



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin April 7, 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

Children First Symposium October 1st

This groundbreaking one-day symposium will highlight a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care. Hosted by CHE, the Whole Child Center and the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, the symposium will feature leaders on these topics who will also describe model programs and concrete steps toward creating optimal and sustainable environments in which children can thrive and reach their full potential. Registration opens April 15th. [Visit the website](#).

New CHE Blog

CHE has launched a blog to promote dialogue on issues at the intersection of human health and environment. The current post is a letter from several CHE Partners to First Lady Michelle Obama regarding environmental contributors to obesity. Comments and discussion are welcome from all. <http://ourhealthandenvironment.wordpress.com/>

CHE on Facebook

In addition to a new blog, CHE has also created a Facebook page to be updated several times a week with CHE announcements, important new reports and news and other information that may be of interest to our Partners. We invite you to visit and join the [Facebook page](#).

New Members

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

- Hacad Boros, Meriden, Connecticut
- Tainya Clarke, MPH, MS, Miami, Florida
- Delphine du Toit, MSW, Gallo Manor, South Africa
- Russ Jaffe, MD, PhD, Ashburn, Virginia
- Daniel Keller, PhD, Dandridge, Tennessee
- Nancy Langston, PhD, Albany, Wisconsin
- Dipti Mohanty, MSc, MBA, Bhubaneswar, India
- Linda Sobek, MN, Boulder County, Colorado

Announcements

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

[Consumer representatives needed for FDA Advisory Committees: Learn more at public meeting.](#)

Do you want to voice your opinion to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on its role in protecting and promoting the public health? Do you have ties to a consumer group or community-based organization? Can you analyze scientific data?

[EPA highlights recycling opportunities during National Cell Phone Recycling Week.](#)

Cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) are made of precious metals, copper, and plastics. Recycling or reusing these devices conserves materials, prevents air and water pollution, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions that occur during manufacturing and processing.

[DOT, EPA set aggressive national standards for fuel economy and first ever greenhouse gas emission levels for passenger cars and light trucks.](#)

The rules could potentially save the average buyer of a 2016 model year car \$3,000 over the life of the vehicle and, nationally, will conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil and reduce nearly a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the lives of the vehicles covered.

[EPA issues comprehensive guidance to protect Appalachian communities from harmful environmental impacts of mountaintop mining.](#)

Using the best available science and following the law, the comprehensive guidance sets clear benchmarks for preventing significant and irreversible damage to Appalachian watersheds at risk from mining activity.

[Combination effects of chemicals.](#)

The study entitled "State of the Art Report on Mixture Toxicity" was recently completed and will provide input to the Commission work on the recommendations requested by the December Environment Council. Organizations or individuals with interest and relevant experience who would like to comment or ask questions on the report, are welcome to write by April 30, 2010.

[EPA holds additional public hearings on proposed water quality standards.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding three additional public hearings in April to receive more input from Floridians on the agency's proposed Florida water quality standards.

[EPA releases public database on risk assessments.](#)

EPA is releasing the Health and Environmental Research Online (HERO) database, a milestone in transparency. HERO provides access to the scientific studies used in making key regulatory decisions, including EPA's periodic review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six major pollutants.

[Job opening: Seattle, Washington.](#)

The Northwest Environmental Training Center is seeking workshop instructors for a variety of courses, including "Mercury Effects on Ecosystems and Human Health." This position is contracted per course with flexible dates in major cities across the country.

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

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention seeks an associate director for science with the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Applications are due April 15, 2010.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Understanding Environmental Risk Factors for Neural Tube Defects

Thursday April 8, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room T-435

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

The speaker will be Richard H. Finnell, PhD, Margaret M. Alkek Professor of Medical Genetics, Regents Professor, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, and executive director of the Texas A&M Institute for Genomic Medicine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Inaugural International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress

Sunday through Friday, April 11 - 16, 2010

Melbourne, Australia

at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Sponsor: Parks Victoria, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Australia's National Depression Initiative, Deakin University, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others listed on the website

HHPH 2010 will explore how nature significantly contributes to our wellbeing and broader societal benefits. It is expected to attract over 1000 delegates from Australia and around the world. Participants will come from many different sectors including urban planning, community development, physical and mental health, tourism, education, recreation, ecology and park management (urban and protected area). This diversity of perspectives will allow delegates to understand the benefits of nature through the eyes of many.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

