



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin August 24, 2011

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

[http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

## ICEH Highlights

### Cumulative Impacts Working Group Invitation

CHE's newest working group, focused on cumulative impacts on human health of assaults and stressors over time, invites you to join and follow the discussion. A telephone meeting on September 20th will be centered on "Emerging Trends in the Field of Cumulative Impacts." [Visit the website](#) for more information. To join the working group, please send a message to [CHE](#).

### ICEH Website Features

Did you know that the ICEH website includes several Practice Prevention columns, targeted at parents and caregivers, describing how to protect children from environmental hazards? Or that the site includes a resource page for medical professionals on children's health and climate change? Visit the [website](#) and browse the wealth of resources.

## Announcements

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

### [New report: Early Exposures to Hazardous Chemicals/Pollution and Associations with Chronic Disease: A Scoping Review.](#)

The central focus is a scoping review of evidence for associations between early life environmental exposures and the later development of several of the most common chronic diseases.

### [GEMI launches new interactive website.](#)

The Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) announced today that it has redesigned its website, [www.gemi.org](http://www.gemi.org). GEMI is a global leader in developing insights and creating environmental sustainability solutions for business.

### [Call for comments: EPA announces new hearing and comment period for Team Completions Underground disposal permit In Kalaska, Mich.](#)

On Sept. 14, EPA will hold an informal public meeting to answer questions from 6-7 p.m., followed by a formal public hearing from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Hannah Catholic School, 2912 W. M-113, Kingsley. EPA will accept written comments until Sept. 27.

*[See other announcements about meetings related to contaminated sites: [EPA to hold public meeting regarding Fairfax St. Wood Treater Site, Jacksonville, FL. \(August 25th\)](#) and [EPA to host Aug. 30 public meeting on Floyds Fork Pollution Control Plan](#)]*

### [EPA Region 7 to host five free brownfields grant writing workshops for communities interested in 2012 competition.](#)

Over the next three weeks, EPA Region 7 will present a series of free grant writing workshops designed for communities interested in applying for EPA Brownfields funding later this fall.

**[Advancing the Next Generation \(NexGen\) of Risk Assessment materials online.](#)**

Videos of the presentations and the draft summary report from the 2011 NexGen conference are now posted.

**[Obama Administration issues environmental justice MOU.](#)**

On Aug. 4, 17 federal agencies signed a memorandum of understanding that aims to address and reduce the disproportionate harm from environmental degradation that affects indigenous, low-income, and minority communities. OMB Watch.

*[See other articles about environmental justice: [Justice for all](#) and [Illinois commission to weigh pollution risks among minorities, poor](#)]*

**[New report: Coalition for Healthier Schools.](#)**

The national Coalition for Healthier Schools convened its leadership in April 2011 in a two-day facilitated session to develop recommendations for US EPA on its Healthy Schools Initiative and to map the Coalition's next steps. This executive summary report represents the consensus of the meeting attendees.

**[EPA seeks input on the development of drinking water perchlorate regulation.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is inviting small businesses, governments, and not-for-profit organizations to participate as small entity representatives (SERs) for a small business advocacy review (SBAR) Panel. Self-nominations must be received by August 26, 2011.

*[See other announcements about water contamination: [EPA issues rule on carbamate wastes](#) and [EPA helps states protect beachgoers in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska](#)]*

**[EPA issues stop sale order to DuPont on sale and distribution of Imprelis herbicide.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today issued an order to E.I. DuPont de Nemours (DuPont) directing the company to immediately halt the sale, use or distribution of Imprelis, an herbicide marketed to control weeds that has been reported to be harming a large number of trees, including Norway spruce and white pine.

**[Lead-based Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule Workshop to be held in Birmingham, Alabama.](#)**

Scheduled for August 24th, the workshop will include discussions on the Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Rule, as well as RRP, its training components, and the importance of lead safe work practices.

**[Call for proposals: Equity Grant Program.](#)**

The grant program will increase the capacity of community-based organizations and the communities they work with to engage in planning and policy development that will shape the future of transit station areas and surrounding neighborhoods in the Puget Sound region's three major transit corridors. Small grants to community-based organizations will provide resources to organize and increase participation of underrepresented communities and give voice to community priorities. The first round of grant proposals is due Sept. 2, 2011.

**[Call for proposals: 2011 Environmental Health Science Innovation Fund.](#)**

Through its Science Innovation Fund, Passport Foundation provides modest support for US-based scientific research projects that demonstrate strong potential for significantly advancing the environmental health science needed to promulgate effective chemicals regulation, public health policies and clinical care policies/practices. Applications must be submitted by October 20, 2011.

