# Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group



E-Bulletin July 28, 2011

This e-bulletin lists news and journal articles, organizational reports, calls for proposals, upcoming events and other items related to fertility, reproductive health and the environment. E-bulletins are archived and searchable on our website: <a href="http://www.healthandenvironment.org/fertility">http://www.healthandenvironment.org/fertility</a>

# **CHE-Fertility Highlights**

# **New CHE-Fertility Partners**

CHE-Fertility welcomes the following new members to the group:

- · Amelia Cave, Washington
- Jennifer Walsh, MS, Colorado
- · Richard Finnell, PhD, Texas
- · Jennifer Pere, RN, Washington

# Mercury from power plants endangers our children

July 22, 2011

In clinical practice, both physicians and nurses counsel childbearing families about the harmful effects of mercury on the developing baby. How is the baby exposed to mercury? Coal-fired power plants release a form of mercury into the air which falls into our waterways and is converted into methylmercury, a potent neurotoxin that can disrupt brain and nervous system development. Pittsburg Post-Gazette.

# CHE Partner Call: Breast Health and Early Life Exposures

July 21, 2011

A recent review published in Environmental Health Perspectives reports the conclusions of an international workshop on the current science related to early-life environmental exposures and mammary gland development. Article authors Ruthann Rudel of the Silent Spring Institute, Suzanne Fenton of the National Toxicology Program, and Susan Makris of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development presented findings on some of the chemicals that affect breast development, and models for studying mammary gland development. Drs. Fenton and Makris delved into the regulatory implications of the workshop findings. An mp3 recording of the call is available on the <u>call page</u>.

# Endocrine Society endorses EDC bill to strengthen NTP and NIEHS

July 13, 2011

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve the regulation of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), The Endocrine Society has endorsed the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011. Designed to strengthen the regulation of chemicals found to be endocrine disruptors, the bill calls for increased research on these chemicals by the NIEHS, and establishes a framework for regulatory response from Federal agencies.

# **New Science**

A sampling of new research articles that are available on-line are gleaned from <u>Environmental Health News</u>, and presented here.

# Beneficial effects of prenatal omega-3 fatty acid intake on memory function July 25, 2011

The beneficial effects of prenatal and early postnatal intakes of omega-3 (n-3) polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) on cognitive development during infancy are well recognized. This study provides the first neurophysiologic and neurobehavioral evidence of long-term beneficial effects of n-3 PUFA intake in utero on memory function in schoolage children. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

# <u>Perchlorate exposure causes morphological abnormalities in developing fish</u> *July 25, 2011*

Few studies have examined the effects of chronic perchlorate exposure during growth and development, and fewer still have analyzed the effects of perchlorate over multiple generations. In this study, stickleback fish exposed to perchlorate displayed a variety of abnormalities, including slower growth rates, aberrant sexual development and poor survivorship. These conditions were absent when the offspring of contaminated fish were raised in untreated water, suggesting a lack of transgenerational effects. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

# Researcher finds caffeine consumption, female infertility link

July 20, 2011

Caffeine reduces muscle activity in the Fallopian tubes that carry eggs from ovaries to uterus. Researchers studied tubes from mice, and discovered that caffeine stops the actions of specialized pacemaker cells in the wall of the tubes. These cells coordinate tube contractions so that when they are inhibited, eggs can't move down the tubes. British Journal of Pharmacology.

#### Passive smoking can damage the DNA of sperm

July 20, 2011

Passive smoking may cause mutations in the DNA of sperm, according to a study in mice. The finding suggests that men exposed to second-hand smoke could pass on any resulting genetic abnormalities to their children. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

# Love Canal exposure, preterm birth and birth defects

July 15, 2011

A new study of pregnancy records of women who lived in Love Canal before the community was evacuated three decades ago finds an increased risk for early birth while they lived there and a rise in birth defects in their sons well after the women moved. Fewer boys than girls were born before the moves, but more birth defects were seen in boys conceived and born after their mothers moved away. Environmental Research.

## Risk factors for autism remain elusive

July 12, 2011

A new research review of 40 previous studies underscores the importance of continuing to study which environmental factors, whether before, during or after birth, may act in concert with genetics to cause autism. Pediatrics.

