



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins)



Biweekly Bulletin June 3, 2009

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

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

ICEH Highlights

New ICEH website

ICEH's new web presence is as a working group on the website of the [Collaborative on Health and the Environment](http://www.healthandenvironment.org). You can visit ICEH at www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health and find our rich array of resources on children's environmental health.

New members

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

- Katie Edwards, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Elizabeth Gribble Walker, PhD, Tucson, Arizona
- Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, BN, MEd, Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada
- Nanette Moller, BA, Aliso Viejo, California

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) 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](#)

3) Environmental Health Seminar

Thursday June 4, 2009

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Room T-435

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

Edward M. Postlethwait, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham will present "Early Life Exposures to Environmental Oxidants: Rethinking Paradigms about Adaptation and Long Term Consequences."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sarah Fischer, fischs@u.washington.edu

4) 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

5) 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](#)

6) 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

7) 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

8) 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](#)

9) 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](#)

10) 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

11) 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

12) 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](#)

13) Innovative Approaches to Particulate Matter Health, Composition, and Source Questions Grants Kick-Off Meeting

Wednesday June 10, 2009

8:45 - 11:00 a.m.

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

at the US Environmental Protection Agency Main Campus Auditorium, 109 TW Alexander Drive

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The ability of epidemiologic studies to link health outcomes to sources and components of air pollution may be improved by incorporating more advanced measurement and modeling approaches, which strengthen the air quality and exposure aspects of the work. New projects bring the full atmospheric science toolkit to bear while addressing difficult source attribution questions. EPA's National Center for Environmental Research, Science To Achieve Results (STAR) grantees will meet to discuss research plans, methods, and early results with scientists from EPA, state agencies, other federal agencies, and industry. Presentations will summarize the objectives, study methods, and anticipated results of research projects. This meeting will be open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

14) 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/

15) Ecological Intelligence: A Conversation with Daniel Goleman

Friday June 12, 2009

1:00 p.m. Pacific / 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This special conversation with Daniel Goleman, psychologist and bestselling author, will discuss issues he raises in his most recent book, *Ecological Intelligence: How Knowing the Hidden Impacts of What We Buy Can Change Everything*. The book is described as drawing on "cutting-edge research to reveal why 'green is a mirage,' illuminates inconsistencies in our response to the ecological crisis, and introduces new technologies

that reveal with 'radical transparency' the eco-impact of products we buy, with the potential to drive consumers to make smarter decisions and companies to reform their business practices." Goleman's description of what it means to be ecologically intelligent underscores why CHE is committed to articulating a working framework for ecological health in which the multiple factors that influence our health and well-being are addressed systemically. Michael Lerner, PhD, president of Commonweal and vice-chair of CHE, will facilitate the conversation with Goleman and offer plenty of time for Q&A with CHE partners.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

16) 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](#)

17) 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

18) 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](#)

19) 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

20) 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

21) 73rd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Sunday through Wednesday, June 21 - 24, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

The conference will offer a Wide variety of education, with sessions covering a broad range of environmental health. Continuing education contact hours are available.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

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

22) PubMed®

Wednesday June 24, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Highland, New York

at the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council - SENYLRC, 21 S. Elting Corners Road

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](#)

23) National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Kick-off Meeting

Friday June 26, 2009

Washington, DC

at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR)

This day-long meeting will launch the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, a collaborative initiative to identify and prioritize actions for strengthening the public-health approach to chemical exposures. It is a stakeholder and public involvement initiative. The meeting will include a plenary session featuring Dr. Howard Frumkin, Director of NCEH/ATSDR as well as other guests. Breakout sessions will allow for discussion of specific issues related to public health and chemical exposures.

Price: unknown

Contact: nationalconversation@cdc.gov

24) Is It Healthy to Breathe in Southeast Queens?