**[Job openings: Washington State.](#)**

National Asian Pacific Council on Aging (NAPCA) needs seniors 55 years of age or older

to work under the Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program, for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Current openings are for a lab technician, an environmental health outreach specialist to work with schools, and for an information management specialist.

**[Job opening: Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.](#)**

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health is searching for a senior investigator qualified for tenured appointment to direct its Clinical Research Program, which includes an on-site Clinical Research Unit in Research Triangle Park and components at the Clinical Research Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The application deadline is October 31, 2011.

**[Job opening: Washington State.](#)**

The state Department of Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) is seeking 245 young adults, including military service veterans, between 18 and 25 to to serve in AmeriCorps member positions for on-the-ground projects in 16 counties across the state.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events, including requests for proposals and abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar:  
<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

**1) Epi Info™ 7 Webinar Demonstrations**

three dates from August 25 - September 27, 2011

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Epi Info™ 7, scheduled for release in fall 2011, represents a complete technology overhaul of the Epi Info platform. The Epi Info™ development team invites interested public health professionals who work with epidemiological data to attend one of these upcoming LiveMeeting webinars.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sara Bedrosian, [eri7@cdc.gov](mailto:eri7@cdc.gov)

**2) Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities**

Wednesday and Thursday, September 7 - 8, 2011

Austin, Texas

at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown

Sponsor: University Transportation Center for Mobility and others listed on the website

Transportation is a key element of livable communities. Developing and applying appropriate performance measures to transportation and livability is critical to ensuring that intended federal, state and local goals and objectives are being met. This conference will address the current state of the practice with performance measures for transportation and livable communities in urban, suburban, exurban and rural areas. Current research, projects and initiatives will be highlighted and future research needs will be discussed. The two-day conference will include keynote speakers, plenary sessions, breakout sessions and poster presentations on topics related to performance measures for transportation and livable communities. The conference will help advance research in the field of livability performance measures and help agencies such as state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies and other groups to develop and use appropriate performance measures that address transportation and livability goals.

Price: \$275

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: UTCM, 979-845-2538

### **3) Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting**

Thursday September 8, 2011

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Seattle, Washington

130 Nickerson Street, Suite 100

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington Children's Environmental Health Working Group

The Children's Environmental Health working group of CHE-WA meets monthly, and you are invited to attend in September and hear a "boots on the ground" report from a local business. With representatives from local, county, state and national agencies, business, citizens and NGOs, our meeting offers ample time to share information about your own projects and hear what others around the region are doing. Our topic in September is the personal care product review recently conducted by PCC Natural Markets. Roxanne Green, Heath & Beauty coordinator at PCC and president of the Natural Products Association Northwest, will discuss the history, process and successes of this groundbreaking effort.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **4) Public Health International Conference 2011**

Thursday and Friday, September 8 - 9, 2011

London, United Kingdom

at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road

Sponsor: *Public Health Journal*

Taking as its theme health and well being, the conference will explore the relationships between health, well being and the factors which influence them in a global environment.

Price: see the [Booking form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Claire Robins, [crobins@rsph.org.uk](mailto:crobins@rsph.org.uk)

### **5) School IPM: Making It Work**

Friday September 9, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture, NHS Hall, 3501 NE 41st Street

Sponsor: The Washington School IPM Coalition

Presenters will be Carrie Foss of the WSU Urban IPM Program and Gregg Smith of the Salt Lake City School District. Please RSVP to Carrie Foss.

Price: free

Contact: Carrie Foss, [cfoss@wsu.edu](mailto:cfoss@wsu.edu)

### **6) How to Bring About Large-scale Behavior Change**

One remaining part, Saturday September 10, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Seattle Public Library main branch, Wright-Ketcham meeting room

Sponsor: Sustainable Seattle

One of the most confounding challenges facing the sustainability movement is how to bring about a massive shift in human behavior. This master class series explores a variety of powerful insights from cognitive science for developing successful social change strategies. You'll learn how meaning arises in the workings of the human brain, why emotions are absolutely vital for engaging people in a process of persistent change, and what the root causes are that have driven societal institutions to the edge of ecological collapse. Participants will explore the evolutionary origins of morality and discover the psychological foundations of identity that merge values, ideology, and institutions into the powerful stories we collectively live in the modern world. Techniques will be provided to begin using this knowledge to communicate effectively, increase civic engagement, and design better structures for bringing about large-scale behavioral change. Participants can register for the entire series or individual sessions.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