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

3) Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities

Monday and Tuesday, April 12 - 13, 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii

at the Hawai'i Convention Center

Sponsor: see the [Community Partners page](#)

A topic area devoted to environmental toxins includes this description: "What is the relationship between environmental toxins and disabilities? In this topic area, we explore this question by looking at the factors and conditions that give rise to disabilities as a result of exposure to heavy metals, including depleted uranium, and chemicals, which are more pervasive today than in any time in history. Current research suggests that the effect of these toxins is related to rising occurrences of disabilities including cognitive learning impairments and other disabilities."

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 808-956-7539 or cccrocke@hawaii.edu

4) Adaptive Behavior and the School Environment

Tuesday April 13, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In *The School and Society* John Dewey writes: "From the standpoint of the child, the great waste in the school comes from his inability to utilize the experiences he gets outside the school in any complete and free way within the school itself; while on the

other hand, he is unable to apply in daily life what he is learning at school. That is the isolation of the school - its isolation from life." This isolation is even more profound for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In *Schools of To-morrow* John Dewey expands this: "[t]he child is best prepared for life as an adult by experiencing in childhood what has meaning to him as a child." The present method of identifying an appropriate placement for child with a disability within a school frequently ignores the influence that the environment has on the child and instead focuses almost exclusively on the child's disabilities independent of the environmental confounders. Brent Ibata, PhD, JD, will present on this webinar; his talk will explore those environmental influences known to impact the health, behavior and academic achievement of the child. To achieve full societal inclusion and participation for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities reasonable accommodations to the school environment must be considered as part of any placement decision. Only with safe and healthy school environments will a disabled child be able to achieve full adaptive behavior potential as an adult.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

5) Healthy Homes and You: A Community Forum

Tuesday April 13, 2010

two sessions: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

New York, New York

at Harlem School of the Arts, 645 Saint Nicholas Avenue (between W. 142nd and W. 143rd)

Sponsor: WE ACT for Environmental Justice

The afternoon session will consist of a review of forthcoming research from the NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan followed by a question and answer/moderated discussion time. Speakers will be Dr. Regina Santella, professor of Environmental Health Sciences; Dr. Matthew Perzanowski, assistant professor of Environmental Health Sciences, presenting "Exposure to mouse and cockroach allergen and how it exacerbates asthma"; Dr. Robin Whyatt, professor of Clinical Environmental Health Sciences, presenting "Endocrine disrupting substances and how they impact health outcomes of women and children"; Dr. Patrick Kinney, associate professor of Environmental Health Sciences, presenting "Air pollution and its impact on public health"; and Ms. Peggy Shepard, executive director of WE ACT, presenting "Translating science to policy." The evening forum is an opportunity to learn about environmental exposures such as indoor air pollutants, household products, personal care products, pests, cell phones, cosmetics, bedbugs, mold and lead poisoning. Dr. Linda Birnbaum, NIEHS director, will discuss efforts underway to protect human health and the environment in communities here in New York - and across the nation. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided.

Price: free

Contact: Ogonnaya Dotson-Newman, 347-465-8483 or ogonnaya@weact.org

6) EH@Home

April 14th (West Salem), April 20th (Eugene), May 5th (Oregon City) or May 19th (Portland)

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Oregon State University partnership between the Extension Service and the Environmental Health Sciences Center, funded by the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences

This educational forum is for individuals and professionals who have an interest in environmental health in the home. EH@Home will focus on common environmental health concerns found in residential settings. OSU Faculty will present the latest research findings on key environmental health issues in residential settings. Through engaging,

hands-on activities participants will be able to recognize common problems, identify risk reduction strategies, and know when to use specialists for further assistance. These workshops will focus on practical, low- and no-cost solutions to many common environmental health issues in the home. Lunch will be provided along with a Certificate of Attendance.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dave Stone, 541-737-4433 or Dave.Stone@oregonstate.edu

7) Flame Retardants: Emerging Science and Policy Considerations

Thursday April 15, 2010

noon Pacific / 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Fertility Working Group and Women's Health and Environment Initiative

