



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin May 20, 2009

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

http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins.

New ICEH Working Group

Message from Elise Miller, MEd

After serving as Executive Director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health (ICEH) for 10 years, I became Director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) this past January. After some deep discussions and reflection, ICEH's staff and board decided that the most useful way ICEH could continue to contribute its decade of national leadership and expertise in this field would be to merge with Commonweal, CHE's fiscal sponsor, and become a CHE Working Group. ICEH, in this new iteration, will use the same acronym, but become the Initiative on Children's Environmental Health.

With an emphasis on science and precaution, CHE already focuses on the impact of environmental factors from conception through adolescence. Emerging science on environmental factors and children's health, including the fetal origin of some adult diseases and disabilities, is evident in CHE's array of white papers, consensus statements, workshops, working groups and calls. Having a specific working group focused on children, however, will augment the resources we provide you in this area and help ensure children's health is prioritized in all of our efforts to promote public health research and policy.

ICEH Resources

As a CHE working group, ICEH is pleased to launch its newly revamped website within CHE's site: http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health. On the site, you'll find ICEH's Practice Prevention columns and fact sheets, our searchable calendar of events, archives of selected presentations, and our searchable database of environmental health resources, which has been revised and expanded and is now called our [Portal to Science](#).

Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment

The Partnership, which the Institute for Children's Environmental Health coordinated for 10 years, will be subsumed under this new working group. For those of you who have been members of the Partnership and received the biweekly email bulletins, you will automatically be transferred to the listserv for CHE's Initiative on Children's Environmental Health. This will allow you to continue to receive our bulletins and other information. You can find archives of the bulletins that ICEH published for the Partnership for more than three years at http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health. If you have any questions about your listserv subscription or wish to opt out, please contact us: info@healthandenvironment.org.

I look forward to continuing our work together to ensure all children enjoy a healthy,

just and sustainable future.

With warm regards,
Elise

Upcoming Events

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

1) Film - Black Mold Exposure

in various cities around the US in April, May and June 2009
at select theaters

Sponsor: Looking Glass Entertainment Company

"Black Mold Exposure" explores the bizarre illnesses associated with exposure to toxic mold and the film participants' difficult task of regaining their health and lives in an atmosphere of political and social intolerance and disbelief.

Price: varies

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: contact@blackmoldexposuremovie.com

2) Summers of Discovery Seminar Series

several Wednesdays beginning May 27, 2009
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

at the NIEHS Main Campus/Rall Building Rodbell B, 111 T.W. Alexander Drive

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Linda Birnbaum, PhD, director of NIEHS, will present this weekly seminar titled "The Science of Toxicology: What's Out There and Why We Need Protection" to summer interns. The public is welcome.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Charle A. League, 919-541-5741

3) State of Environmental Justice in America 2009 Conference

Wednesday through Friday, May 27 - 29, 2009

Washington, DC

Sponsor: EJ Conference, Inc.

The conference seeks to continue bringing together participants from academia, business and industry, community activist groups, faith-based organizations, Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, and others to participate in dialogue on achieving equality of environmental protection. The conference will also continue to serve as an academic and legal conference to advance scholarship regarding environmental justice. A related goal of this conference is to expose law students to the myriad of complicated aspects of environmental justice.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: John Rosenthal, ejinamerica@hotmail.com

4) NIH/Office of Research in Women's Health National Conference

Wednesday through Friday, May 27 - 29, 2009

San Francisco, California

at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 5 Embarcadero Center

Sponsor: Office of Research on Women's Health/NIH/DHHS, the UCSF Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health

This is the second in a series of four public hearings and scientific workshops to update the NIH Women's Health Research Agenda for the coming decade. This conference will include input from a variety of stakeholder groups including researchers, clinicians, patients, advocacy groups, community organizations and industry. In addition, many program officers and leaders from NIH Institutes and Centers will actively participate in the event. Stakeholder commentary regarding all areas related to women's health research will be included. In addition, the conference will address specific focus areas related to women's health. All ideas and recommendations gathered during this conference will be used to formulate future ORWH and NIH funding priorities, including the development of new programs, grants and requests for applications (RFAs). The remaining two conferences will be held at Women and Infants Hospital, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, September 21-23, 2009, and Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, October 14-16, 2009. The deadline for registration and submitting testimony is May 15, 2009.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

5) 1st International Symposium on Understanding Health Benefits and Risks

Thursday and Friday, May 28 - 29, 2009

Baltimore, Maryland

at the Charles Commons Conference Center, Johns Hopkins University

Sponsor: The Center for Contaminant Transport, Fate, and Remediation, Johns Hopkins University; Springer; Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University

This two-day event will provide a forum for professionals from different disciplines to discuss a timely and increasingly important issue - the communication of health benefits and risks to patients and citizens. The primary purpose of this symposium is to open a dialogue among policymakers, physicians, journalists, nurses, the media, the pharmaceutical industry, government agencies, environmental and social scientists, attorneys and academia on how to clearly communicate health risks to the public. Continuing education credit is available for nurses and social workers.

