



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin February 9, 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.

ICEH Highlights

New Members

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

- Fina Carpena-Mendez, PhD, Corvallis, Oregon
- Cara Chiaraluce, MA, Davis, California
- Louise Hallberg, RN, MSN, San Francisco, California
- Teresa McCormick, Lakewood, Washington
- Franziska Meuschel, MD, PhD, London, United Kingdom
- Asia Neupane, MA, New Haven, Connecticut
- Bindu Panikkar, Providence, Rhode Island
- Nicole Vargas, Roswell, New Mexico
- Kaylie Yin, Seattle, Washington

Announcements

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

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

[Call for abstracts: International Symposium on Health Benefits of Foods: From Emerging Science to Innovative Products.](#)

The overall objective of this event is to review and debate recent advances in substantiation of health benefits of foods, covering establishment but also the communication of innovative nutrition science. The submission deadline is Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

[Call for abstracts: 15th World Conference on Tobacco or Health.](#)

This conference, scheduled for March 21 - 24, 2011, invites all proposals related to tobacco control. The deadline is Monday February 28, 2011.

[EPA to hold five listening sessions on updating the Clean Air Act's pollution standards for power plants, refineries.](#)

Five sessions between February 4th and March 4th in Washington, DC, Atlanta and Chicago seek input to design common-sense, cost-effective greenhouse gas standards for the largest polluters. Each session has a different target audience and will be webcast and recorded for later viewing. EPA will accept comments for 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

[EPA solicits public input on using vapor intrusion threats as criteria for Superfund sites.](#)

Vapor intrusion describes the migration of volatile chemicals from contaminated

groundwater or soil into the atmosphere, and is a particular concern if vapors enter an overlying building.

[New database: Health Effects Spreadsheet and Summary.](#)

TEDX maintains a publicly available database of the potential health effects of chemicals used during natural gas operations.

[Call for proposals: Fiscal Year 2011 Pollution Prevention Grant Program.](#)

EPA Regions will award P2 grants and/or cooperative agreements to support state and tribal technical assistance programs that address the reduction or elimination of pollution by businesses across all environmental media: air, water and land. Proposals are due March 28th.

[Call for proposals: Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.](#)

The purpose of the HHLPPP is to reduce or eliminate housing-related health hazards and to promote housing that is healthy, safe, affordable, and accessible. Letters of intent are due February 28th.

[Call for proposals: Health Impact Assessment to Foster Healthy Community Design.](#)

The purpose of the program is to increase the capacity of state, tribal and local government to include health considerations in community development, transportation, housing, and land use planning decisions, and to expand the scope of health impacts considered when making decisions that impact community design. Letters of intent are due February 25, 2011.

[Call for proposals: Developing High-throughput Assays for Predictive Modeling of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity.](#)

EPA is seeking applications for research in development of high-throughput assays for use in analyzing chemicals or mixtures of chemicals to explain how exposure can be causally related to adverse, apical outcomes related to development and reproduction.

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

The EPA is now accepting grant applications through March 31, 2011, for \$1.2 million in funding to support projects designed to research, educate, empower and enable communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. The closing date is March 31st.

Job opening: Washington, DC.

The National Research Center for Women & Families, and our Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund, has an opening for a senior fellow with a graduate degree in epidemiology/public health, medicine, psychology, or a related field. The position is a 20 hours/week position for 4-6 months with modest stipend and excellent benefits. Please send a resume and cover letter to info@center4research.org.

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) Combustion Particles and Global Health: Cooking, Smoking and Climate

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles, California

at the University Park Campus, Davidson Conference Center, Vineyard Room

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

2) CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting

Thursday February 10, 2011

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Seattle, Washington

in Room 105, 130 Nickerson Street

Sponsor: CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group

The agenda includes participants sharing information on work they are doing related to children's environmental health, plus a talk by Geoffrey Crofoot, president of the Washington State Environmental Health Association, talking about WSEHA and its work.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Gail Gensler, 206-263-3082 or gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov

3) Report from the Cancun Climate Change Talks: NGOs Promote Health and Partner for Future Action