Since the 1970s, flame retardants have been added to a variety of consumer products including electronics, foam furniture, and children's pajamas. These persistent pollutants are ubiquitous in the environment and accumulate in wildlife, pets, and human blood and breast milk. Animal studies indicate that flame retardants can affect neurological development, thyroid function and reproduction. How might flame retardants impact human health? Are some people disproportionately exposed? Do less toxic alternatives exist? How can the emerging research inform chemicals policy reform? On this call, we will discuss the latest science linking flame retardants to reproductive health and development, plus opportunities for reducing. Featured speakers will include Ami Zota, ScD, postdoctoral fellow with the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, University of California, San Francisco; Kim Harley, PhD, associate director for health effects at the Center for Children's Environmental Health Research, University of California, Berkeley; Julie Herbstman, PhD, ScM, postdoctoral research scientist at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health, Columbia University; and Arlene Blum, PhD, visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Varshavsky julia@healthandenvironment.org

8) Lead and Beyond: Progress in Eliminating Lead Poisoning and New Opportunities for Collaboration in New Jersey

Friday April 16, 2010

7:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Edison, New Jersey

at the Sheraton Edison Hotel, Raritan Center, 125 Raritan Center Parkway

Sponsor: New Jersey Interagency Task Force on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning and the Governor's Council on the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

The goals of the conference are to update participants about the progress being made in the fight against lead poisoning in New Jersey and to introduce participants to other environmental health hazards found in homes, schools and workplaces. These hazards include radon, heavy metals, moisture, mold, poor ventilation, pest control, fungal allergens and others. Advance registration is required. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$50

[Visit the website](#)

9) Global Health & Innovation 2010 Conference

Saturday and Sunday, April 17 - 18, 2010
New Haven, Connecticut
at Yale University

Sponsor: Unite for Sight

The conference will feature 200 speakers representing all disciplines of global health, social entrepreneurship, international development and innovation, including a session on global health and the environment.

Price: see the registration page on the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: tbryant@uniteforsight.org

10) Evaluating the Impact of Cumulative Stressors on Health

Monday April 19, 2010
10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will explore how cumulative impact science indicates that multiple factors - including social, psychosocial, economic, physical, chemical and biological determinants - may contribute to disproportionate human health or environmental impacts. The risk of many diseases may be moderated by social and environmental factors, and some populations may systematically experience higher levels of these factors. This call on cumulative impact will present an overview of cumulative risk assessment and the need to incorporate key nonchemical stressors. Featured speakers include Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, of the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley; and Jon Levy, ScD, of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

11) Women's Health & the Environment: New Science, New Solutions

Wednesday April 21, 2010
time
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Sponsor: Teresa Heinz, the Heinz Endowments and Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

The conference will feature nationally renowned environmental scientists, writers and activists who will share the newest science examining the possible link between the environment and our health. Our morning speakers will share scientific data to support the way in which toxins affect us. Afternoon speakers will share solutions that will enlighten us about lifestyle choices we can make to create a healthier environment for ourselves and our families. Space is limited.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 412-641-4059 or womensconference@heinz.org

12) Chemicals and Health: A Toxic Combination

Wednesday April 21, 2010
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

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

Charlotte Brody, director of chemicals and chemical policy for the [Blue Green Alliance](#), will discuss a recent publication of [Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families](#) entitled *The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act*. The report details the growing scientific literature linking chemical exposures to six categories of chronic conditions that impact the daily lives of millions of Americans: 1) certain types of cancer, 2) learning and developmental disabilities, 3) Alzheimer's, 4) Parkinson's disease, 5) reproductive health and fertility problems and 6) asthma. It also incorporates the results of published studies that estimate the portion of our disease burden that is attributable to chemical exposures and the potential health cost savings from improved protection from toxic chemicals. Charlotte is lead author and editor of the report. Registrations are limited and required ahead of the teleconference.