# Environment more important than genetics in autism

July 05, 2011

Environmental factors play a more important role in causing autism than previously assumed and, surprisingly, an even larger role than genetics, according to a new study out of UCSF and Stanford that could force a dramatic swing in the focus of research into the developmental disorder. Archives of General Psychiatry.

# Prenatal exposure to BPA and adult obesity

July 05, 2011

Prenatal exposure to low levels of BPA caused rats to become obese and unhealthy as adults, finds a new study. Pups exposed to a low dose through their mothers while in the womb and nursing - but fed a balanced diet as they grew - were fatter and had a suite of metabolic problems later in life when compared to unexposed rats. Endocrinology.

# Taking prenatal vitamins around conception could decrease the risk of autism June 30, 2011

Taking prenatal vitamins around the time of conception decreased the risk of autism in the children by almost half, finds a study of mom/child pairs from California. Mothers with specific genetic variants that hinder the breakdown of nutrients important to early brain development - like folate - were further at risk if they didn't take prenatal vitamins. Epidemiology.

# **Newswire and Useful Resources**

Below you will find recent news, science, and other resources, gleaned from the CHE Fertility Online Library, hosted by Environmental Health News, and the CHE daily news feed.

# EPA considers new call for toxicity testing of BPA

July 27, 2011

Turning up in and on everything from food to money, BPA's ubiquity is raising concerns. So the US Environmental Protection Agency has solicited public comments about whether to require new toxicity testing and environmental sampling of bisphenol A. Science News.

# Water disinfectant turns medical compounds toxic

July 26, 2011

A group of benign iodinated chemicals used for medical tests form highly toxic compounds when they go through drinking water disinfection, according to a new study. Health concerns of iodo-acids and iodo-trihalomethanes produced include adverse reproductive and developmental effects recently. Environmental Science & Technology.

# Furniture linked to PBDE flame retardants in pregnant women

July 26, 2011

A new study of pregnant immigrants living in California suggests that living with furniture containing flame retardants called PBDEs may lead to high blood levels of the chemicals. Environmental Science & Technology.

# Halifax conference examines advances regarding mercury in environment

July 25, 2011

More than 800 researchers from 48 countries have gathered in Halifax for a week-long conference to examine ways of limiting the effects of mercury on human health and the environment. Canadian Press.

## EPA seeks to tighten ozone standards

July 25, 2011

This week, the map of the United States lit up with orange warnings of high ozone levels. But recent science suggests that the levels of ground-level ozone in the air were even more harmful than those health advisories suggest. The EPA wants to tighten its ozone standards. Weekend Edition, NPR.

# EPA finalizes guidance to limit mining impacts

July 22, 2011

Despite strong pressure from the coal industry and its political allies, the Obama administration on Thursday finalized new guidance aimed at reducing the environmental and public health impacts of mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

# Why ARE young women hitting menopause?

July 21, 2011

Alarming new research last week suggests that as many as six per cent of women (or

one in 16) experience premature menopause. The new study of 4,968 50-year-old women across the UK is the largest study of its kind. Possible links include smoking, chemicals called PFCs, stress, and poor diet. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

# EU tightens rules on unsafe children's toys

July 21, 2011

The European Union introduced tighter safety measures for children's toys on Wednesday, a measure that could hurt Chinese imports which make up 80 percent of all EU toy imports. The new rules specifically target toys that contain phthalates and flame retardants, linked to hormone disruption in children. Reuters.

# Heavy metals detected in Kalamazoo river oil spill area

July 21, 2011

Levels of heavy metals have increased in water samples being conducted along the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek nearly a year after an oil pipeline ruptured in the area spewing an estimated one million gallons of oil into the waterways. Tar sands oil contain much higher levels of heavy metals than conventional crude. Michigan Messenger, Michigan.

# New York Mayor Bloomberg gives \$50 million to fight coal-fired power plants July 21, 2011

New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg will donate \$50 million over four years to the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign, swelling the organizations current \$80 million budget. Washington Post [Registration Required].