### **7) National Environmental Public Health Tracking Conference**

Monday through Thursday, September 12 - 15, 2011

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Ritz-Carlton

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The 2011 National Environmental Public Health Tracking Conference, Tracking in Action: Leading the Way to Better Environmental Public Health, will unite the environmental public health community and provide opportunities to discuss and highlight successes of environmental public health and the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, share innovative approaches and reflect on lessons learned along the way, discuss the future of environmental public health, and build partnerships and identify next steps for environmental public health tracking.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CDC, 800-232-4636 or [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)

### **8) International Society for Environmental Epidemiology 2011**

Tuesday through Friday, September 13 - 16, 2011

Barcelona, Spain

at the Palau de Congressos de Barcelona, Fira de Barcelona, Av. Reina María Cristina

Sponsor: International Society for Environmental Epidemiology

For this conference we have specific themes: Sustainable transport and health: Impact of transport on health and approaches to reduce health impacts; Impact of climate change: from water scarcity to Saharan dust episodes; Early exposure-later life: in utero and early life exposures and effects in later life; and New methods and technologies. We hope that the conference will stimulate discussion and research in these particular areas.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

### **9) Building Upon the Science: New Modalities in Supporting the Breastfeeding Dyad**

Friday, September 16, 2011

7:50 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kenmore, Washington

at Bastyr University, 14500 Juanita Drive NE

Sponsor: La Leche League of Washington

This seminar covers the latest breastfeeding research and showcases two expert speakers in the fields of lactation and family health care. The information presented will enable health care providers to provide the education and support necessary to facilitate successful and fulfilling breastfeeding experiences for their clients. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: see the [Registration Form](#)  
[Visit the website](#)

### **10) Ninth General Assembly of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness**

Saturday through Tuesday, September 17 - 20, 2011  
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh India  
at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre

Sponsor: International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) in conjunction with the LV Prasad Eye Institute

The theme for this assembly is "Eye Health-Everyone's Business." The IAPB General Assembly is a global event for discussion of public health topics related to blindness and visual impairment, highlighting progress in the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, IAPB's global joint initiative with the World Health Organization, for the elimination of blindness. As the theme points out, the 9GA will feature keynote lectures and speakers who will talk on strengthening health systems, thereby offering opportunities to highlight the linkages between VISION 2020's objectives and health care delivery.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)  
[Visit the website](#)

Contact: IAPB, 44 207 927 2973 or [communications@iapb.org](mailto:communications@iapb.org)

### **11) 3rd Alberta-Zhejiang Life Sciences international Forum on Food Safety, Environmental Contamination and Human Health Risk Assessment and Management**

Monday through Wednesday, September 19 - 21, 2011  
Hangzhou, Zhejiang China  
in the World Heritage Site

Sponsor: The Health Bureau of Zhejiang Province, the Science and Technology Department of Zhejiang Province in China and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health and Wellness in Canada

The vision of the forum is healthy people, safe environments, and prosperous economy. The forum provides an opportunity to learn about the fundamental concepts and practice of human health risk assessment and risk management. It will provide an opportunity for the participants to become familiar with the concepts of public health and safety protection, public health policy development and decision making processes, current regulatory frameworks for industrial development and principals of food safety.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)  
[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dorothy Huang, 403-220-5511 or [acft@ucalgary.ca](mailto:acft@ucalgary.ca)

### **12) Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers Course**

Tuesday September 20, 2011  
Boise, Idaho  
at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, through the National Center for Healthy Housing

National Center for Healthy Housing has created a course for community health workers (CHWs) to teach them how to provide healthy homes information to members of their communities. The Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers course is targeted to individuals who work as health advocates in their communities. This course trains CHWs to provide one-on-one and large-group education on healthy homes, provide general advice about specific healthy homes problems, and be able to recommend healthy homes approaches to be taken by families, landlords and other community members.

Price: \$15, or \$25 if this and the "Launching a Healthy Homes Initiative Course" (September 21st) are taken together

Contact: [sanjose@uw.edu](mailto:sanjose@uw.edu)

### **13) TSCA Reform Webinar Series: Hazard, Use, and Exposure Data**

Tuesday September 20, 2011

noon - 1:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Environmental Law Institute

This panel will explore reform of TSCA requirements and procedures for developing and reporting data on chemical hazards, use and exposure. Topics will include the scope of EPA authority to require information and data, including on new chemicals such as nanomaterials; testing, including mutual acceptance of data and emerging methodologies; and the role of downstream users of chemicals. To reserve, email by Friday, September 16. This webinar is open to the public, but callers must rsvp by Friday September 16th, including the caller's name and email address.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [mcmurrin@eli.org](mailto:mcmurrin@eli.org)