Price: free, but long-distance telephone charges will apply

[Visit the website](#)

13) Health Effects Institute 2010 Annual Conference

Sunday through Tuesday, April 25 - 27, 2010
Alexandria, Virginia
at The Westin Alexandria

Sponsor: Health Effects Institute

This conference will explore the health effects of air pollution, with sessions on new technologies and fuels, accountability research, multipollutant science and policy, critical issues in air pollution and children's respiratory health and more.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Robert Shavers, 617-488-2308 or rshavers@healtheffects.org

14) The Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference and the Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees Conference

Tuesday through Friday, April 27 - 30, 2010
New Orleans, Louisiana
at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: The Lead and Environmental Hazards Association and The National Association of Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees

The joint conference includes program tracks and technical assistance workshops dealing with lead hazard control, lead-poisoning prevention and Healthy Home program issues. Program tracks, technical assistance workshops and consultation roundtables are offered from Tuesday afternoon through Thursday afternoon to provide in-depth education and discussion. Sessions and workshops are organized under the two conferences listed on the website. Attendees are encouraged to participate in any session.

Price: \$270 with discounts for more than one attendee from the same organization

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Steve Weil, 301-924-0804 or the [contact web page](#)

15) ADHD and Environmental Toxicity

Tuesday April 28, 2010
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Thiensville, Wisconsin
at the Mequon-Thiensville Library, 11345 Cedarburg Road

Sponsor: Developmental Delay Resources

This is part of a series. The speaker will be Dr. Norman Schwartz.

Price: free, but please RSVP before the event

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-385-1655 or holisticneuro@gmail.com

16) Public Meeting: FDA Advisory Committees

Friday April 30, 2010

8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Rockville, Maryland

FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee Conference Room,
Room 1066, 5630 Fishers Lane

Sponsor: US Food and Drug Administration

The meeting is being held for individuals and groups interested in nominating or serving as consumer representatives to FDA's advisory committees and panels. Send an email message or fax to the contact person listed below no later than April 23, 2010.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Doreen Brandes, Office of the Commissioner, FDA; see the website for phone and fax numbers or Doreen.Brandes@fda.hhs.gov

17) PATH Safe Water Project

Thursday April 29, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room T-435

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

The speaker will be Kevin Flick, PhD, consumer product officer at PATH. PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

18) CHE Cafe call with Annie Leonard, author of *The Story of Stuff*

Tuesday May 4, 2010

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

In December 2007, Annie released *The Story of Stuff*, a hit 20-minute webfilm that takes viewers on a provocative and eye-opening tour of the often hidden costs of our consumer-driven culture. The film has won numerous awards, including a South by Southwest Festival award, and in 2008 Annie was named one of *Time Magazine's* Heroes of the Environment. Annie's films, writing and presentations combine solid information and first-hand investigative reporting with a profound sense of hope that we can, indeed must, find a more sustainable way to meet our material needs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

19) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Asthma

Tuesday May 4, 2010
noon - 12:45 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Lung Association in Oregon

This webinar series focuses on health outcomes of proactive indoor air quality programs and trigger strategies around the areas of asthma, radon, integrated pest management, and diesel retrofitting.

Price: free, but space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Michelle Cunha, 503-718-6159 or michelle@lungoregon.org

20) Prescription for Radon: A Medical Forum

Wednesday May 7, 2010
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport, 7901 34th Avenue South

Sponsor: American Lung Association, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, Minnesota Department of Health, US Environmental Protection Agency

The radon forum for medical professionals will serve to increase the awareness of physicians about the health risks/effects associated with prolonged radon exposure. This information will be essential in helping medical professionals address radon as a critical public health issue. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$100, includes the conference, luncheon and all materials, including a radon test kit

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Minnesota Department of Public Health, 651-201-4604

News and Journal Articles

[Study identifies hundreds of obscure -- yet persistent -- chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

A new study suggests that hundreds of chemicals used commercially could persist and bioaccumulate, yet next to nothing is known about their actions and levels in the environment. Predicting exposures and if and how chemicals may pose a health threat is incredibly difficult. Now, researchers propose a unique way to screen and identify chemicals that may need further evaluation and monitoring.