Thursday February 10, 2011

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Despite scant and discouraging media coverage of the United Nation's Climate Change talks in Cancun last December, a number of NGOs and health and medical groups can attest that COP16 was in fact good for human health. Movement towards greater inclusion of health in global climate change decisions at the meetings in Cancun was in large part catalyzed by energetic new projects and partnerships among NGOs based in Europe, Africa and the US, and the increasing evidence of both the health impacts from climate change and the increasingly quantified health benefits of ambitious climate action. CHE is pleased to host three active leaders in that process - Dr. Pendo Maro (Health and Environment Alliance/Health Care Without Harm, Europe), Dr. Lynn Wilson (SeaTrust Institute) and Pastor Peters Omoragbon (Nurses Across the Borders) - in this teleconference call to share how the momentum from Copenhagen to Cancun is being carried forward into 2011 towards collaborative activities promoting health in the run up to COP17 in Durban, South Africa, and beyond. In particular, the speakers will focus on ways CHE partners and anyone concerned with these issues can become involved in projects that support putting health at the heart of climate negotiations and decisions.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

4) What You Need to Know to Make the Most of the New School Nutrition and Wellness Improvements

Thursday February 10, 2011

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

Sponsor: Food Research and Action Center

In this webinar, speakers will focus on the improvements the new law makes to the

school nutrition environment including the additional six cents, USDA's proposed new school meals nutrition standards, stronger competitive foods rules and wellness policies, nutrition environment report cards and farm to school resources. Speakers from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, Action for Healthy Kids, and FRAC will provide details on the key new provisions, next steps and implementation plans. There will be time for questions.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: FRAC, 202 986-2200

5) Autism NOW Webinar

Thursday February 10, 2011

2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Autism NOW, a national initiative of The Arc

The speaker will be Joyce Martin, the environmental health policy director for AAIDD. In that capacity, she interacts with Congress, federal agencies, state and local environmental and health departments, industry, nonprofit organizations and the public to change US chemical policy to protect the health of all and particularly of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer Sladen, jsladen@autismnow.org

6) 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

7) Green Science Policy Symposium: The Flame Retardant Dilemma

Friday February 11, 2011

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

Berkeley, California

at 150 University Hall, 2199 Addison Street

Sponsor: Green Science Policy Institute

The event will include presentations, a panel discussion and an author forum. The agenda is available on the website.

Price: a \$25 donation at the door covers the cost of breakfast, lunch and room charges

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

8) Advancing the Next Generation of Risk Assessment (NexGen)

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 15 - 16, 2011

Washington, DC

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

In collaboration with federal and state agencies, the US Environmental Protection Agency is beginning a process to better use molecular biology to understand risks posed by environmental exposures. This transformation is driven by several recent and important reports from the National Research Council, and volumes of new test data emerging from the Tox21 and European REACH programs. A new collaborative effort - Advancing the Next Generation of Risk Assessment (NexGen) - will make this transformation a reality over the next decade. NexGen collaborators include the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences/National Toxicology Program, National Human Genome Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and State of California's Environmental Protection Agency. To engage stakeholders in the early stages of the NexGen program, EPA is sponsoring this public conference. This conference presents an opportunity to learn about the exciting new developments in risk assessment, and to provide your comments and suggestions for stakeholder awareness and involvement. You must register online prior to the workshop. No walk-in registration is available

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 703-225-2910 or EPA_NexGen_Workshop@icfi.com

9) Active Living Research Annual Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, February 22 - 24, 2011

San Diego, California

at the Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

Sponsor: Active Living Research

The theme for the 2011 conference is Partnerships for Progress in Active Living: From Research to Action, which recognizes the importance of engaging experts from multiple disciplines to address critical public health issues, especially active living and obesity. Strong partnerships among researchers, policy-makers and community stakeholders are essential for identifying and implementing promising, sustainable solutions that are relevant to the people who are most affected. The 2011 conference will highlight successful partnerships that have evaluated or implemented policy or environmental approaches for increasing physical activity, decreasing sedentary behavior or preventing obesity, particularly among children and families.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

10) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series

Wednesday February 23, 2011

10:00 a.m. - noon 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

11) Childhood & Adolescent Obesity Conference

Monday and Tuesday, February 28 - March 1, 2011

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

at the Hotel InterContinental

Sponsor: Abu Dhabi Health Services and Ambulatory Healthcare Services in cooperation with Leeds Metropolitan University