Saturday June 27, 2009

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

New York, New York

at Springfield Park in Springfield Gardens

Sponsor: Eastern Queens Alliance

The discussion will address air quality in the region and some of the environmental and health concerns associated with it. The seminars is open to all residents, though space is limited and registration is encouraged.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 866-372-4255 Info@easternqueensalliance.org

25) Improving Public Health through Leadership and Knowledge

Wednesday through Friday, July 1 - 3, 2009

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, One Dock Street (2nd and Walnut Streets)

Sponsor: National Association of Local Boards of Health

Conference activities will provide attendees with information, skills, and resources to help them improve public health in their communities. The conference will also offer time for

attendees to learn and share information on critical public health issues, as well as the ability to describe how local, state, and federal partners share responsibility for promoting and improving public health. A conference track on environmental health is available, and Wednesday's keynote is "Climate Change: The Public Health Response."

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Tracy Schupp, tracy@nalboh.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>.

[Scientists convene to discuss new method to study how toxic chemicals impact human health.](#)

More than 200 scientists, regulators, and policy makers from around the world convened recently at EPA's first ToxCast Data Analysis Summit to discuss results of the first phase of ToxCast. ToxCast is an innovative approach for profiling how chemicals in our environment impact important biological pathways that are critical for the function of the body's systems such as the heart, lungs, brain or reproductive organs. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[New online forum promotes transparency and openness in government.](#)

The eRulemaking Program has launched Regulations.gov Exchange. Regulations.gov is the one-stop, online source for citizens to search, view and comment on regulations issued by the U.S. government. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Well water should be tested annually to reduce health risks to children.](#)

Private well water should be tested yearly, and in some cases more often, according to new guidance offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). National Institute of Environmental Health Science.

[EPA strengthens safety measures for soil fumigant pesticides.](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency is strengthening safety measures for soil fumigant pesticides. The safety measures will reduce fumigant exposures to bystanders -- people who live, work, attend school, or spend time near agricultural fields that are fumigated -- and increase overall safety of fumigant use by requiring greater planning and compliance. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Asthma Awareness Month focuses on afflictions of 20 million Americans.](#)

In response to the growing asthma problem, EPA created a national, multifaceted asthma education and outreach program to share information about environmental factors -- indoors and outdoors -- that trigger asthma. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[President Obama announces national fuel efficiency policy.](#)

President Obama today -- for the first time in history -- set in motion a new national policy aimed at both increasing fuel economy and reducing greenhouse gas pollution for all new cars and trucks sold in the United States. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Summertime and the grillin' is easy -- but do it safely.](#)

Tuesday, June 02, 2009

Steaks made on the grill, sending a smoky aroma into the air, could be culinary cancer causers. A look at how serious the dangers are and how to minimize them. Wall Street Journal.

[More stain repelling chemicals found in Inuit's traditional food than in store foods.](#)

Tuesday, June 02, 2009

Traditional and locally harvested foods contribute more persistent, stain-repelling compounds to the native Inuit diet than packaged food that is imported and sold at the

local stores, report researchers who analyzed and compared exposures from the two food sources. Environmental Health News.

[New radon rules.](#)

Tuesday, June 02, 2009

A gas that can kill you over time, is now being targeted by homebuilders, as a new law goes into place to protect you and the home you live in. Austin KAAL TV, Minnesota.

[N.J. environmental agency proposes restrictions on release of scientific reports.](#)

Tuesday, June 02, 2009

The state DEP proposed restrictions today on the public release of its scientific studies and reports, which environmental groups lambasted as a sweeping "gag order" spurred by a controversy over chromium pollution in Hudson County. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

[Lead remains a threat to all ages.](#)

Tuesday, June 02, 2009

There have also been a number of studies of lead toxicity in elderly people. But until now, none have evaluated links between lead and mortality in people over age 65 in the general population. Environmental Science & Technology.

[See a related article about lead exposure and liability: [Landlord facing EPA lead fines](#)]

[Agricultural pesticide use and pancreatic cancer risk in the Agricultural Health Study Cohort.](#)

Monday, June 01, 2009

Findings suggest that herbicides, particularly pendimethalin and EPTC, may be associated with pancreatic cancer. International Journal of Cancer.