[See related articles: [Report: Cosmetic products contain high levels of toxic chemicals](#), [Coalition rallies for more oversight on chemicals](#), [The toxic timebomb: Researchers say gender-bending chemicals are rife but are they just the tip of the iceberg?](#) and [Weak rules on toxins and safety](#)]

[40 years on, reserve mercury poisonings return.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

Forty years after mercury poisoning gripped remote northwestern Ontario native reserves, the story is still unfolding. Residents who weren't even born when the province banned fishing on the Wabigoon-English River system are showing the effects of mercury poisoning. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[See related articles: [Excessive dioxin in 8 percent of European food samples](#) and [Eating fish involves health tradeoffs](#)]

[Study reports hint of phthalate threat to boys' IQs.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

You may have a hard time spelling "phthalates," but there's no avoiding them. They're in the air you breathe, water you drink and foods you eat. And this ubiquity may carry a price, particularly for young boys, emerging data suggest. Including a drop in their IQ. Science News.

[Radiation ups risk of breast cancer in young women.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

Women treated with chest radiation for cancers in childhood or adolescence are at increased risk for breast cancer at a young age, and their risk does not appear to plateau over time, according to a new study. Reuters Health.

[See related articles: [New evidence that annual mammograms may be overkill](#) and others about other risks of radiation: [Scientists say FDA ignored radiation warnings](#) and [Flying and excess radiation](#)]

[WHO to kick off '1,000 cities' drive for urban health.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

The global campaign starting on World Health Day aims to rally 1,000 cities to "open up public spaces to health", by closing off portions of streets to traffic, to encourage exercise in parks and clean up campaigns. Agence France-Presse.

[See a related article: [Richmond's new priority: Taking health seriously](#)]

[Global health warning.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

The authors of a pioneering new report say the health impacts of the changing climate are already apparent in the region and warn that "their magnitude will only increase as the century progresses." Coventry Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[Dirty air makes for wheezy kids, says study.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

Small particles from traffic and heating oil combustion may cause children younger than two to wheeze and cough, according to a new study. Reuters.

[See related articles: [States get tough on outdoor wood furnace smoke](#), [Measures across the United States target port pollution](#), [UN tightens ship fuel rules along North American coast](#), [State campaign urges schools to make idle-free zones](#), [Mexico City drastically reduced air pollutants since 1990s](#), [Porter: Will burning Durham's garbage make us sick?](#), [Air pollution deteriorates exercisers' health](#) and [Acute adverse effects of fine particulate air pollution on ventricular repolarization](#)]

[IC scholar wages impassioned fight against carcinogens.](#)

Saturday, April 03, 2010

The PERC-contaminated water Sandra Steingraber grew up drinking in her hometown of Peoria, Illinois may not have caused her cancer, but it certainly caused somebody's. Ithaca Journal, New York.

[See a related article from Illinois: [State taking steps to phase out dry cleaning chemical](#)]

[The hazards lurking at home.](#)

Saturday, April 03, 2010

With so many scary-sounding, potentially toxic compounds turning up in our household products, it's hard to know which agents are really worth worrying about. Here is a guide to some of the most commonly found toxins. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Baltimore takes a holistic approach to unhealthy housing](#), [U.S. urges homeowners to remove Chinese drywall](#), [Hitting a drywall](#) and [Health Board expecting more lead paint cases](#)]

[Vitamin D could save Germany €40 billion in health costs.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

Ensuring the German population gets adequate intakes of vitamin D could save the country about €37.5 billion in health care costs, according to a new review.

Nutraingredients.

[Cell phone use and cancer.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

Public health advocates say there's enough information linking cell phone use to cancer to warrant warning labels. Living on Earth.

[See a related article: [Cell-warning bill rejected](#)]

[Chew on this: Persistent organic pollutants may promote insulin resistance syndrome.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

The authors conclude that dietary exposure to POPs may be a risk factor for insulin resistance and associated metabolic disorders. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Brain drain? PBDEs alter development of human brain cells.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

A new laboratory study demonstrating that polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) can alter human fetal brain cells may explain at least in part the neurotoxicity recently documented in epidemiologic studies of young children exposed to PBDEs and previously shown in animal models. Environmental Health Perspectives. *[See a related article: [Polybrominated diphenyl ethers induce developmental neurotoxicity in a human in vitro model: Evidence for endocrine disruption](#)]*

[White House proposes Healthy Food Financing Initiative.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

The Obama administration announced in February a \$400 million initiative it hopes will lure retailers of healthy foods into the so-called food deserts of America. The program, proposed as part of the fiscal year 2011 budget, aims to boost public health by eliminating urban and rural food deserts within 7 years. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Toxic legacy for tribes.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

Beyond the still-intractable problems of waste disposal, security, and proliferation, does this vision of a nuclear-powered bright future account for the egregious harms wrought by the uranium extraction industry on indigenous peoples of the Western United States? High Country News.

