



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative
NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Priming for Prevention

An Ecological Approach
to Research, Education
and Policy



May 10-11, 2007

Morehouse School of Medicine

Atlanta, Georgia

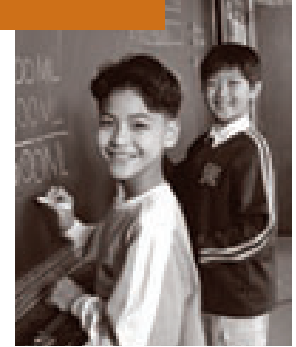


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Conference Overview

This conference is designed for scientists, health professionals, government agency officials, learning and developmental disabilities organization representatives, self-advocates and environmental health and justice leaders who want to learn more about the latest science regarding children's development and the environment as well as model educational and policy initiatives in this burgeoning field. We are grateful to the **Morehouse School of Medicine** for hosting this event.

Emerging science suggests that environmental exposures, along with nutritional deficiencies, socio-economic factors, gene-environment interactions and infectious disease, can undermine healthy child development. In addition, these factors can contribute to increases in learning and developmental disabilities and other child health problems. This means that to ensure children's well-being, we not only need to reduce contaminants but to develop a whole systems or "ecological" understanding in order to address these complexities.

Leading researchers at this conference will highlight recent studies and describe how this new science is being translated into innovative solutions and public policy opportunities. In addition, one session will be devoted to brainstorming with colleagues from different disciplines in smaller groups to develop recommendations in response to a set of questions on research, education and policy opportunities. Participants will leave the conference not only with more scientific knowledge, but with suggested concrete steps we can collectively take to "prime for prevention" and to protect the health and future of all children.

Children's Health Pioneer Award

This award will be given to **Herbert Needleman, MD**, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, for his prescient research and political courage to reduce lead exposures and help children reach their fullest potential.

Conference Co-sponsors:

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* | Autism Society of America* | Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 | Institute for Children's Environmental Health* | Institute for the Study of Disadvantage and Disability* | Learning Disabilities Association of America* | Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics | National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences | National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities | Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit* | University of Maryland School of Nursing*

**denotes participation on the planning committee*

Guest Faculty

Keynote Speaker:

David Satcher, MD, PhD, Director of the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine and former Surgeon General of the United States

Laura Abulafia, MHS, Director of the Environmental Health Initiative, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

David Bellinger, PhD, MSc, Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital

Terry Collins, PhD, Lord Professor of Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University

Alison Davis, PhD, RN, Clinical Instructor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and Affiliate of The Arc of Anne Arundel County

Yvonne Fry-Johnson, MD, Chief of Maternal and Child Health at the National Center for Primary Care

Lee Grossman, President and CEO of the Autism Society of America

Martha Herbert, MD, PhD, Clinical Associate in Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Morphometric Analysis and Assistant Professor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School

Jane Houlihan, Vice President for Research at the Environmental Working Group

Elise Miller, MEd, Executive Director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health

Isaac Pessah, PhD, Professor and Director of the Center for Children's Environmental Health, University of California, Davis

Virginia Rauh, ScD, Professor of Public Health and Deputy Director of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health, Columbia University Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health

Leslie Rubin, MD, President of the Institute for the Study of Disadvantage and Disability and Visiting Scholar at the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics

Barbara Sattler, PhD, RN, Director and Associate Professor at the Environmental Health Education Center, University of Maryland School of Nursing

Susan Schantz, PhD, Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network

Peggy Shepard, Executive Director of West Harlem Environmental Action

Maureen Swanson, Director of the Healthy Children Project, Learning Disabilities Association of America

Tom Zoeller, PhD, Professor and Chair of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Biology Department

Registration

Register for this conference now by going to <http://www.iceh.org/LDDImeetings.html>.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO MARCH 30TH!

Information regarding hotel reservations at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel is posted with the conference information.

Continuing education:

Continuing education credits for physicians and nurses will be available.

Overview of LDDI

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative (LDDI) is a national working group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (www.healthandenvironment.org). The primary mission of LDDI is to foster collaboration among learning and developmental disability organizations, researchers, health professionals and environmental health and justice groups to address concerns about the impact environmental pollutants may have on healthy brain development. LDDI currently has over 250 organizational and individual members engaged in research, educational and policy efforts. This group is coordinated by Elise Miller, MEd, executive director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health (ICEH). Activities include organizing national and regional meetings, translating emerging science for lay audiences and policymakers, building leadership among national learning and developmental disabilities organizations, publishing "Practice Prevention" columns and much more.

For additional information, please see:

www.iceh.org/LDDI.html

or contact ICEH directly:

1646 Dow Road, Freeland, WA 98249

Phone: 360-331-7904

Fax: 360-331-7908

Email: iceh@iceh.org