Price: \$375

[Visit the website](#)

6) 25 Years After the Bhopal Tragedy Films

Friday May 29, 2009

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at 911 Seattle Media Arts Center, 402 9th Ave. North (South Lake Union - 9th & Harrison)

Sponsor: Tasveer, Association for India's Development - Seattle Chapter, The International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal

Two films, *Hush*, *Baby* and *Secrets and Lies*, will be followed by a question-and-answer

session as part of a double event regarding the 1984 Union Carbide gas leak tragedy in Bhopal, India. The tragedy serves as the backdrop to discuss corporate crime, environmental racism and toxic trespass.

Price: a contribution \$5 to \$10 is suggested

Contact: Nityanand Jayaraman, nity68.new@gmail.com

7) 25 Years After the Bhopal Tragedy Panel Discussion

Saturday May 30, 2009

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington, Communications 120, Stevens Way E

Sponsor: South Asia Center of University of Washington, Association for India's Development, Washington Toxics Coalition, Tasveer, WashPIRG (Student UW), WashPIRG, SEED (UW), South Asia Students Association (UW), Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Amnesty International, Collaborative on Health and Environment - Washington, Commonweal-Northwest

This is the second part of a double event regarding the 1984 Union Carbide gas leak tragedy in Bhopal, India. The tragedy serves as the backdrop to discuss corporate crime, environmental racism and toxic trespass. The discussion title is "Corporate Crime, Environmental Injustice and Toxic Trespass: Lessons from the 1984 Union Carbide Gas disaster in Bhopal, India." Presenters will be 1) Safreen "Rafat" Khan, a 16-year-old, second-generation victim of Union Carbide's poisons; Safreen is cofounder of Children Against Dow Carbide, a children's group that has committed itself to keeping the fight for justice in Bhopal alive for as long as it takes; 2) Satinath Sarangi, a long-time Bhopal activist and founder-trustee of Sambhavna Trust clinic, an award-winning free holistic clinic for survivors of the Bhopal disaster; and 3) Dr. Sheela Satyanarayana, assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington; an accomplished physician with expertise in pediatric environmental health, Dr. Satyanarayana has been a forceful voice of science in advocating for more stringent regulations on toxic chemicals, including Bisphenol A and phthalates.

Price: unknown

Contact: Nityanand Jayaraman, nity68.new@gmail.com

8) 2009 Toxics Conference

Tuesday June 1, 2009

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

Portland, Oregon

at World Trade Center Two

Sponsor: Environmental Law Education Center

This conference covers issues of interest and concern in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Topics include 1) pollution prevention and toxics reduction strategies, 2) legislation, initiatives and follow up to Senate Bill 737, 3) water quality standards and NPDES permits, 4) developing toxics-reduction plans, 5) Persistent Priority Pollutants (P3 List), 6) pesticides and emerging contaminants, 7) ecological and human health risks, and more.

Price: \$450 until May 15th or \$495 after that; \$350/\$395 for government or nonprofit employees

[Visit the website](#)

9) Update From Copenhagen: New Science on Hormone Disruptors and Reproductive Health

Wednesday June 3, 2009

10:00 a.m. Pacific time/1:00 p.m. Eastern time/7:00 p.m. Central European time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will discuss exciting new data from the 5th Copenhagen Workshop on Endocrine Disruptors (www.reproduction.dk/cow2009/index.htm). The Copenhagen workshops consistently feature a multidisciplinary group of distinguished international scientists and cutting-edge new research emerging from the environmental and reproductive health fields. This year's Copenhagen workshop will focus on new science regarding the health effects of exposures to endocrine, or hormone, disruptors present in our everyday lives, including in our food, in products we commonly use and in our homes. The workshop will feature a mixture of studies and links between effects in laboratory studies and observations in wildlife and humans. Some of the topics to be covered include hormone-disruptor impacts to prenatal reproductive development, reproduction, obesity, puberty, brain development and thyroid-hormone function. The workshop is intended to facilitate an exchange of information and views both within the scientific community and with experts engaged in regulation and policymaking. On this call, presenters will discuss and comment on the highlights from this year's workshop. Confirmed speakers are Pete Myers, PhD, and Shanna Swan, PhD.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