[See a related article: [Higher birth-defect rate seen in Chernobyl area](#)]

[Skin cancer risk soars due to foreign holidays.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

The risk of skin cancer has more than quadrupled in the last 30 years as the older generations suffer the effects of the first mass holidays to sunny foreign destinations, research suggests. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[See a related article from Minnesota: [Salons seeing red over federal tanning tax](#)]

[Study links chemical exposure to breast cancer.](#)

Thursday, April 01, 2010

Exposure to certain chemicals and pollutants [synthetic fibers and petrol products] before a woman reaches her mid-30s could treble her risk of developing breast cancer after menopause, Canadian scientists said on Thursday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Could multivitamins raise breast cancer risk?](#)]

[Study here targets childhood asthma.](#)

Thursday, April 01, 2010

The dramatic rise over the past two decades of children with asthma, nearly all diagnosed before age 6, has scientists looking at possible causes in utero. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri.

[See a related article: [Breast milk 'teaches' immune system to ward off allergens in mice](#)]

[The perils of plastic.](#)

Thursday, April 01, 2010

Chemicals in plastics and other products seem harmless, but mounting evidence links

them to health problems -- and Washington lacks the power to protect us. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Hormones, plastics and paradigms; Plastic nanoparticles can move from mom to baby through placenta](#) and [Assessment of metal contaminations leaching out from recycling plastic bottles upon treatments](#)]

[What the frack? Natural gas from subterranean shale promises U.S. energy independence -- with environmental costs.](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Natural gas from subterranean shale promises U.S. energy independence -- with environmental costs. Natural gas cracked out of shale deposits may mean the U.S. has a stable supply for a century -- but at what cost to the environment and human health? Scientific American.

[Farm pesticides linked to deadly skin cancer.](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Workers who apply certain pesticides to farm fields are twice as likely to contract melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer, according to a new scientific study. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles: [Pesticides and children: Danger with every breath](#), [Residents worried about killer pesticides](#), ["Greening" conference focuses on overuse of pesticides](#) and [Harmful pesticide found in city creeks](#)]

[Silent danger at the rinks.](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Ice grooming equipment, like the Zamboni, leaves behind more than a smooth skating surface. It also creates a potentially hazardous trail of carbon monoxide and nitrous dioxide that lingers in indoor arenas. Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota.

[Mothballs deserve respect.](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The active ingredient in many, para-dichlorobenzene, can poison the liver, skin, and central nervous system -- and is a "possible human carcinogen," according to the U.S. EPA. Huh? Isn't the whole idea of using mothballs to have their vapors permeate clothing? Science News.

[Bracelets recalled from Garage stores because of lead levels.](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Two styles of bracelets that are made almost entirely of lead have been recalled from Canadian store shelves. Canwest News Service.

[See related articles: [Chinese jewelry containing toxic chemicals seized](#) and [Folk 'cure' sold locally high in lead](#)]

[VA to cover more illnesses from Agent Orange exposure.](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The federal government wants to make free medical care and disability payments automatic for veterans with certain medial conditions linked to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Boston Patriot Ledger, Massachusetts.

[See other articles related to health effects of war: [Iraqi children's growth stunted by war, says study](#) and [Toxic exposure risk low for troops in Haiti](#)]

[EPA to intensify its study of BPA.](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday that it is intensifying its look at how BPA affects the nation's wildlife and water supply and will designate the compound as a "chemical of concern." Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[See related articles: [Bad chemistry: The poison in the plastic that surrounds us](#); [Urinary circulating and tissue biomonitoring studies indicate widespread exposure to bisphenol A](#); [Gender-bender chemicals 'putting everyone at risk'](#); [Flushed away: BPA-free babies](#); [Revealed: the nasty secret in your kitchen cupboard](#) and [BPA found beached and at sea](#)]

[Maternal well-being and its association to risk of developmental problems in](#)

children at school entry.