[Adolescent and adult soy food intake and breast cancer risk: results from the Shanghai Women's Health Study.](#)

Monday, June 01, 2009

This large, population-based, prospective cohort study provides strong evidence of a protective effect of soy food intake against premenopausal breast cancer. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

[Obama's EPA administrator renews pledge for 'environmental justice.'](#)

Monday, June 01, 2009

Lisa P. Jackson, chosen by President Barack Obama to head the EPA, told attendees at a conference on environmental justice that minorities and low-income people are the victims of pollution by U.S. companies and businesses. Cybercast News Service.

[See a related article: [Bill aims to keep emission-reduction efforts local](#)]

[Groups ask EPA to ban lead tire weights.](#)

Monday, June 01, 2009

While the federal government has banned lead in paint, gasoline, plumbing, and other products, the EPA has ignored an estimated 3.5 million pounds of lead weights that drop off tire rims and onto U.S. roads every year, according to a petition to ban their use. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[The landscape of antibiotic resistance.](#)

Monday, June 01, 2009

The problem of antibiotic resistance is severe enough that many experts believe the value of existing antibiotic therapies over the next 100 years is now uncertain. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Agent Orange experts to testify before US Congress.](#)

Sunday, May 31, 2009

The US government said on Friday it would double funding for environmental health and remediation in Vietnam with an additional US\$3 million. Thanhvien News, Vietnam.

[Dangers of two-stroke engines.](#)

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Two-stroke engines commonly used for gardening and boats can cause serious health problems including cancer, from emissions of benzene and other hazardous chemicals, a Griffith University environmental scientist warned. Brisbane Times, Australia.

[New warning on hormone replacement.](#)

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Hormone therapy taken by women to counter the effects of menopause can increase the risk of dying from lung cancer. Researchers said the new data should serve as a caution to women who continue to take hormones not to smoke. New York Times.

[Environmentalists sue ExxonMobil in Louisiana.](#)

Saturday, May 30, 2009

The Louisiana Environmental Action Network alleges that ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge chemical plant released nearly 2 tons of propylene, ethylene, and flammable vapors into the air on three occasions in June 2008 in violation of the Environmental Quality Act. Courthouse News Service.

[See a related article: [Chevron fights massive lawsuit in Ecuador.](#)]

[Where's the beef? Ghent goes vegetarian.](#)

Saturday, May 30, 2009

The Flemish city of Ghent has designated every Thursday as "Veggedag" calling for meat-free meals to be served in schools and public buildings, and encouraging vegetarianism among citizens by promoting vegetarian eateries and offering advice on how to follow a herbivorous diet. Time Magazine.

[See another article about diet and environment: [Can America's urban food deserts bloom?](#)]

[E-waste handling remains primitive.](#)

Saturday, May 30, 2009

Cellphones, computers, hand-held devices, TVs and VCRs all become poisonous garbage -- leaching lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, beryllium and brominated fire retardants either into our air or into landfills, depending on the method of disposal. Canwest News Service, Canada.

[Camp Lejeune vets suffer from drinking water contamination.](#)

Saturday, May 30, 2009

Camp Lejeune, a sprawling Marine base on the North Carolina seaboard, is the site of what some scientists call the worst public drinking-water contamination in the nation's history. St. Petersburg Times, Florida.

[Fluoride in water study set to raise hackles.](#)

Saturday, May 30, 2009

A study is to be carried out into adding fluoride to drinking water in Yorkshire after pleas from two health trusts concerned about the state of children's teeth. Yorkshire Post.

[Rail industry petitions to stop moving toxins.](#)

Friday, May 29, 2009

Railroad companies are pressing federal regulators to cut back on trains carrying hazardous materials through urban areas, saying they fear a catastrophic release of toxic chemicals in a large city. Environmental News Network.