10) CHE Science Café Call

Thursday, June 4, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE as we host our first Science Café call featuring Steve Gilbert, PhD, with the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders. Dr. Gilbert will discuss Toxipedia (<http://www.toxipedia.org>), a tool he created that uses a modified wiki approach. Now with a contract from the National Library of Medicine and funding from King County and the Washington Department of Ecology, he will be able to further develop the site and lessen the information gap between those with knowledge on environmental public health and those that need the information to lead healthier lives.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

11) 2009 National Asthma Forum

Thursday and Friday, June 4 - 5, 2009

Washington, DC

Sponsor: Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments, which is sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with Allies Against Asthma, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

At this conference, asthma programs from all over the nation will gather to discuss the most effective community-based strategies for managing asthma and achieving positive outcomes and results. Delivering tailored environmental interventions will be included.

Price: \$220

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@epaasthmaforum.com

12) 21st Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability

Thursday through Saturday, June 4 - 6, 2009

Vilnius, Lithuania

Sponsor: European Academy of Childhood Disability

The meeting is intended to promote collaborations between eastern and western European countries in the field of developmental disorders, and in improving and unifying rehabilitation standards in Europe. Standards of care emerging in different therapy areas will be presented in the workshops. The conference theme is "From Myth to Evidence."

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

13) 3rd WHO International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment

Sunday through Wednesday, June 7 - 10, 2009

Sponsor: World Health Organization

The event aims to extend the recognition of children's environmental health needs and provide a platform for the exchange of scientific experiences, promote learning about research efforts, and promote protective policies. It will also enable us to work out why existing global efforts have not progressed more rapidly and what needs to be done, both in developing and industrialized countries.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: World Health Organization, 41-22-791-21-11 or info@who.int

14) 9th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant

Sunday through Friday, June 7 - 12, 2009

Guiyang, China

Sponsor: The Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Science, the Chinese Society for Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry, The State Key Laboratory of Environmental Geochemistry

The depth, breadth and pace of scientific discoveries on the sources, environmental transport and fate, biogeochemical cycling and adverse effects of mercury have increased enormously since the inaugural conference was convened in Sweden in 1990. The 9th ICMGP will present a timely opportunity to stimulate and universalize the scientific studies on mercury as a global pollutant.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Lihai Shang, +86-851-5891517 or mercury2009@mails.gyig.ac.cn

15) 12th Biennial Meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Association

Sunday through Friday, June 7 - 12, 2009

Ma'ale Hachamisha, Israel

at the Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha Hotel and Convention Center

Sponsor: International Neurotoxicology Association

The conference theme is "Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurotoxicology." CME credit is pending. The official language of the meeting is English.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

16) ATSDR Basic Course for Health Assessment and Consultation

Monday through Friday, June 8 - 12, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at CDC/ATSDR, Chamblee Building 106, Room 1B, 4770 Buford Highway NE

Sponsor: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The ATSDR Basic Course for Health Assessment and Consultation focuses on the process of assessing public health implications of exposures to contaminants being released from hazardous waste sites and identifying public health actions. This assessment process applies to all the different products (public health assessments, health consultations, health advisories, etc.) that we produce. The course will provide an overview on all four factors of CERCLA/SARA (104(i)(6)(F)) that form the basis of public health assessments produced by and for ATSDR. Continuing education credits are provided. The registration deadline is June 1st.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

17) 2009 International Conference on the Environmental Implications and Applications of Nanotechnology

Tuesday - Thursday, June 9 - 11, 2009

Amherst, Massachusetts

at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation and the Environmental Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst

This conference convenes researchers and practitioners from around the world to address the impacts of manufactured nanoparticles on the environment and new applications for remediation and pollution control.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jane Wrisley, 413-545-2842 or conferences@tei.umass.edu

18) International Scientific Conference on Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods 2009

Tuesday - Thursday, June 9 - 11, 2009

Zilina, Slovakia

at the Holiday Inn Zilina

Sponsor: Food and Function 2009

This international scientific forum is for all stakeholders of nutraceuticals and functional foods. The three-day conference is a networking event worldwide for scientists, researchers, product developers, industry participants and related health and regulatory authorities. Participants will be informed about current advances of nutraceuticals and functional foods science, clinical trials and product developments. Safety and regulatory issues will be addressed as well. A nutraceutical is any substance that is a food or a part of a food and provides medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease. Such products may range from isolated nutrients, dietary supplements and specific diets to genetically engineered designer foods, herbal products and processed foods.