Monday, March 29, 2010

Risk factors for developmental problems at school entry are related to maternal well being and history of abuse, which can be identified in the prenatal period or when children are preschool age. BMC Pediatrics.

[See a related article: [Multivitamins during pregnancy may boost infant health](#)]

Smokin' entrees: Charcoal grilling tops the list.

Monday, March 29, 2010

A study presented at the American Chemical Society meeting confirmed what my nose has observed: that commercial grilling can release relatively huge amounts of pollutants. Science News.

What's in the water?

Monday, March 29, 2010

Understanding chemical contamination can be confusing, particularly if you're not up to speed on acronyms like DCE, TCE or Cis. Here is a run-down on the chemicals found in 47 residential wells in Limerick and recorded in the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Pottstown Mercury, Pennsylvania.

[See related articles: [Pharmaceuticals in water -- an interdisciplinary approach to a public health challenge](#) and [Students say they have solution to removing pharmaceuticals from wastewater](#)]

Personal care products and ADHD.

Monday, March 29, 2010

There's been a rise in reports of behavioral disorders in kids over the past decade or so. Some researchers say genetics, lack of sleep, and chaotic households all contribute to things like ADHD. Now researchers say another cause could be personal care products. Environment Report.

Air, water pollution major cause of death and disease in China.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Although China has experienced unprecedented economic growth during the last 15 years, pulling hundreds of millions of its citizens out of poverty, air and water pollution still cause a significant number of deaths and diseases in the country, according to a review published in the March 27, 2010 issue of The Lancet. Health News Digest.

[See a related article: [Water causes most sickness in Vietnam](#)]

Organic: What it means on different products.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Some consumers are more than willing to pay higher prices for organically grown food and other products. But is the extra dollar worth it? The answer may depend upon personal priorities. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See a related article: [Is it really natural?](#) and another about toxics in food: [Making your family's food safer just by washing](#)]

Amid nanotech's dazzling promise, health risks grow.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Nanotechnology has long been hyped for its potential to cure diseases, ease energy problems, supercharge our computers and more. But increasing evidence shows that the engineered particles could pose a giant risk to the environment and human life. AOL News.

[See a related article: [Why nanotech hasn't \(yet\) triggered 'the yuck factor'](#)]

Is there an obesity tipping point in infancy?

Saturday, March 27, 2010

How early in life that prevention efforts need to target children is quickly becoming a central question to childhood obesity research. One intriguing notion is that there exists an obesity threshold -- or tipping point -- in infancy. Time Magazine.

Wal-Mart spurs sustainable toy animals into \$1 billion market.

Friday, March 26, 2010

Sales of green toys may balloon to \$1 billion, or as much as 5 percent of toy sales in the next five years, according to Earthsense, an environmental research firm. Bloomberg News.

[NU study: Dirt's good for kids.](#)

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Analyzing data collected from thousands of children over two decades in the Philippines, researchers have concluded that a healthy dose of germs and pathogens during infancy reduced cardiovascular inflammation in adulthood. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Arsenic poisoning to buffet GDP, inviting health risks.](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Bangladesh faces an estimated US\$ 23 billion in gross domestic product output loss over the next five decades due to health hazards arising from arsenic poisoning in groundwater, a new United Nations study warned Tuesday. Dhaka Financial Express, Bangladesh.

[Report: States struggle to tally foodborne illnesses.](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

State and local reporting of foodborne illnesses is the first line of defense against national outbreaks. Yet a study by the Center for Science in the Public Interest finds that almost half of states do a poor job of tracking outbreaks. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Health issues are at heart of raw milk debate](#)]

[Parents' smoking gives 15,000 children a year asthma, doctors warn.](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Tens of thousands of children in the UK every year get asthma, chest infections and ear problems because they are exposed to smoke from their parents' cigarettes, doctors reveal today. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See related articles: [Effects of passive smoking on the young costing NHS £23.3m a year](#), [Outdoor smoking bans](#), [Is this proof smoking lowers your IQ? Study suggests 20 a day drastically reduces mental capacity](#), ['Healthy' cigarettes deceiving smokers](#)]

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- 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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