### **14) Screening for Developmental Neurotoxicity: An In Vitro Approach using High Content Imaging**

Tuesday September 20, 2011

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Dr. William Mundy will explain EPA's exciting efforts to speed up testing of possible developmental neurotoxicants in a webinar open to the public. EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory scientists are protecting human health through cost-effective methods to test and rank chemicals for their potential to cause developmental neurotoxicity. These new approaches, designed to be rapid and less costly than current rodent models, include high throughput in vitro assays and medium throughput zebrafish embryonic development assays. Historically, scientists studied laboratory animals as surrogates for humans, which was expensive and time-consuming. To date, only a small number of the thousands of chemicals currently in commerce have been assessed for their potential toxicity. Very few chemicals have been tested for effects on the developing nervous system. New testing methods can quickly screen chemicals for effects on the nervous system. EPA is developing in vitro cultures of rodent and human neurons that recapitulate cell proliferation differentiation, growth, and synapse formation, providing faster, less expensive ways of learning how to improve human health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Joyce Martin, JD, [JMartin@aaidd.org](mailto:JMartin@aaidd.org)

### **15) Principles of Small and Large Dose Toxicology**

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 20 - 21, 2011

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

Issaquah, Washington

at the Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Science Center

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course identifies the potential health hazards of toxic chemicals and methods for preventing exposure. Hazards and risks of exposure are evaluated and put into perspective by exploring chemicals encountered in everyday life. You will learn the basic principles of toxicology, tools for assessing the toxicology of chemicals, effects of chemicals on the body, and why some people are more sensitive to chemicals than others. Focus will be given to state-of-the-art research, risk assessment and risk communication. Case studies will be included with ample time for discussion and answers to questions.

Price: \$545 / \$445 for employees of Native American tribes, nonprofits, and government agencies; students; and NAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Program, 206-762-1976

### **16) Launching a Healthy Homes Initiative Course**

Wednesday September 21, 2011

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, through the National Center for Healthy Housing

This course brings together health and housing professionals from state and local agencies as well as other health and housing organizations. The goal of the training is to identify policies and practices to establish robust programs to make homes healthier. Participants will work with a case study developed for the training to analyze threats to resident health and identify opportunities to reduce those threats through improved and coordinated housing and health services. The course integrates engaging presentations with real world problem-solving exercises to create an engaging and informative session.

Price: \$15, or \$25 if this and the "Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers Course" (September 20th) are taken together

Contact: [sanjose@uw.edu](mailto:sanjose@uw.edu)

### **17) Childhood & Adolescent Obesity: A Whole-System, Strategic Approach**

Friday September 23, 2011

London, United Kingdom

Sponsor: Leeds Metropolitan University and Carnegie Weight Management

This one-day conference will explore the need for a strategic approach to tackling childhood obesity and examine what a good strategy looks like. With the help of a lineup national experts in the field of childhood obesity, we will look at the elements that are involved in designing a 'best practice' strategy and the practical challenges of how to focus strategic action to produce desired outcomes in a time of great economic pressure.

Price: \$634.06 (USD) including tax for for physicians/industries or \$419.96 for allied health/nurses/students until August 15th

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

### **18) Healthy People, Global Goods -Goods Movement: Public Health Implications for the Mid Atlantic**



Friday September 23, 2011  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
at the University of Pennsylvania

Sponsor: Clean Air Council

The business of moving consumer goods via trucks, trains and ships is one with a considerable health and environmental impact. Voluntary and mandatory air quality measures have been implemented at goods movement facilities in some parts of the country. While some goods movement facilities in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic have recently implemented some air pollution mitigation strategies, they still lag far behind their West Coast and European counterparts in terms of implementing cost-effective solutions. Moreover, there is a lack of awareness in this region of what goods movement is and how it impacts health and quality of life. Conference topics include the latest research on the connection between goods movement and public health, goods movement industry trends in the Northeast and their implication for nearby low-income neighborhoods, collaboration and capacity-building to develop cost-effective solutions to reduce air pollution from goods movement, and public policy and its implications for goods movement and public health.

Price: \$50

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Kate Zaidan, 215-567-4004, ext. 110 or k [zaidan@cleanair.org](mailto:zaidan@cleanair.org)

## News and Journal Articles

### [Seventeen per cent of cancer nurses unintentionally exposed to chemotherapy, study finds.](#)

*Tuesday, August 23, 2011*

Nearly 17 percent of nurses who work in outpatient chemotherapy infusion centers reported being exposed on their skin or eyes to the toxic drugs they deliver, according to a new study from the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. ScienceDaily.