This interactive conference will explore the need for a strategic approach to tackling childhood obesity. With the help of an internationally acclaimed line up of experts in the field of childhood obesity, we will look at the elements that are involved in designing a 'best practice' strategy.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

12) Environmental Health Science for Moms

Wednesday through Friday, March 2 - 4, 2011

Bolinas, California

at Commonweal

Sponsor: The Collaborative on Health and Environment in partnership with MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe)

The goal of this training to teach mothers about environmental health science is to give you a basic scientific understanding so that you can be more confident as an advocate for a healthier world. The training will cover the following: 1) prenatal and early-life exposures to toxic chemicals, how they can increase risk for disease and health problems in the immediate and long-term and the complexity of how they relate to other risk factors (for example, nutrition, stress or genetics); 2) possible responses when there is not scientific certainty about the health impacts of chemical exposures (also referred to as the precautionary principle); and 3) practical exercises so that you can practice using your scientific understanding to speak out in various advocacy efforts. 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.

Price: free, travel scholarships may be available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Heather Sarantis, heather@healthandenvironment.org

News and Journal Articles

[Uranium plan pits prospect of jobs against health concerns.](#)

Tuesday, February 08, 2011

Some say a promise to bring hundreds of jobs to western Colorado has quite the catch. And now they're wondering if that prospect is worth potential health hazards. Grand Junction KJCT TV, Colorado.

[Exposure to pesticides in womb linked to learning disabilities.](#)

Tuesday, February 08, 2011

Babies exposed to high levels of pesticides while in the womb may suffer from learning problems, a new study suggests. USA Today.

[See other articles about pesticides: [Children's pesticide safeguards advance](#); [Pesticide levels pose threat to Thai vegetable exports](#) and [India resists efforts to ban pesticide](#)]

[Religion, vaccine laws may clash.](#)

Monday, February 07, 2011

Last summer, New Jersey quietly made it easier for parents to get a religious exemption from the immunization requirements for children entering school or day care. Now a state legislator who's also a doctor says that was a bad idea. North Jersey.com

[See another article about autism: [Testosterone in womb linked to autism risk](#)]

[New superbugs resist most powerful antibiotics.](#)

Monday, February 07, 2011

Life-threatening bacterial infections are likely to become dramatically more common over the next 10 years as antibiotics lose their remaining effectiveness against man's age-old enemy. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See another article about bacteria and illness: [Why keeping little girls squeaky clean could make them sick](#)]

[Avoiding health pitfalls of home energy-efficiency retrofits.](#)

Monday, February 07, 2011

Housing consumes 40 percent of our nation's energy use, making it a prime target for energy-efficiency measures. But even experienced and well-intentioned contractors can make mistakes in installation. This can result in health problems for occupants and installers alike. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Obesity epidemic risks heart disease "tsunami"](#)

Friday, February 04, 2011

Being overweight or obese raises the risk of heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and arthritis. Hypertension, another key risk factor for heart disease, is the world's biggest killer. Reuters.

[See related articles about weight, exercise and health: [Moderate aerobic exercise in older adults shown to improve memory](#); ['Fat cancers' also hitting developing nations](#); [Study: Global obesity rates double since 1980](#); [Low dose organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls predict obesity, dyslipidemia, and insulin resistance among people free of diabetes](#) and [Bottle-fed babies at risk for early obesity](#)]

[Natural gas: It's not easy being green.](#)

Wednesday, February 02, 2011

With increased scrutiny from regulators, more communities' being directly exposed to natural gas exploration, and questions arising about the fuel's global climate benefits, a more variegated view of natural gas is emerging. New York Times.

[Are plastics without estrogenic-active compounds possible?](#)

Wednesday, February 02, 2011

According to research performed by George Bittner, PhD, and his colleagues at CertiChem and PlastiPure, almost all commercially-available plastic products, including those sold as BPA-free, leach chemicals that exhibit detectable estrogenic activity. Environmental Factor.

[See another article about BPA: [A better understanding of BPA metabolism, with Frederick vom Saal](#)]

[UC Riverside: 'We are guinea pigs,' professor says.](#)

Tuesday, February 01, 2011

In his new book, Carl Cranor details the toxic chemicals people are exposed to daily from plastics, fabrics, cosmetics and other products. He advocates testing that would ensure the chemicals are safe before they can be used in such items. Riverside Press-Enterprise, California.