Price: \$350 EU, discounts are available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Organizing secretariat PAMIDA, 421-918-707371 or info@foodandfunction.com

19) 5th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference

Tuesday through Friday, June 9 - 12, 2009

Los Angeles, California

at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, 404 South Figueroa Street

Sponsor: California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health, and others listed on the website

The conference will provide an overview of the most pressing childhood-obesity issues, including structural issues that impact food access, nutrition, physical activity and the physical environment. It will showcase presentations on topics of national interest including research and evaluation; community and family perspectives; pre-school, schools and after-school programs; nutrition and physical education; policy and environmental change strategies; and clinical management and resources.

Price: \$350 through May 8th; \$400 after that

[Visit the website](#)

20) Institute on Creating Sustainable Environments for Young Children

Thursday and Friday, June 11 - 12, 2009, pre-conference day Wednesday June 10, 2009

Kansas City, Missouri

at Q Hotel

Sponsor: White Hutchinson Leisure and Learning Group

This conference, for early childhood practitioners and designers, will cover topics such as toxic toys, green cleaning, choosing appropriate equipment, and naturalizing outdoor spaces.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 816-931-1040, ext 102 or

http://www.whitehutchinson.com/contact/vicki_stoecklin/

21) PubMed®

Monday June 15, 2009 OR Tuesday June 16, 2009 (select one day)

8:30 a.m.

Bethesda, Maryland

at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Building 38A, 4th Floor Training Room (4S-412)

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

This full-day class is designed to teach students how to use PubMed® which includes MEDLINE citations. The class also includes an overview of the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) and its importance as a tool to both searchers and indexers. PubMed® is awarded 7.5 MLA continuing education credits.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

22) TOXNET® and Beyond

Wednesday June 17, 2009

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

Bethesda, Maryland

at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Building 38A, 4th Floor

Training Room (4S-412)

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

This course is designed to convey the basics of searching the NLM's TOXNET®, a web-based system of databases in the areas of toxicology, environmental health and related fields. The course will also teach students to utilize NLM's environmental health and toxicology portal which provides resources beyond the TOXNET® databases. Students will learn the content and structure of files covering toxicology data, toxicology literature, toxic releases and chemical nomenclature. Among the databases highlighted will be TOXLINE, the Hazardous Substances Data Bank, the Integrated Risk Information System, the Toxi Release Inventory, and ChemIDplus. The course, taught by NLM instructors, will be conducted in a computer lab and includes lectures, online demonstrations and hands-on exercises. TOXNET® is a free class and is awarded 6.0 MLA continuing education credits.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: National Training Center and Clearinghouse, 800-338-7657

23) 2009 Annual Education Conference

Wednesday through Friday, June 17 - 19, 2009

Montgomery, Alabama

at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa at the Montgomery Convention Center

Sponsor: Alabama Environmental Health Association

This is AEHA's annual conference.

Price: see the [registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

24) Impact Assessment and Human Well-Being

Wednesday through Monday, June 17 - 22, 2009

Accra, Ghana

Sponsor: International Association for Impact Assessment and others listed on the website

Impact assessment aims at ensuring a healthy environment, ultimately leading to improved human well-being. This conference will assess the relevance of human well-being in impact assessments. IAIA09 will involve you in discussions with experts from around the globe focusing on how impact assessment assures a healthy environment, human well-being, sustainable development, protected ecosystems and quality of life.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: IAIA, 1-701-297-7908 or info@iaia.org

25) Environmental Public Health Tracking Workshop

Saturday June 20, 2009

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. (choose one)

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

This preconference workshop is an introductory course, intended to train environmental health professionals in the basics of environmental public health tracking and

informatics. Hands-on demonstration and use of computers and the showcased technology will be involved.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 303-756-9090, ext. 300 or staff@neha.org

Announcements & Articles

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

[A Common Agenda for Health and Environment.](#)

In 2007, nearly 100 leaders of healthcare, community development, environmental, labor and agriculture organizations began a conversation about the world we want to leave our children, and what it will take to get there within a generation.

[New online environmental medicine education resources.](#)

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATDSR) offers environmental health and medicine education products for health professionals, community members, and interested members of the public. These materials are designed to increase awareness and knowledge of how the environment impacts human health.