[Climate change hitting poor in U.S. hardest.](#)

Friday, May 29, 2009

Climate change is disproportionately affecting the poor and minorities in the United States -- a "climate gap" that will grow in coming decades unless policymakers intervene, according to a University of California study. Daily Climate.

[See a related article: [Can poor people be protected by global warming laws?](#)]

[Exposure to combustion by-products linked to male infertility.](#)

Friday, May 29, 2009

A new study adds to the growing literature suggesting that chemical exposure may affect male fertility. Environmental Health News.

[Cigarette butts: Tiny trash that piles up.](#)

Friday, May 29, 2009

Cigarette butts comprise one-quarter of the items tossed onto U.S. streets. Smokers see butts as a more natural kind of trash. But they are not biodegradable: they have plastic filters that will be swept out to sea -- hence releasing toxic chemicals including nicotine, benzene and cadmium. New York Times.

[Deadly mercury in fish is a global health hazard.](#)

Friday, May 29, 2009

Your mother often told you fish is brain food. Now experts are telling you that the very same source of the food that helps to boost your brain function could be a source of brain-toxic heavy metals, such as mercury. Johannesburg Business Day, South Africa.

[See related articles about contaminated fish: [Saginaw Bay is full of fish, but watch which ones you eat](#) and [Toxic fish found in Inland lakes](#)]

[Pesticides lurk everywhere.](#)

Friday, May 29, 2009

According to Washington, D.C.'s National Coalition on the Misuse of Pesticides, triclosan - aka 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenyl ether -- is associated with skin irritation, allergy sensitivity, bacterial and antibiotic resistance, and the destruction of aquatic ecosystems. In addition to certain brands of socks, it's also found in everything from makeup to children's toys. Georgia Straight, Canada.

[New data suggest PBDE byproducts are ubiquitous in U.S. waters.](#)

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Research shows for the first time that compounds produced when PBDE flame retardants are exposed to wastewater treatment can generate dioxins. Environmental Science & Technology.

[A simple smooch or a toxic smack?](#)

Thursday, May 28, 2009

The debate seems to resurface every few years. Do some lipsticks contain lead? If so, is the amount so negligible that consumers have nothing to be concerned about? Or will all those years of applying lipstick add up to a worrisome accumulation of a dangerous substance? New York Times.

[Toxic.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

What is making American children sick? Cancer rates are climbing. Cases of autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and asthma are through the roof. Is the answer all around us - in the food our kids eat, the air they breathe, and the clothes they wear? WCVB Boston.

[Autism: It's the environment, not just doctors diagnosing more disease.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

California's sevenfold increase in autism cannot be explained by changes in doctors' diagnoses and most likely is due to environmental exposures, University of California scientists reported Thursday. Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Washington.

[See an opposing view: [Autism: study finds 12-fold rise in cases.](#)]

[Meat intake not linked to breast cancer.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

A large study has found no link between eating meat -- total meat, red meat, processed meat, or meat cooked at high temperatures -- and the risk of breast cancer in older women. Reuters.

[EPA announces dioxin review, plans for Dow cleanup.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

The federal government will speed up a long-delayed assessment of how chemicals called dioxins affect human health, Environmental Protection Agency head Lisa Jackson said Tuesday. Associated Press.

[See another article related to dioxins: [DEP tells Putnam mill to rethink dioxin, other](#)

[problems.\]](#)

[Strapped states cut smoking-prevention funds.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Cash-strapped state governments are slashing funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs in a move anti-tobacco groups say could backfire, costing taxpayers later for treatment of tobacco-related illnesses among people who might've quit. Associated Press.

[California farmland fumigants challenged.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Groups from the Ventura and San Joaquin Air Basins charge that the state failed to analyze reasonable alternatives or to minimize the impact of volatile organic compounds from treating strawberries and other crops. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Mobile phones to be banned in French primary schools for health risks.](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Mobile telephones will be banned from French primary schools, and operators must offer handsets that allow only text messages under new government measures to limit the health risk to children from electromagnetic radiation. London Times, England.