# Ohio leads list of top 20 states with toxic air

July 21, 2011

People living in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida are most at risk in the United States from toxic emissions spewing from coal and oil-fired power plants, two leading American environmental groups said in a report on Wednesday. Reuters.

## To dilute lead, add a bunch of fish bones

July 21, 2011

Alaskan pollock is usually the faux stand-in for crab meat or the main ingredient in fast-food fish sandwiches. But now the flaky fish is moving into a new realm, as part of the solution to one of the nation's longest-running toxic waste problems. New York Times [Registration Required].

# Apology issued for coalfields birth defects statement

July 20, 2011

Crowell & Moring, a law firm representing the National Mining Association, apologized for a statement indicating birth defects in the coalfields may be caused by in-breeding as opposed to mountaintop mining. Beckley Register-Herald, West Virginia.

# **DuPont is sued over new herbicide**

July 20, 2011

A Pennsylvania homeowner and an Indiana golf course company have filed a class-action lawsuit against DuPont charging that the chemical giant was either negligent or reckless in putting a new weedkiller on the market. New York Times [Registration Required].

# EPA backs away from lead dust testing renovation proposal

July 19, 2011

U.S. EPA announced Friday that it decided against a proposed rule that would have required contractors to test dust to prove the absence of lead following renovations. Greenwire.

## <u>Triclosan: Is Bath & Body Works' new soap harmful to teens?</u>

July 19, 2011

Health and environmental groups have mounted a campaign against Bath & Body Works, urging the retailer to stop selling its line of "Summertime Scent" soaps that contain

triclosan, a chemical categorized as a pesticide. Los Angeles Times, California. [Registration Required].

# Pollutants' role in birth defects becomes clearer

July 19, 2011

Babies exposed to certain organic pollutants in the womb are at a highly increased risk of neural tube defects leading to conditions such as spina bifida, according to researchers in China. Neural tube defects arise very early in pregnancy and affect more than 320,000 infants worldwide every year. Nature.

#### E-waste not, want not

July 18, 2011

E-waste is the fastest-growing recycling challenge, and not only is it plentiful, it is also toxic. The 140,000 tonnes of waste electronics that Canadians throw out every year contains 4,750 tonnes of lead, 4.5 tonnes of cadmium and 1.1 tonnes of mercury. Kingston Whig-Standard, Ontario.

# **Modernizing toxicity tests**

July 18, 2011

To reduce extensive animal testing and speed up safety evaluations, the EPA is moving to incorporate data from high-throughput-screening assays into its risk assessments. Toward that goal, they are considering an integrated approach to pesticide testing and assessment. Chemical & Engineering News.

# Dirty trucks in ports targeted by federal program

July 17, 2011

Starting with more than \$3 million in federal funds, the University of Maryland and airquality officials in four states are teaming up to offer subsidies and financial incentives to replace older short-haul trucks serving four mid-Atlantic ports - Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Hampton Roads. Baltimore Sun, Maryland.

# EPA concerned about mountaintop removal link to birth defects

July 17, 2011

Federal environmental regulators are looking closely at a new scientific study that found Appalachian residents who live near mountaintop removal mine sites face an increased risk of birth defects. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

# Newfoundland and Labrador joins provinces outlawing pesticides on lawns July 15, 2011

Newfoundland and Labrador intends to join the growing ranks of provinces that have banned the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides on household lawns. Canadian Press.

# <u>State fracking rules could allow drilling near New York City water supply tunnels</u> *July 15, 2011*

The latest draft of guidelines for hydraulic fracturing in New York could open the door to drilling within 1,000 feet of aging underground tunnels that carry water to New York City, a far cry from the seven-mile buffer once sought by city officials. ProPublica.

# African countries debate using DDT in anti-malaria efforts

July 14, 2011

The chemical pesticide DDT has been banned by most countries for use in agriculture, but some continue to use it indoors to kill insects that carry malaria. Voice of America.

# Tomblin says he hasn't looked at MTR birth-defect research

July 14, 2011

Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin says he hasn't looked into new research that shows that babies born near Appalachian mountaintop removal sites have higher rates of birth defects. The overall rate of birth defects in mountaintop removal areas was 13 percent higher between 1996 and 1999. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

# After styrene warning, concern about who's at risk

July 14, 2011

Last month's health warning from the Department of Health and Human Services' National Toxicology Program has set off a bruising battle with the makers of styrene, a chemical compound derived from crude oil. Reuters.