[See other articles about exposures in medicine: [Purified growth hormone not tied to brain disease](#); [The danger of daily aspirin](#) and [MRSA is on the rise among children: Could antibiotics be to blame?](#)]

### [Study reveals deep link between smoking while pregnant and asthma.](#)

*Tuesday, August 23, 2011*

When it comes to the effects of smoking, the most delicate time for a child's genetic development is before birth. A new study found that exposure to tobacco smoke in utero was far more likely to cause severe asthma than exposure during the first two years of life. San Francisco Bay Citizen, California.

[See other articles about tobacco use: [Women smokers are at greater risk of heart disease than men](#); [Smokeless tobacco products present new challenge for Colorado health officials](#); [Menthol cigarettes make quitting smoking more difficult, new study finds](#); [Cigarettes cause half of bladder cancers in women](#); [US cigarette makers sue over graphic warning labels](#); [Cigarettes: the dark side of gender equality](#); [How safe is tobacco that melts in your mouth?](#) and [Smoking banned on MTA and LIRR train platforms](#)]

### [Killers in the kitchen.](#)

*Monday, August 22, 2011*

Expert opinion suggests the safety of some of these ubiquitous cookware and storage materials is taken for granted. There's been little reaction here to reports in the west about the probable carcinogenic nature of the chemical coating PFOA on non-stick cookware. New Delhi Times of India, India.

[See other articles about hazards in consumer products: [Sunless tanning safer but can have a dark side](#); [Antibacterial chemical raises safety issues](#); [Group protests chemicals in children's products outside Baucus' Missoula office](#); [Toxic school supplies pose threat to children's health](#) and [Government scraps asbestos compensation scheme](#)]

**[Do your part: reduce exposure to BPA.](#)**

*Monday, August 22, 2011*

What are the chances that you are buying and bringing BPA right into your own home? Probably pretty good, and there is reason to be concerned. Seattle Times.

[See another article about plastic: [Caribbean town declares plastic bags non grata](#)]

**[Effects of prenatal stress passed across generations in mice.](#)**

*Sunday, August 21, 2011*

Sons of male mice exposed to prenatal stress are more sensitive to stress as adults, according to a study in the August 17 issue of The Journal of Neuroscience. ScienceDaily.

**[Rhode Island hospital study identifies fish oil's impact on cognition and brain structure.](#)**

*Sunday, August 21, 2011*

Researchers at Rhode Island Hospital's Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center have found positive associations between fish oil supplements and cognitive functioning as well as differences in brain structure between users and non-users of fish oil supplements. Lifespan.

[See other articles about nutrition: [Hiding vegetables to reduce energy density: an effective strategy to increase children's vegetable intake and reduce energy intake](#) and [Antioxidant vitamins may cut mortality risk: EPIC data](#)]

**[Attention disorder on the rise.](#)**

*Sunday, August 21, 2011*

The number of children diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder rose more than 30% over the past decade, with much of the increase likely due to more awareness and diagnosis, according to a new government report. Wall Street Journal.

**[Aviation gas poses lead risk to thousands in Brevard.](#)**

*Sunday, August 21, 2011*

Based on new research indicating that living within 1 kilometer of an airport creates a significant risk for lead poisoning -- because aviation gasoline still contains the metal -- Florida Today examined local data to gauge the potential lead threat to Space Coast residents. Melbourne Florida Today, Florida.

[See other articles about lead exposures: [Rochester faces challenges in reducing lead poisoning](#) and [Lead poisoning from battery industry reported in developing countries](#)]

**[Blacks less likely than whites to get NIH grants, study finds.](#)**

*Friday, August 19, 2011*

Black scientists are significantly less likely than white researchers to win grants from the National Institutes of Health. These findings indicate that race remains a significant factor in who gets funding for research into areas such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease. Washington Post.

**[EPA's planned phaseout of harmful refrigerant \[HCFC-22\] hits snag.](#)**

*Friday, August 19, 2011*

Eighteen months after the Obama administration came out with new rules to stop refrigerants in air conditioners from thinning the Earth's protective ozone layer, an unexpected quirk has divided the industry and could have implications for the atmosphere. Greenwire.

**[Radioactive Fukushima children given cancer all-clear.](#)**

*Thursday, August 18, 2011*

According to a report by the Japanese national broadcaster, NHK, around half of 1149 children tested in Fukushima prefecture have radioactive iodine in their thyroid glands, but the levels were low so thyroid cancer will therefore probably not increase in the future, according to one scientist. New Scientist.

[See other articles about nuclear radiation: [Fukushima disaster: residents may never return to radiation-hit homes](#); [Small amounts of radioactive tritium from Vermont Yankee nuclear plant found in nearby river](#)]

### **[Solar UV doses of young Americans and vitamin D3 production.](#)**

*Thursday, August 18, 2011*

These estimates suggest most American children may not be going outside enough to meet their minimal (~600 IU/day) or optimal (=1,200 IU/day) vitamin D requirements. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Back to school: The ABC's of cell phone safety.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 17, 2011*

Grassroots Environmental Education, a New York-based environmental health non-profit, is urging parents to teach their children five simple rules to limit their exposure to cell phone radiation. PR Newswire.