[Clean, green clothing.](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

More N.J. laundry services are trading traditional chemicals [perc] for earth-friendly methods. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

[Could you be gargling your way to cancer?](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

According to a report published in the Dental Journal of Australia, there was 'sufficient evidence' linking breath-freshening products containing alcohol with a higher risk of cancer. London Daily Mail, England.

[Using less pesticide may kill more cockroaches.](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

An innovative cockroach control strategy that keeps pesticide use to a minimum is much more effective than the standard approach -- regular, massive sprays of powerful bug-killers -- for wiping out the pests, a new study conducted in schools shows. Reuters Health.

[Impulsive behavior in preteens linked to mom's smoking when pregnant.](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

New research indicates that smoking during pregnancy can lead to impulsive behavior in children. Environmental Health News.

[Vaccine study links refusal to disease risk.](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Children whose parents refuse to have them immunized against it are 23 times more likely to get whooping cough, according to a new study that is perhaps the most definitive yet linking vaccine refusal to disease. Denver Post, Colorado.

[See a related article: [Vaccinate your kids -- or else](#)]

[Consumer group pushes J&J on chemicals in shampoo.](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

A coalition of health, environmental and consumer groups is demanding that health products giant Johnson & Johnson remove tiny amounts of two chemicals suspected of causing cancer from its Johnson's Baby Shampoo and other products. Miami Herald, Florida.

[Discover Magazine ignores much of vaccine-autism story.](#)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

The following letter was sent to the editors at Discover Magazine last week regarding a recent article on vaccines and autism. The magazine claimed that the debate is over, but

ignored the fact that federal and private support of research into a possible association continues. Huffington Post.

[The Discover article was referenced in this publication on May 7th.]

[Fire underscores threats and benefits of refineries.](#)

Monday, May 25, 2009

The explosion and fire at Sunoco's Marcus Hook oil refinery was a reminder of the potential for major accidents at such facilities. But day in and day out, refineries have a significant impact, ranking among the region's top air polluters. They emit a brew of contaminants. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[City schools seek to make buses cleaner.](#)

Monday, May 25, 2009

The Pittsburgh Public Schools is poised to join a growing number of districts nationwide working to purify the air inside and outside of school buses. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

[Asphalt turns green!](#)

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Conventional cold mixes use petroleum-based softeners like diesel and kerosene, which allow the material to be spread at ambient temperatures. Those additives, however, give off harmful emissions known as volatile organic compounds, which destroy the ozone layer, contribute to global warming and cause cancer, experts say. New York Daily News, New York.

[Earth Talk: Scientists cite global-warming dangers.](#)

Saturday, May 23, 2009

Some of the ways global warming negatively affects human health -- especially in developing nations -- include speeding the spread of infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever; creating conditions that lead to potentially fatal malnutrition and diarrhea; and increasing the frequency and severity of heat waves, floods and other weather-related disasters. Baxter Bulletin, Arkansas.

[Conn. lawmakers vote to ban BPA in food containers.](#)

Saturday, May 23, 2009

Connecticut on Friday joined a growing number of state and local governments banning the sale of plastic baby bottles, food containers and cups containing Bisphenol-A. Associated Press.

[See an article about the BPA industry response: [BPA industry seeks to polish image](#)]

[Rice milk arsenic contamination prompts food watchdog warning for children to stop drinking it.](#)

Saturday, May 23, 2009

Toddlers and young children should not be given rice milk because it exposes them to arsenic, parents have been told. London Daily Mail, England.

[Breathe easy.](#)

Saturday, May 23, 2009

One of the prices humanity seems to pay for getting richer is the rise of asthma. But exact causes of this life-threatening lung disease are unknown. A group of researchers believe that asthma is not caused directly by environmental factors -- but is the result of a distress signal produced by another life hazard: eczema. Economist.