# Government agency vote means lower lead in toys

July 14, 2011

The amount of lead allowed in toys and other children's products sold in the U.S. will soon be reduced to one of the lowest limits in the world. The move was praised by consumer advocates but denounced by critics worried about job losses and shuttered businesses. Associated Press.

# **U.S.** House votes to end EPA water pollution oversight

July 13, 2011

Fueled by coal industry complaints about the Obama administration's crackdown on mountaintop removal, legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday that would strip federal regulators of their authority to make state agencies properly police water pollution. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

# Birth defects linked for first time to smoking in pregnancy

July 13, 2011

Doctors are urging mothers-to-be to give up cigarettes after new research linked smoking in pregnancy to babies suffering birth defects such as clubfoot, missing limbs and deformed limbs. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

# Report raises questions about EPA's 2008 perchlorate decision

July 13, 2011

In a report released Tuesday, the U.S. Government Accountability Office concludes that the EPA deviated from its customary scientific analysis in reaching the decision not to regulate the drinking water contaminant. Los Angeles Times, California. [Registration Required].

# House panel uses 2012 spending bill to restrict environmental rules

July 13, 2011

House panel uses 2012 spending bill to restrict environmental rules. House Republicans pushed ahead Tuesday with a plan to use 2012 spending legislation to hamstring the Obama administration on greenhouse gas regulations, coal mining standards, clean-air rules and coal ash restrictions, among others. Dow Jones Newswires.

# Fracking nation

July 13, 2011

Fracking has already drawn considerable scrutiny for polluting pristine rivers, turning bucolic farmlands into noisy industrial zones, and leaking enough methane to make ordinary tap water as flammable as lighter fluid. Now scientists are concerned that fracking could contaminate groundwater with radioactive compounds such as uranium and strontium. Discover.

# Metal water bottles may leach BPA

July 12, 2011

Consumers who switched from polycarbonate-plastic water bottles to metal ones in hopes of avoiding the risk that bisphenol A will leach into their beverages aren't necessarily any better off, a new study finds. Science News.

# <u>Toxic metals in 'clean' shop towels may pose a health risk to some workers</u> *July 11, 2011*

A new study suggests that workers using laundered shop towels are in fact exposing themselves to high levels of lead, cadmium and other heavy metals. Huffington Post.

# **EPA funding cuts outlined by GOP**

July 07, 2011

House Republicans outlined a new round of spending cuts from environmental agencies Wednesday while denying President Barack Obama any increase for one of his top investment priorities: the National Science Foundation. Politico.

# EPA sued over toxic waste dumps in California

July 07, 2011

Central and Southern California community groups filed a complaint about toxic waste dumps with the Environmental Protection Agency 17 years ago and never received a response. Tired of waiting, they have filed a federal lawsuit. Los Angeles Times, California. [Registration Required].

# Tough new clean-air rules will target drifting pollution

July 07, 2011

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson is expected to announce tough new regulations Thursday that seek to significantly reduce emissions from many coal-fired power plants. USA Today.

# B.C. eyes ban on home use of pesticides

July 06, 2011

The British Columbia government is working toward legislation that would ban home use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes, a practice that is linked to childhood leukemia and other cancers. Postmedia News.

# EPA chief stands firm as tough rules loom

July 06, 2011

In the next weeks and months, Lisa P. Jackson, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, is scheduled to establish regulations on smog, mercury, carbon dioxide, mining waste and vehicle emissions that will affect every corner of the economy. New York Times [Registration Required].

## Cardin leads fight over pesticides

July 04, 2011

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, long applauded by local environmentalists as a defender of the Chesapeake Bay, is wading into the high-profile debate over the federal regulation of pesticides, a move that puts him at odds with some fellow Democrats but that could raise his national profile on environmental issues. Baltimore Sun, Maryland.