*[See other articles about mobile phones and electromagnetic radiation: [No cancer, it's just a buzz!](#); [Wi-fi access expanding to all local public schools](#) and [Mobile phone use and brain tumors in children and adolescents: a multicenter case-control study](#)]*

### **[Gaining better understanding of health and environment links.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 17, 2011*

There is often a shortcoming in the co-ordination of environment and health policies and a lack of appreciation of the environmental health impact of initiatives in manufacturing and service sectors. Irish Times, Dublin, Ireland.

### **[Climate change, crop yields, and undernutrition: development of a model to quantify the impact of climate scenarios on child undernutrition.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 17, 2011*

Our model suggests that to reduce and prevent future undernutrition it is necessary to both increase food access and improve socioeconomic conditions, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental Health Perspectives.

*[See other articles about climate change and health: [Climate change leads Inuits to team up with CSU to predict weather and ice](#); [World's first 'climate change refugees'?](#); [Adapting to climate change can be simple](#); [EPA accepts first greenhouse gas reporting data/Agency launches electronic GHG reporting tool](#) and [What tar sands and the Keystone XL pipeline mean for climate change](#)]*

### **[Cancer's secrets come into sharper focus.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 16, 2011*

Recent discoveries have been complicating the picture of how cancers develop, and the disease appears to be even more willful and calculating than previously imagined. New York Times.

*[See other articles about cancer: [Young shun sun cream because it is 'uncool' to come home from holiday without a tan](#); [Breastfeeding counteracts risk for a type of cancer, study says](#); [Asbestos-related deaths on the rise](#); [Women 'don't recognise the real risk of lung cancer' which is the biggest killer](#); [That unhealthy glow](#) and [Sugary diet link to womb cancer risk: Regular sweet snacks increase threat 33%](#)]*

### **[Milwaukee-based researchers study prenatal exposure to toxins.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 16, 2011*

Scientists are learning that health is the function of genes and environment. The work of Milwaukee-based researchers suggests that this principle also applies to the health of a growing fetus and a premature infant. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

*[See other articles about children's exposures: [The Taiwan Birth Panel Study: a prospective cohort study for environmentally-related child health](#); [Myriad chemicals measured in urban children may further health risks](#); [Panel finds thyroid disease among kids exposed to C8](#); [Maternal cadmium exposure during pregnancy and size at birth: a prospective cohort study](#); [Mold exposure has greater impact on infants](#) and [Bisphenol A exposure is associated with in-vivo estrogenic gene expression in adults](#)]*

### **[Somali refugees fight cholera and measles as hunger spreads.](#)**

*Monday, August 15, 2011*

Outbreaks of measles and cholera are striking down Somali children already weakened

by hunger, resulting in dozens of new fatalities. News of the fast-spreading diseases has caused alarm among aid workers, who are struggling to deal with the humanitarian crisis brought on by the severe drought and conflict in Somalia. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

### **Siblings of autistic children at a 20 times higher risk.**

*Monday, August 15, 2011*

Doctors have long known that autism can run in families. A new study shows that the risk of a younger sibling of an autistic child developing the condition is twice as high as previously thought -- roughly 20 times greater than children in the general population. The results may help shed some light on whether DNA or environmental influences play a greater role. USA Today.

### **Roundup herbicide research shows plant, soil problems.**

*Saturday, August 13, 2011*

The heavy use of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide appears to be causing harmful changes in soil and potentially hindering yields of the genetically modified crops that farmers are cultivating, a government scientist said on Friday. Reuters.

*[See other articles about pesticides: [Mosquito resistance to bednets fuels malaria worries](#) and [Ontario shoppers escape pesticide ban in U.S.](#)]*

### **Small amount of exercise could protect against memory loss in elderly, CU study suggests.**

*Friday, August 12, 2011*

A new University of Colorado Boulder study shows that a small amount of physical exercise could profoundly protect the elderly from long-term memory loss that can happen suddenly following infection, illnesses or injury in old age. University of Colorado News Center.

*[See other articles about lifestyle and health: [Older adults with too much salt in diet and too little exercise at greater risk of cognitive decline](#); [Contrary to earlier findings, excess body fat in elderly decreases life expectancy](#) and [Exercising 15 minutes a day adds 3 years to life expectancy, study finds](#)]*

### **How tanning changes the brain.**

*Friday, August 12, 2011*

People who frequently use tanning beds experience changes in brain activity during their tanning sessions that mimic the patterns of drug addiction, new research shows. New York Times.