[Senate panel backs FDA oversight of cigarettes.](#)

Friday, May 22, 2009

A U.S. Senate panel on Wednesday backed legislation that would give the Food and Drug Administration power to control the advertising and manufacturing of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Reuters Health.

[Cognition, attention altered in youngsters who live with gas appliances.](#)

Friday, May 22, 2009

Preschoolers who lived in homes using gas appliances scored lower on cognitive tests

and had a higher likelihood of exhibiting inattention behaviors than those in homes without gas appliances, finds a recent study. Environmental Health News.

[Researchers tap local mothers-to-be.](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Local pregnant women are helping McMaster researchers determine if chemicals we come across in everyday life affect our health. Hamilton Spectator, Canada.

[Dioxin exposure in the womb, extra weight add up to health problems.](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2009

New animal research suggests that overweight children may be at unique risk of adverse health problems due to exposure to dioxin before they are born. Environmental Health News.

[Tobacco smoke exposed kids risk early emphysema.](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Children who are regularly exposed to tobacco smoke appear to be at increased risk of developing early emphysema later in life, according to new research. Reuters Health.

[Kidney stones seen on the increase in kids.](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Kidney stones -- a painful condition usually thought to plague people in middle age -- are on the rise in children, due in part to a poor diet, physical inactivity, and rising rates of childhood obesity. Reuters Health.

[See a similar article about a rise in disease related to lifestyle: [Child diabetes cases 'to double'](#)]

['Miracle' autism drug called junk science.](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Desperate to help their autistic children, hundreds of parents nationwide are turning to an unproven and potentially damaging treatment: multiple high doses of a powerful castration drug. The therapy is based on a theory, unsupported by mainstream medicine, that autism is caused by a harmful link between mercury and testosterone. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[North Carolina approves ban on smoking.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

North Carolina, the nation's largest grower of tobacco, will soon prohibit smoking in restaurants and bars. The ban, signed into law on Tuesday by Gov. Bev Perdue, is another defeat for the ailing tobacco industry on home turf in the South. New York Times.

[Elderly need more 'sun vitamin.'](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Spending more time in the sun could help older people cut their risk of heart disease and diabetes say experts. Sun exposure helps the skin make vitamin D - a vitamin older people are generally deficient in due to their lifestyles and ageing processes. BBC.

[Women smokers at greater risk.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Women may be more vulnerable to lung damage from smoking than men, according to new research. Even a few cigarettes a day is not safe. Toronto Star, Canada.

[Dangers of food packaging and BPAs.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Food packages, including cans, many bottles and plastic or foil "pouches," all contain at least some plastic -- regardless of their appearance. And unfortunately, much of the plastic used these days contains the additive bisphenol A. Oakland Tribune, California.

[See a related article: [Drinking from plastic bottles 'increases exposure to gender-bending chemical'](#)]

[Tree leaves reveal deadly pollution levels.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Silently lining the roads, trees seem passive garnish to a bustling human society. But they are also sentinels, their leaves taking careful measurements of the microscopic particles of pollution that humans generate, which stealthily claim hundreds of thousands of lives each year across the U.S. and Europe. Discovery Channel.

[New Connecticut law demands schools use green cleaning products.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Schools across Connecticut must develop green cleaning programs as of 2011, according to a law passed by the state Senate on Tuesday. Greater Danbury News Times, Connecticut.

[Toxic 'carbon tet' lingers in air near schools.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Despite efforts to eliminate carbon tetrachloride -- which eats up the Earth's ozone layer, is classified by the U.S. EPA as a probable human carcinogen, and is known to damage the liver, kidneys and brain -- it still shows up at elevated levels around the world, scientists say, including outside of many schools. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Banned toxic chemical lingers in Louisville air](#)]

[Surrounded by plastic, NICU infants tested for risk.](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Scientists say the nation's sickest newborns are exposed to unusually high levels of phthalates -- chemicals in plastics that can mimic hormones -- because they often spend days or weeks connected to feeding tubes, breathing tubes and intravenous lines made of plastic. All Things Considered, NPR.

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
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