[Call for Proposals: Technology Development for the Detection and Evaluation of Chemical and Biological Carcinogens.](#)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), invites Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant applications from small business concerns (SBCs) propose to develop new technologies and/or improve existing technologies for the detection and evaluation of chemical and biological carcinogens in clinical and/or environmental specimens. Applications will be accepted from July 5, 2009, to May 8, 2012.

[Call for Proposals: Joint US - UK Research Program: Environmental Behavior, Bioavailability and Effects of Manufactured Nanomaterials.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the UK Environmental Nanoscience Initiative, is seeking joint applications from US and UK partners that propose, validate and refine integrated model(s) of fate, behavior, bioavailability and effects for several important and representative nanomaterial classes over key environmental pathways using intrinsic material properties and life cycle analysis as a starting point for model development. Applications are due August 5, 2009.

[Call for Proposals: Exploring Linkages Between Health Outcomes and Environmental Hazards, Exposures, and Interventions for Public Health Tracking and Risk Management.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applications to develop new or improved environmental public health indicators (EPHIs) to build linkages between environmental hazards, human exposures, and public health outcomes. The aim of the research is to develop indicators that can be used for long-term tracking and surveillance of environmental public health, making better informed decisions, and assessing the actual impacts of environmental risk management decisions. Applications are due August 5, 2009.

[Call for Proposals: Building Capacity for Climate Change and Public Health Programs at State/Territorial Health Agencies.](#)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Environmental Health, is looking to fund and support three one-year demonstration projects that will establish coordinating opportunities for climate change at state and territorial health agencies. ASTHO must receive applications by 4 pm Eastern time on Friday, June 12, 2009.

[Ethical issues in measuring biomarkers in children's environmental health.](#)

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Research measuring biomarkers in children raises a number of ethical issues, some of which related to children as research subjects and some of which are specific to biomarker research. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Fighting off shareholders' environmental resolution, Dow cites inaccurate information in its SEC filing.](#)

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

In an effort to ward off a shareholder resolution that sought greater transparency in the company's handling of dioxin contamination, Dow Chemical gave the Securities and Exchange Commission inaccurate information about the state of Michigan's consumption advisory for walleye downstream from the company's Midland plant. Michigan Messenger, Michigan.

[Are your household products safe?](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

Everyday products may contain toxic chemicals - and most of the time there's no warning label. Health Link.

[Water and sun linked to bladder cancer.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

New research shows certain ecological factors, including well water and sun exposure, may put you at an increased risk of bladder cancer. Ivanhoe Broadcast News.

[Study links cigarette changes to rising lung risk.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

It may be riskier on the lungs to smoke cigarettes today than it was a few decades ago - at least in the U.S., says new research that blames changes in cigarette design for fueling a certain type of lung cancer. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Fake cigarettes, fake smoke, real nicotine.](#)]

[Food wrapper coating found in human blood.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

To the growing list of chemicals showing up in human blood, a new study adds compounds called diPAPs that make food wrappers grease-proof. Scientists don't yet know if diPAPs are harmful to human health. But they break down into PFOA, which may be carcinogenic. Discovery Channel.

[Pollution can change your DNA in 3 days, study suggests.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

Breathing in polluted air may wreak havoc on our DNA, reprogramming genes in as few as three days and causing increased rates of cancer and other diseases. National Geographic News.

[Law would require trash to be recycled by companies.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

Four pieces of Massachusetts legislation are aimed at forcing manufacturers to take back and recycle after use by the consumer any products that contain ingredients harmful to humans or the environment, such as mercury. Lynn Daily Item, Massachusetts.

[Synthetic turf fields kicking up safety concerns.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

Some health experts, activists and parents from Seattle to Chicago to Stamford, Mass. worry that children who play on artificial turf may be exposed to chemicals if they inhale or swallow the rubber granules, known as crumb rubber. Associated Press.

[Pesticide in pools far above safe limit.](#)

Monday, May 18, 2009

Australia's pesticide regulators will consider banning or restricting the use of the controversial herbicide simazine in swimming pool treatments after concerns were raised about potential harmful impacts on children who swim regularly. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[The global food crisis.](#)

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Modern society has relieved us of the burden of growing, harvesting, even preparing our daily bread, in exchange for the burden of simply paying for it. Only when prices rise do we take notice. And the consequences of our inattention are profound. National Geographic.