[See other articles about chemical exposures and regulation: [Legislation proposed for federal regulation of perchlorate, chromium 6](#); [New Mass. push to reduce toxic chemicals in everyday products](#); [Use of poisonous asbestos finally banned in Turkey](#); [EPA to develop regulation for perchlorate and toxic chemicals in drinking water](#) and [EPA plan to limit rocket chemical fuels debate](#)]

10 American cities with the worst drinking water.

Tuesday, February 01, 2011

Unknown to most Americans, a surprising number of U.S. cities have drinking water with unhealthy levels of chemicals and contaminants. Daily Finance.

[See other articles about water quality: [Fluoridation of water back in the spotlight](#); [Tests find safe chromium levels in Oahu drinking water](#); [State can seek more from gas suppliers](#); [Va. to study chemicals in James](#); [New report ties coal ash to hexavalent chromium](#); [Dems report that oil, gas drillers pumped diesel into the ground](#); [Drilling industry says diesel use was legal](#); [Water-treatment method can create pollution problem](#) and [Fluoride debate rages over decades](#)]

New electricity meters stir fears.

Monday, January 31, 2011

Pacific Gas and Electric's campaign to introduce wireless smart meters in Northern California is facing fierce opposition from an eclectic mix of Tea Party conservatives and left-leaning individualists who say the meters threaten their liberties and their health. New York Times.

[See another article about wireless technologies: [International scientists recommend global governments adopt new exposure guidelines for electromagnetic radiation -- pointing to biological hazards and risks to the genetic code from unchecked proliferation of wireless technologies](#) and another article about radiation: [Risk of cancer increases with exposure to low-dose radiation from cardiac imaging, study finds](#)]

Chromosomes, upbringing or both?

Sunday, January 30, 2011

A seminar on factors that influence the brain, from heredity and environment to creativity, parenting and medications held recently at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center featured a lively debate on whether certain neurological diseases result from Nurture (environment) or Nature (genes). Jerusalem Post, Israel.

In China, the true cost of Britain's clean, green wind power experiment: Pollution on a disastrous scale

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Pollution on a disastrous scale. On the outskirts of one of China's most polluted cities, an old farmer stares despairingly out across an immense lake of bubbling toxic waste covered in black dust, dumped by rare earth processing plants. He remembers it as fields of wheat and corn. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [The Vietnam War ended but a silent threat from Agent Orange remained: Unfinished Business](#); [Mired in bureaucracy, questionable soil](#); [Markey Park closed because of lead concerns](#); ['Bhopali' documentary probes 1984 industrial disaster](#); [Gowanus Canal crime: Study finds 'cocktail of contaminants'](#) and [BP oil spill's health effects will be felt for generations, scientist warns](#)]

CDC executive recruited to study health effects of climate change.

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Michael McGeehin, former director of environmental hazards and health effects at the CDC, will now work at RTI on public health issues, such as how people are affected by flooding, drought, higher readings of ground-level ozone and food and water-borne diseases. Medcity News.

[EU presses UK over London air pollution.](#)

Friday, January 28, 2011

The UK government has just weeks to convince EU officials that it will meet European clean air standards in London, if it is to avoid a court case. BBC.

[See other articles about air quality: [Arizona pulls Maricopa County dust plan to avoid U.S. penalties](#); [BLM study reveals high levels of arsenic in dust at Nellis Dunes](#); [EPA proposes to retain national air quality standards for carbon monoxide](#); [Air pollution in capital at harmful levels](#); [Benzene poses a major threat](#); [New legislation to restrict efforts to reduce air pollutants harms public health, increases health care costs](#); [Environmental report urges tougher power plant emission rules](#); [Oregon's Aprovecho Research Center builds stoves to help the environment, health and humanity](#); [Road traffic tied to poverty-stricken kids' asthma](#); [Louisville reaches clean-air milestone](#); [Study: ozone smog pollution expanding](#); [Living with 100 yards of petrol stations 'damages your health', study claims](#) and [China's Olympic pollution cuts could reduce cancer](#)]

[Activist returns to community to battle pollution.](#)

Friday, January 28, 2011

After graduating from a prestigious university, a young Hispanic woman decided to return to her community in East Los Angeles to start a campaign against pollution blamed for an increase in local cancer and asthma cases. EFE.