*[See another article about addictive symptoms, with technology: [Our addiction to technology trumps caffeine, chocolate and alcohol](#)]*

### **Georgia's schools become Clean Air Schools to tackle traffic and air quality challenges in their communities.**

*Friday, August 12, 2011*

Summer break has reached its conclusion and the back-to-school rush has arrived. Last year, more than 330 schools in 35 districts participated in programs to educate students, parents, teachers and staff about the actions they can take to improve air quality on school grounds and in the community. Duluth Weekly, Georgia.

*[See other articles about air quality: [Traffic-related air toxics and term low birth weight in Los Angeles County, California](#); [City looks to buses for reducing air pollution](#); [Report: Valley air thick with smog](#); [Airborne cow allergen, ammonia and particulate matter at homes vary with distance to industrial scale dairy operations: an exposure assessment](#); [Specialists push EPA for stronger air quality regulations](#); [EPA affirms national air quality standards for carbon monoxide are protective of public health](#); [EPA looks to clean up coal-generated brown cloud in Four Corners region, Navajo Nation](#); [Terminal operators at ports of L.A. and Long Beach agree to cut diesel emissions](#); [The effects of particulate matter sources on daily mortality: a case-crossover study of Barcelona, Spain](#); [Valley bad-air alerts coming to Facebook, Twitter](#) and [One in 10 deaths in Mongolian capital caused by air pollution](#)]*

### **Blood cadmium and estimated glomerular filtration rate in Korean adults.**

*Friday, August 12, 2011*

Elevated blood cadmium levels were associated with lower eGFR in women, supporting the role of cadmium as a chronic kidney disease (CKD) risk factor. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **Recycling responsibly.**

*Thursday, August 11, 2011*

A local computer refurbisher goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to recycling e-waste. Chico News & Review, California.

### **How to protect yourself from America's 'new' drinking water toxins.**

*Thursday, August 11, 2011*

Millions of Americans have been ingesting them for years -- perchlorate, hexavalent chromium, volatile organic compounds -- not because they're safe, but because they are among 6,000 toxins the EPA has not gotten around to regulating in municipal drinking water systems. Forbes.

*[See other articles about water contamination: [Why cleaned wastewater stays dirty in our minds](#); [NRC fails to change groundwater protection rules for nuclear plants](#) and [Radium creates challenges for clean drinking water](#)]*

### **Safe Planet campaign uses the arts to explain chemical threat.**

*Thursday, August 11, 2011*

Telling someone they've been poisoned in ways that could reshape their DNA and be carried on to their descendants -- possibly causing cancer, neurological illness, mental deficiency, birth defects, brain damage and death -- isn't easy. But that's Michael Stanley-Jones' job. Miller-McCune.

### **Assessing emerging challenges in US environmental health.**

*Thursday, August 11, 2011*

Lynn Goldman, a pediatrician, epidemiologist and a former assistant administrator of the EPA under President Bill Clinton, discusses the many challenges that remain in trying to understand and alleviate threats from environmental sources. Yale Environment 360.

*[See other articles about research approaches: [Application of computational systems biology to explore environmental toxicity hazards](#); [Solving eco-challenges with today's data](#) and [A mechanistic modeling framework for predicting metabolic interactions in complex mixtures](#)]*

### **Association between type 2 diabetes and exposure to persistent organic pollutants.**

*Wednesday, August 10, 2011*

This study confirms the association between type 2 diabetes and adult-only exposure to organochlorine pesticides in a general urban population. Diabetes Care.

*[See a related article about POPs: [Associations of persistent organic pollutants with abdominal obesity in the elderly: The Prospective Investigation of the Vasculature in Uppsala Seniors \(PIVUS\) study](#) and others about diabetes: [More evidence links pesticides, Type 2 diabetes](#) and [Swapping meat for nuts to lower diabetes risk](#)]*

### **Blind rush? Shale gas boom proceeds amid human health questions.**

*Wednesday, August 10, 2011*

The combination of fracking and horizontal drilling has sent potentially recoverable amounts of natural gas nationwide soaring. But for shale gas to meet its potential, millions of Americans will have to live with drill rigs in or near their own neighborhoods. Environmental Health Perspectives.

