

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

May 10, 2005
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Dirksen Building – Room 406
(The Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing Room)

Sponsored by:

Senators Lautenberg, DeWine, Jeffords, Kennedy, Kerry, and Snowe

Organized by:

American Association on Mental Retardation's Environmental Health Initiative
Learning Disabilities Association of America's Healthy Children Project
Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

Speaker Biographies

Lynn R. Goldman, MD, MPH. The Honorable Lynn R. Goldman, a pediatrician and an epidemiologist, is a professor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health Department of Environmental Health Sciences, where her areas of focus are children's environmental health, public health practice and chemical and pesticide regulatory policy.

In 1993, Dr. Goldman was appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate to serve as assistant administrator (AA) for Toxic Substances at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where she directed the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) from 1993 through 1998. As AA for OPPTS she was responsible for the nation's pesticide, toxic substances and pollution prevention laws. Under her watch, EPA expanded right-to-know under the Toxics Release Inventory and overhauled the nation's pesticides laws. Dr. Goldman made significant progress on the issues of testing of high volume industrial chemicals and identification of chemicals that disrupt endocrine systems. At EPA she was successful in promoting children's health issues and furthering the international agenda for global chemical safety.

Prior to joining the EPA, Dr. Goldman served in several positions at the California Department of Health Services, most recently as head of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control. She has conducted public health investigations on pesticides, childhood lead poisoning and other environmental hazards. She has a Bachelor of Science in conservation of natural resources from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of California, San Francisco. She completed pediatric training at Children's Hospital, Oakland, California.

Dr. Goldman has served on numerous boards and expert committees, including the Committee on Environmental Health of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Committee. Dr. Goldman currently is vice chairman of the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, a member of the Institute of Medicine Health Sciences Board, and chair of the Institute of Medicine Gulf War and Health Study. She is chair of the Board of the Children's Environmental Health Network and a member of the Board of Trustees of Environmental Defense.

Laura Hewitson, PhD, earned her doctorate in biological sciences at the University of York (UK) where her research examined the effects of culture conditions on embryo development. She continued postdoctoral studies

at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in infertility research before accepting a position at Oregon Health and Science University as an assistant professor. In 2001, Dr. Hewitson was appointed associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. Her research focuses on genetic and environmental influences that lead to adverse pregnancy outcomes, with special emphasis on autism. Using nonhuman primate models, Dr. Hewitson is currently examining genetic and environmental manipulations during embryonic, fetal, and neonatal development with the goals of understanding the effects of mercury on immune function and cognitive development. Using noninvasive, dynamic imaging of the brain with techniques such as PET and MRI, her lab is examining structural and biochemical differences in animals exposed to mercury and/or viruses. Dr. Hewitson is also interested in the correlation between dietary micronutrient levels and infertility. Dr. Hewitson is a member of the Pennsylvania Task Force on Autism and is a committed advocate for autism research and education.

Bruce P. Lanphear, MD, MPH, is the Sloan Professor of Children's Environmental Health and the Director of the Cincinnati Children's Environmental Health Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati. He is the principal investigator for a National Institutes of Health/Environmental Protection Agency-funded Children's Environmental Health Center to study fetal and early childhood exposures to prevalent environmental neurotoxins, including lead, pesticides and environmental tobacco smoke and their impact on children's development, behaviors and learning disabilities. Dr. Lanphear is conducting a trial to test the safety and efficacy of housing repairs to reduce childhood lead exposure and residential injuries in 400 children followed from birth.

Joe Meadours is a self advocate and the director of Consumer Empowerment, State of Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Joe Meadours has been an advocate in the disability movement since 1992. In 1998, he was selected by the President's Committee on Mental Retardation to be the recipient of the Elizabeth Monroe Boggs Award for Young Leadership. Mr. Meadours has worked in several states, including Oklahoma, where he was past president of Oklahoma People First. He has also worked in Tennessee and Illinois and, today, back in Alabama. He has served on numerous boards in many states. He is a firm believer that "We should fund people and not programs. Everybody can live a self determined life with support, if they need it." Mr. Meadours was born in Selma, Alabama. He enjoys all sports especially going to baseball games and riding his bicycle. His goal in life is to go to law school and to become a state representative in Oklahoma.

Dr. Leonardo Trasande, MD, MPP, is the assistant director for the Mount Sinai Center for Children's Health and the Environment (CCHE). CCHE is the first academic research and policy center in the United States to examine the links between exposure to toxic pollutants and childhood illness. Dr. Trasande earned a Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and an Doctor of Medicine from Harvard Medical School. He completed a pediatrics residency at Boston Children's Hospital. After his residency, Dr. Trasande served as a Dyson Foundation Health Policy Fellow to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, advising the Senator on environmental and child health issues. In his current work at CCHE, Dr. Trasande applies health services research methods and environmental science to develop policy guidance at national and international levels. Most recently, he performed an analysis of the public health and economic consequences of methylmercury toxicity and is performing follow-up work to guide mercury pollution policy in the US. With funding from the New York Community Trust, he is working with a consortium of scientists and advocates to argue for the establishment of a network of children's environmental health clinics in New York State. He is also working with a broad-based coalition including diverse groups such as the March of Dimes and the American Chemistry Council to ensure full funding and implementation of the federally sponsored National Children's Study, which will provide critical information about the role of the environment in childhood chronic diseases and form the foundation of US child health policy for decades to come. Dr. Trasande is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and he continues to practice clinically both in New York and in Boston.