[See a related article: [From science to action in environmental justice](#)]

[Antioxidants fall from grace.](#)

Thursday, January 27, 2011

Antioxidants in supplement form may not do any good. In fact, they may actually be causing harm. Newsweek.

[See other articles about nutrients: [Eating poorly can make you blue: trans-fats increase risk of depression, while olive oil helps avoid risk](#); [Discovery of a biochemical basis for broccoli's cancer-fighting ability](#); [Vitamin D deficiency alters lung growth and decreases lung function](#); [Deficiency of dietary omega-3 may explain depressive behaviors](#); [Avoid excess of folic acid, researchers say](#); [Early cow's milk consumption may cut breast-cancer risk](#); [Vegans' elevated heart risk requires omega-3s and B12, study suggests](#); [Children are at risk of getting rickets, says doctor](#); [Poor diets may lower children's IQ](#) and [Sun exposure, vitamin D may lower risk of multiple sclerosis](#)]

[Childhood leukemia, brain cancer on the rise.](#)

Thursday, January 27, 2011

Childhood leukemia and brain cancer are on the rise, and exposure to chemicals in our environment such as chlorinated solvents and the head lice treatment lindane may be partially to blame, according to experts speaking at a conference call sponsored by Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families. WebMD.

[See other articles about cancer: [Starting HRT early raises breast cancer risk: study](#); [FDA advises women with breast implants](#); [Every smoke brings cancer closer: campaign](#); [Ganga water link to gall bladder cancer?](#); [Specific jobs tied to excessive lung cancer deaths in U.S. women](#) and [Breast cancer risk is rising, study shows](#)]

[New report: Dirty Energy's Assault on Our Health: Mercury.](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Dirty Energy's Assault on our Health is a series of reports examining the numerous threats that power plants pose to our environment and our health. Each segment in the series focuses on a different pollutant emitted by power plants.

[See related articles: [TCEQ poised to OK Corpus energy plant today](#); [Environmental report urges tougher power plant emission rules](#); [Report on environment critical of power plants](#); [W.Va. among worst for mercury pollution](#); [Study: Kentucky 6th-most mercury polluted state](#) and [NV Energy calls report on mercury pollution 'misleading'](#)]

[Mercury in Bay Area fish a legacy of California mining.](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mercury mining and gold recovery in the mid-1800s to late 1900s, combined with present day oil refineries, chemical manufacturing plants and wastewater treatment plants have contributed enough mercury to threaten wildlife and prompt a fish consumption advisory in the Bay Area. ScienceDaily.

[See other articles about food contamination: [Warning: Don't eat much fish from Donner Lake](#); [U-M study says dioxins more problematic in meat, eggs than in Midland, Saginaw county soil](#); [Pregnant women warned of clay risk](#); [FDA ramps up scrutiny on a new area: Cheese](#) and [Newly identified chemicals leach into food packages, pose regulatory challenge](#)]

Simultaneous exposure of non-diabetics to high levels of dioxins and mercury increases their risk of insulin resistance.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

We hypothesize that simultaneous exposure to dioxins and mercury heightens the risk of insulin resistance more than does individual exposure. Journal of Hazardous Materials.

Oregonians buy fewer cigarettes, die less from tobacco-related cancers, according to state report.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

While Oregonians buy fewer cigarettes and die less from tobacco-related cancers, the number of people smoking had a slight uptick in 2009 - though public health officials can't yet say is a trend. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

[See other articles about smoking and tobacco: [Report rips Pa.'s smoking cessation efforts](#); [Strasburg attempting to shut out tobacco](#); [War on cheap, illegal smokes losing ground, critics say](#); [New York smoking ban extended to parks and coastlines](#) and [Does the smoke ever really clear? Thirdhand smoke exposure raises new concerns](#)]

Noise from road traffic 'increases stroke risk.'

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Authors of a Danish study, published today in the European Heart Journal, said their research shows that for every 10 decibel increase in noise, the risk of stroke among adults over the age of 65 increased by more than a quarter (27 per cent). London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

Safety first as bottles banned.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Health fears over a component [BPA] used in the manufacture of babies' bottles has prompted the authorities to act. Dublin Irish Times, Ireland.

