood pressure, "rich" blood affect baby's growth](#)]

Do PCBs at local schools pose a health risk?

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Scientific research shows that PCBs seep into the environment even when hiding undisturbed in window caulking as they were in some local schools. Bronx Riverdale Press, New York.

Perfluorinated compounds, polychlorinated biphenyl, and organochlorine pesticide contamination in composite food samples from Dallas, Texas.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Despite product bans, POPs were found in U.S. food and mixtures of these chemicals are consumed by the American public at varying levels. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Despite billions spent on cleanup, Hanford won't be clean for thousands of years.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Some radioactive contaminants at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation will threaten the Columbia River for thousands of years, a new analysis projects, despite the multi-billion dollar cleanup efforts by the federal government. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

No cause found for cluster of birth defects.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

State health officials said Tuesday that there was no evidence of a single cause for a series of birth defects in a central California farming town that is adjacent to the largest hazardous waste landfill in the West. New York Times.

Target pulls Valentine's toys over lead concerns.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Target Corp. said Tuesday it was pulling its Valentine's Day "Message Bears" from store shelves after California's attorney general raised concerns that the toys have illegal levels of lead. Associated Press.

F.D.A. to increase oversight of medical radiation.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

The F.D.A. said Tuesday that it would take steps to more stringently regulate three of the most potent forms of medical radiation, including increasingly popular CT scans, some of which deliver the radiation equivalent of 400 chest X-rays. New York Times.

[See a related article: [CT scan rules developed to cut kids' exposure to unnecessary radiation](#)]

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
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