[FDA relied heavily on BPA lobby.](#)

Sunday, May 17, 2009

As federal regulators hold fast to their claim that a chemical in baby bottles is safe, e-mails obtained by the Journal Sentinel show that they relied on chemical industry lobbyists to examine bisphenol A's risks, track legislation to ban it and even monitor press coverage. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[Call to disorder: Parents, scientists, educators looking for answers about autism.](#)

Sunday, May 17, 2009

David Wallace, the director of the Center for Integrative Neuroscience at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, and several other of the center's scientists and physicians, formed the Autism Research Group to help answer those questions. Specifically, they're interested in environmental ties to autism, researching possible links between heavy metals such as mercury, lead and cadmium. Tulsa World, Oklahoma. [See a related report: [Autism Spectrum Disorders: Changes in the California Caseload.](#)]

[Serum selenium concentrations and diabetes in US adults: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey \(NHANES\) 2003-2004.](#)

Saturday, May 16, 2009

In US adults, high serum selenium concentrations were associated with higher prevalence of diabetes and higher fasting plasma glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin levels. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Clearing the air.](#)

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Air researchers talk about the Rule of 1,000: anything released indoors is about 1,000 times more likely to be breathed in than something released outdoors. New York Times. [See a related article: [Is indoor air pollution a real problem?](#)]

[UN official challenges chemical industry.](#)

Saturday, May 16, 2009

The United Nations' top environmental official on May 14 challenged the chemical industry to clean up stockpiles of its old, toxic products. Chemical & Engineering News.

[Mercury levels in fish.](#)

Saturday, May 16, 2009

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says mercury levels are rising in walleye and northern pike in Minnesota, possibly due to emissions from coal fire plants overseas. Duluth WDIO TV, Minnesota.

[Joe Biden announces \\$100M for lead-paint removal.](#)

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Nearly \$100 million in federal stimulus money will go toward a program to remove lead-based paint and other health and safety hazards from low-income homes, Vice President Joe Biden announced Friday. Associated Press.

[House approves \\$6.4 billion for green schools.](#)

Friday, May 15, 2009

The House on Thursday passed a multiyear school construction bill with the ambitious goals of producing hundreds of thousands of jobs, reducing energy consumption and creating healthier, cleaner environments for the nation's schoolchildren. Associated Press.

[Prenatal exposure to flame retardant is associated with increased risk of male genital anomalies.](#)

Friday, May 15, 2009

Researchers report a higher risk of genital anomalies in boys and men exposed before birth to polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) flame retardants. Environmental Health News.

[Chicago program addresses rising asthma rates with preventive measures.](#)

Friday, May 15, 2009

A program spearheaded by the Sinai Urban Health Institute sends trained community health educators into homes to assess factors that could trigger asthma symptoms. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Authors discover toxins in 'off-the-shelf' products increase quickly.](#)

Friday, May 15, 2009

After steering clear of food packaging containing bisphenol A for a couple of days, Rick Smith saw the levels of the hormone-disrupting chemical linked to breast and prostate cancer in his body increase 7.5 times after just two days of restricting his diet to canned foods heated in a microwave using a polycarbonate plastic container. Vancouver Sun, British Columbia.

[Smokers in 60s who kick habit still reduce cancer risk.](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2009

It is never too late to stop smoking - even for those who wait until they are in their 60s to kick the habit, an international cancer conference in Dublin was told. Dublin Irish Independent, Ireland.

[Doctors warn of risks of climate change for the first time.](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2009

A study by the University College London, published in the Lancet, concluded that the problems caused by climate change such as food shortages, heat waves and increased threat of tropical diseases such as malaria will kill billions of people. London Daily Telegraph, England.

[Panel discusses shielding kids from chemicals.](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2009

The idea behind the group "Go Greener Greenwich" is to educate residents about environmental issues - especially on the impact that the thousands of chemicals in everyday items have on children, said Alex Bergstein, who helped organize the event. Greenwich Time, Connecticut.

[Folic acid protects baby hearts.](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mandatory fortification of bread with folic acid would slash the risk of babies being born with a heart problem, experience from Canada shows. BBC.

[See a related article: [Folic acid might be losing its sheen.](#)]

[For urban gardeners, lead is a concern.](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Health officials, soil scientists and environmental engineers worry that the increasing popularity of gardening, particularly the urban kind, will put more people at risk for lead poisoning if they don't protect themselves. New York Times.

[Protect water from oilsands or risk lawsuits: First Nations.](#)

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

First Nations groups warned a federal environment committee Tuesday they would turn to the courts to address their concerns if their water supplies were not protected from oilsands development. Edmonton Journal, Canada.

[Weight 'fuels preventable cancer.'](#)

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Almost 19,000 people a year in the UK are diagnosed with cancer that could have been prevented if they were a healthy weight, an expert says. BBC.