[See other articles about concerns over consumer products: [Artists worry about toxic art supplies](#); [Chinese dry wall did not kill 11 people](#); [Mothballs can kill children, experts warn](#); [Keratin hair treatments get raves from customers but raise health concerns](#) and [The toxic truth about nail salons](#)]

Smoking, obesity trim life expectancy.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Smoking, a declining habit, and obesity, a burgeoning problem, have cut three to four years off the increasing life expectancy of Americans, an international longevity comparison concludes. USA Today.

[See another article about smoking: [Trying to quit smoking? It will take you FIVE years and seven attempts](#)]

How to buy lead-safe, reusable shopping bags?

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

The Center for Environmental Health, which supports limits on disposable shopping bags, has found that about 10% of the reusable bags it has tested so far contain at least minute levels of lead. USA TODAY.

[See other articles about lead hazards: [Atlanta will get HUD grant to fight lead poisoning](#); [Porter: 'Gravy train' cuts mean more lead in our water](#) and [Exposure to lead found to be extremely dangerous for children, pregnant women](#)]

Lessons Learned

Two Edges of the Same Sword - Chemical Weapons to Pesticides

"...Determined for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of this Convention." - Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), 1993.

The chemical revolution of the past century was driven in part by humans' ongoing wars with each other and relentless drive to invent new ways to kill other people. The modern era of chemical weaponry began in the first world war, and advances in synthetic chemistry led to the development of increasingly potent compounds such as nerve agents and VX. Chemical weaponry stockpiling was an integral part of the arms race throughout the Cold War; they were used during that time by Egypt, Iraq and Iran. The Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993 outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons for all signatories. The CWC is an extension of the 1925 Geneva Protocol that aimed to outlaw the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, ignored in WWII and the Cold War.

The use of chemical compounds (as well as biological materials) dates back to biblical times. Greek historian Thucydides recorded use of arsenic smoke by the Spartans against the Athenian city of Delium during the Peloponnesian War in 425. Similar smoke was used during the Sung Dynasty by the Imperial forces in China. The use of poisons fell out of favor in the 18th and 19th century.

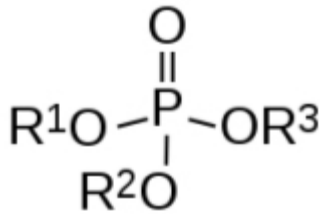


Chlorine dispersion WW1

At the beginning of World War I, the use of chemical weapons was still very much taboo, but this changed as trench warfare dragged on. The Germans employed the first successful use of chemical weapons on April 22, 1915, at Ypres Salient in Belgium: chlorine released from cylinders was carried by the wind toward enemy positions, killing an estimated 5,000 soldiers. This use spawned a technological competition between the Allies and Germans revolving around offensive and defensive (protective masks and antidotes) possibilities of chemicals.



The beginning of modern chemical warfare unequivocally begins in the German search for new pesticides in the 1920s and 1930s and the ongoing chemical revolution. With the loss of territory after World War I and Germany's desire to lessen its reliance on food importation, the German leadership emphasized the need for new insecticides to increase food production. Chemist Gerhard Schrader was tasked with finding new non-flammable, non-harmful insecticides to eliminate the threat from the boll weevil. Schrader synthesized a series of "organophosphates" which included Tabun and later the extremely lethal Sarin which became part of the military arsenal. And thus the race was on to develop and stockpile highly lethal chemical weapons that we are now spending a small fortune to destroy.



Organophosphate
formula

Pesticides and chemical weapons share a common root of development and common mechanism of action, two sides of the same sword. From bitter experience we have learned that it is prudent to ban the use of chemical weapons and similarly ban the use of the most hazardous pesticides. We now struggle to adequately regulate the pesticides we need while ensuring that workers and children develop in an environment in which they can reach and maintain their full potential.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) at Toxipedia -

<http://toxipedia.org/x/5hE>

Overview of Chemical Weapons at Toxipedia - <http://toxipedia.org/x/0ww>

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](#).

Past Lessons Learned - Looking back to go forward: <http://toxipedia.org/x/06Jb>

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

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!](#)