*[See other articles about mining and fracking: [Northern Colorado fracking concerns escalate](#); [Gasland director Josh Fox talks fracking, chemicals, cancer, and lies](#) and [EPA officials tour eastern Ky.](#)]*

### **Mistakes in scientific studies surge.**

*Wednesday, August 10, 2011*

Since 2001, while the number of papers published in research journals has risen 44 percent, the number retracted has leapt more than 15-fold, data compiled by Thomson Reuters has revealed. In a sign of the times, a blog called "Retraction Watch" has popped up to monitor the flow. Wall Street Journal.

### [Banned chemical levels high in pregnant women.](#)

*Wednesday, August 10, 2011*

Pregnant women participating in a pilot study at San Francisco General Hospital had the highest levels of banned chemicals used in flame retardants in their bodies compared with other expectant mothers in other studies conducted worldwide. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

### [Agent Orange stored and used at Okinawa bases.](#)

*Wednesday, August 10, 2011*

The US military stored the highly toxic defoliant Agent Orange, used to devastating effect in the Vietnam War, at its bases in Okinawa Prefecture and sprayed it as weed-killer at some of its facilities, according to a British journalist. Asahi Shimbun, Japan.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [NSW police may strike over workplace hazards such as lead paint and asbestos](#); [Mohawk man arrested after digging into toxic Massena landfill](#); [Israeli black hole in Kosovo](#); [Cleanup plan announced for Iron Horse Park Superfund site in Billerica, Mass.](#); [Washington backs Agent Orange cleanup in Vietnam](#); [Cancer cases elevated in Pompton Lakes](#); [As city leases industrial sites for schools, concern about safety builds](#); [Leukemia strikes near contaminated U.S. base](#); [Plant stored toxic waste, endangering residents](#); [Clean Harbors to pay over \\$1.7 million to settle alleged violations in Braintree](#); [Chromium waste dumping takes deadly toll in China](#); [State: No long-term health risks from Kalamazoo River oil spill](#); [Orica admits arsenic spill into river](#); [Chemical munitions still plague DC neighborhood and Half-mile stretch of Black River contaminated, but not dangerous, says DEC](#)]

### [Bag lunches invite disease, study finds.](#)

*Wednesday, August 10, 2011*

"Sack" lunches often pose a ticking bacterial bomb, a new study indicates. And including an ice pack or two -- ostensibly to keep perishables at safe temperatures -- won't necessarily eliminate the risk. Science News.

[See other articles about food safety: [Organic poultry farms have fewer drug-resistant bacteria, study finds](#); [Food adulteration rings alarm bell](#); [China says it's cracking down amid anger over tainted food](#); [Mushrooms join growing list of radioactive threats to Japan's food chain](#); [Toxins troubling in fish caught in local waters](#); [Dangerous diet regimen still on sale and Subtracting additives](#)]

## Lessons Learned

### **Doing No Harm Is Not Doing Your Best**

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

*"Children have a right to an environment that ensures that they have the best opportunity to reach and maintain their full genetic potential."*

Gilbert SG. Ethical, legal, and social issues: our children's future. *Neurotoxicology*. 2005;26:521-30.

Much of our basic ethical construct has been based around "do no harm." But is this simple approach good enough? Recent advances in our understanding of how DNA expression can be modified indicate that subtle changes are possible beyond changing the DNA sequence. This is now referred to as "epigenetics", in which gene expression is silenced or suppressed by DNA methylation or histone deacetylation, but without altering the sequence of the silenced genes (see the August 10, 2011, lessons learned column for a more detailed discussion). The power and subtlety of epigenetic changes can be passed to the next generation.

Epigenetic changes can occur as the result of exposure to environmental contaminants such as cigarette smoke, arsenic, alcohol, phthalates and BPA, as well other hazards. More importantly and with profound ethical implications are studies indicating that nutrition, methyl content of diet, intake of folic acid and vitamins or even social and maternal behavior toward the offspring have epigenetic consequences. In rodents, maternal grooming or lack of grooming results in significant epigenetic changes. This means that it is not just enough to have a developmental environment free of chemical contaminants, but there must be a loving and supportive environment during development. We must move beyond just "doing no harm" to "doing good." The concept of epigenetics provides the scientific and biological foundation for the necessity of "doing good." This concept could be called "epiprotection" or "epiprevention" to signify the need to move above and beyond preventing exposures to harmful material to one that is nurturing and supportive.



Our expanding appreciation of the influence of development on epigenetics will have profound effect on our ethical thinking. We have an ethical responsibility to ensure that our children have an environment in which they can reach and maintain their full potential, not just free of exposure to chemicals, but an environment that is supportive and nurturing. Epiprevention moves beyond just doing no harm to one of creating a positive and supportive environment for our children.

#### **Looking back to go forward**

Lessons Learned is a bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

Past Lessons Learned: <http://toxipedia.org/x/06Jb>

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 Hepp  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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