[Study links formaldehyde to more common cancers.](#)

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

New research raises additional concerns about the harmful effects of formaldehyde, a common chemical found in everything from plywood to nail polish, car exhaust and cigarette smoke. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Allergic to new clothes? formaldehyde finish may be the cause.](#)]

No easy solutions for Great Salt Lake mercury.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Dealing with mercury problems plaguing the Great Salt Lake won't be as simple as finding and eliminating its sources, a national mercury expert said Tuesday. Associated Press.

Tennessee spill: The dredge report.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The Tennessee Valley Authority's efforts to clean tons of toxic coal ash are set to cause a "major toxic event" that could kill entire fish species and send a human health threat slinking up the food chain, according to scientists. The Nation.

[See related articles: [EPA failed to disclose coal ash-related health risks](#) and [EPA takeover of fly ash cleanup could fend off TVA lawsuits.](#)]

Children sanitation alert issued.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Diarrhoea caused by poor sanitation is killing many more children than HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria combined, says a new report from the charity WaterAid. BBC.

Nonstick chemical pollutes water at notable levels.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

A new study finds evidence that people may be exposed through drinking water to a persistent nonstick chemical, PFOA or perfluorooctanoic acid, at levels approaching those that trigger adverse effects in laboratory animals. Science News.

[See a related article: [Teflon lawsuit against DuPont dismissed.](#)]

Gender-bending chemical time bomb fear for boys' fertility.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Chemicals in food, cosmetics and cleaning products are 'feminising' unborn boys and raising their risk of cancer and infertility later in life, an expert warns. London Daily Mail, England.

Association of traffic-related air pollution with children's neurobehavioral functions in Quanzhou, China.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

There was a significant relationship between chronic low-level traffic-related air pollution exposure and children's neurobehavioral functions.

[See a related journal article: [Chronic residential exposure to particulate matter air pollution and systemic inflammatory markers](#)]

The seafood conundrum.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Nutritionists say we should eat more, that many types of fish are nutritious and contain fats that seem to protect the heart. Yet some species have been found to contain high levels of environmental contaminants like PCBs and mercury, particularly hazardous to pregnant women, while other types are decimated by overfishing or farmed in environmentally damaging ways. New York Times.

In Punjab, crowding onto the cancer train.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Cancer used to be considered an urban disease, suffered by people who lived in cities choked with industry and pollution. But researchers recently found that farming villages using large amounts of pesticides have significantly higher rates of cancer than villages that use less of the chemicals. All Things Considered, NPR.

[See a related article: [DOH study recommends ban of aerial spraying](#) and an opposing article: [Failure to develop new pesticides could lead to public health disaster.](#)]

[How thalidomide makes its mark.](#)

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

More than 50 years after the drug thalidomide hit the market as a remedy for nausea in pregnant women, researchers may finally have pinned down how it causes severe birth defects. Nature.

[Cleaner air from reduced emissions could save millions of lives, says report.](#)

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Tackling climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions could save millions of lives because of the cleaner air that would result, according to a recent study. London Guardian, England.

[Carbofuran pesticide residues in food revoked.](#)

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

The Environmental Protection Agency has revoked regulations that permitted small residues of the pesticide carbofuran in food. EPA's action will eliminate residues of carbofuran in food, including all imports, in a move to protect people, especially children, from dietary risk. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Privatization of NJ toxic cleanup law reveals a systematic collapse.](#)

Monday, May 11, 2009

In an extraordinary new low for New Jersey's declining commitment to protect the health of residents and the environment, this week, Governor Corzine signed legislation that privatized the state's toxic site cleanup program. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

[Trash merits role in Obama energy plan, waste management says.](#)

Monday, May 11, 2009

While waste-based energy would make Obama's goals more achievable, environmentalist groups such as Environment America have long opposed the garbage companies as polluters and say burning trash releases toxic chemicals. Bloomberg News.

[Poison found in kids' clothes from China.](#)

Monday, May 11, 2009

Poison in children's clothing is emerging as the latest health risk from China. Scientists have found formaldehyde in woollen and cotton clothes at levels 500 times higher than is safe. Auckland Sunday Star Times, New Zealand.

[See a related article: [Healthy dose of skepticism prescribed.](#)]

[State will spend millions to improve water quality.](#)

Sunday, May 10, 2009

Iowa is about to launch its biggest assault ever on river and lake pollution - a \$455 million campaign. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

[EPA chief calls for environmental justice.](#)

Saturday, May 09, 2009

The federal Environmental Protection Agency needs to address the systemic environmental issues facing America's poor, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said in a speech yesterday at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. Trenton Times, New Jersey.

[Idaho study shows arsenic in wells.](#)

Saturday, May 09, 2009

More than a century of irrigation has caused naturally occurring arsenic in the soil to be carried to underground reservoirs. Associated Press.

[UN: Treaty expanded by 9 more dangerous chemicals.](#)

Saturday, May 09, 2009

A U.N.-sponsored treaty to combat highly dangerous chemicals has been expanded beyond the original "dirty dozen" to include nine more substances that are used in pesticides, flame retardants and other products, U.N. officials said Saturday. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [China phases out pesticide POPs.](#)]

[Project teaches kids healthy-eating lifestyle.](#)

Saturday, May 09, 2009

Through the national nonprofit food-based educational program, students are learning about how their food gets from farm to table, the benefits of good nutrition and fighting childhood obesity, safe cooking skills and the value of sharing family meals. Detroit News, Michigan.

[State bans chemical in baby bottles.](#)

Saturday, May 09, 2009

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed a bill into law Thursday that prohibits the sale of baby bottles and cups that contain Bisphenol-A (BPA), which is found in many plastics and in canned food coatings. Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota. [See a related news article: [Chicago bans sale of baby bottles, sippy cups with dangerous chemical.](#) and related journal articles: [Bisphenol A stifles thyroid hormone and slows frog development](#) and [Use of polycarbonate bottles and urinary bisphenol A concentrations.](#)]

[Age of greatest susceptibility to childhood lead exposure: A new statistical approach.](#)

Friday, May 08, 2009

Susceptibility to lead toxicity is often assumed to be greatest during early childhood (e.g., 2 years of age), but recent studies suggest that blood lead concentrations (BPb) taken at 5 to 7 years of age are more strongly associated with IQ. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[G8 identifies focus on children's environmental health.](#)

Friday, May 08, 2009

A recent Environment Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Eight (G8) major industrialised countries showed renewed focus on children's health as a fundamental objective of environmental protection and sustainable development. Environmental Expert.com.

[DDT linked to health problems.](#)

Friday, May 08, 2009

Spraying the pesticide DDT indoors to fight malaria, as is done in SA's malaria areas, could be leading to increased incidences of cancer, diabetes, foetal and childhood developmental problems and decreased fertility among exposed communities, experts said yesterday. Johannesburg Business Day, South Africa.

[See a related article: [Goodbye DDT.](#)]

[Testing finds lead in children.](#)

Friday, May 08, 2009

The first widespread testing for lead exposure among Spokane children found that 6 percent of those tested had ingested measurable amounts of toxic lead. Spokane Spokesman-Review, Washington.

['Green' lightbulbs poison workers.](#)

Thursday, May 07, 2009

Large numbers of Chinese workers have been poisoned by mercury, which forms part of the compact fluorescent light bulbs. Environmental News Network.

[Poison in the air, part 4.](#)

Thursday, May 07, 2009

When we talk about pollution, it's not just industry and power plants that shoulder the blame. We all contribute to the hazards that cause cancer, lung and heart problems. Birmingham WIAT TV CBS 42, Alabama.

[Fear of vaccines spurs outbreaks, study says.](#)

Thursday, May 07, 2009

Parental doubts about the safety of childhood vaccinations are leading to outbreaks of largely eradicated diseases like measles and whooping cough, doctors warned in a new report. Wall Street Journal.

[Why does the vaccine/autism controversy live on?](#)

Thursday, May 07, 2009

The idea that there is something wrong with our vaccines - that they have poisoned a generation of kids, driving an "epidemic" of autism - continues to be everywhere. Discover.

[U.S. radiation dose has doubled.](#)

Wednesday, May 06, 2009

Collectively, Americans now receive more than twice as much radiation each year as in the 1980s. That's according to a new tally by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Science News.

[Saving face: How safe are cosmetics and body care products?](#)

Wednesday, May 06, 2009

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration oversees the multi-billion-dollar-a-year cosmetics industry but it lacks the power to approve products or ingredients before they hit store shelves, even though their contents have been shown to enter the body. Scientific American.

[See a related article: [Are you being poisoned by cosmetics?](#)]

[Air quality at schools studied.](#)

Wednesday, May 06, 2009

The air your children breathe at school may have a big impact on their learning, researchers at the University of Tulsa have found. In crowded schools, carbon dioxide can build up and make students tired, lethargic, and not want to learn. That's why ventilation is so important. Tulsa KTUL TV, Oklahoma.

Most of the news articles above come from *Environmental Health News*, <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>.

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

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