# Virtual human tissue could help toxicology testing

July 03, 2011

Forget virtual reality - the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is building virtual human organs. The EPA's "virtual tissue" researchers hope that one day computer simulations may be able to identify the risks posed by common industrial pollutants such as pesticides without testing them on animals. Myrtle Beach Sun News, South Carolina.

## EPA to unveil rules for cutting smog from coal plants

July 02, 2011

This Fourth of July holiday weekend, Gina McCarthy will be contemplating smog and soot. She will be dotting the i's and crossing the final t's in preparation for a midweek lifting of the curtain on the Environmental Protection Agency's long-awaited rule designed to protect downwind states from upwind pollution. Solve Climate News.

## River too dirty to host oysters

July 02, 2011

The Hackensack River is still so heavily polluted with PCBs, dioxins and other contaminants that oysters placed in the water to help filter out contamination have either died or become deformed. The contaminants are suspected of disrupting the oysters' endocrine systems. Bergen County Record, New Jersey.

# **Toxins in Great Lakes fish**

July 01, 2011

A few weeks ago, Joe Bohr got a surprise. He's a researcher for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. He was looking at some numbers for PCB contamination in carp caught in canals in St. Clair Shores. He found concentrations 50 times higher than normal. Environment Report.

# **Budgets cripple tests for mercury**

July 01, 2011

South Carolinians who eat fish from the state's waterways will not learn if they have elevated mercury because health officials have given up on a proposed major statewide campaign to reduce the amount of mercury in the environment and determine the extent of health risk. Charleston Post and Courier, South Carolina.

# <u>Fukushima children test positive for internal radiation exposure</u>

July 01, 2011

Trace amounts of radioactive substances have been found in urine samples taken from children from Fukushima city, raising concerns that residents have been exposed internally to radiation from the stricken nuclear power plant 37 miles away. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

# Baltimore homeowners' concern about lead gets slow response

June 29, 2011

The failure of authorities to investigate residents' complaints about lead contamination in their neighborhood demonstrates a breakdown at every level of government in the enforcement of laws and regulations meant to protect the public from the hazards of lead-based paint. Baltimore Sun, Maryland.

# Surprising causes of male infertility

June 28, 2011

On average, the typical man makes about 1,000 sperm every heartbeat. Yet a number of lifestyle choices, environmental factors and chance events can sabotage the sperm. Wall Street Journal [Subscription Required].

# Plasticizer-tainted foodstuffs found in shipments to Europe

June 28, 2011

The EU has confirmed that Taiwanese food products contaminated by phthalates, industrial plasticizers, have been shipped to Europe. However, the problem in Europe is no worse than in Canada, the US, China or Malaysia, a spokesman for the European Commission on Health and Consumer Policy said. Taipei Times, Taiwan.

# Colorado OKs radioactive sludge dumping near Denver water supply

June 28, 2011

State health officials are letting Cotter Corp. dump 90,000 gallons of radioactive sludge and solvents from its uranium mill into an impoundment pond the agency knows to be leaking. The site is near the water supply for the city of Denver. Denver Post, Colorado.

# For Sen. Lautenberg, crusade to reform chemical regulations is personal

June 28, 2011

You might say Sen. Frank Lautenberg wants to be the grandfather of chemical regulation. Like most grandfathers, Lautenberg is particularly concerned with children's health. His eyes light up when asked about how chemicals in the environment or in day-to-day products may pose risks to children. Greenwire.

## Latin American banana labourers file pesticide exposure claims

June 28, 2011

A 25-year battle by Latin American banana labourers to win compensation from companies including British-Dutch oil giant Shell for exposure to a pesticide which they claim left them sterile and crippled by ill health is set to finally come to a close after dozens of workers filed damages claims. London Independent, United Kingdom.

# Announcements & Grant Opportunities

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

# FOA: Environmental Health Disparities Research (P20)

Application due by: August 3, 2011

Sponsor: The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities NIMHD announces the availability of funds for environmental health disparities research projects in U.S. communities. This perspective includes the social, psychosocial, economic, physical, chemical and biological determinants that may contribute to disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts on the various populations in the U.S.

# RFI: To Solicit Input on the Feasibility, Scope, and Design of a State Health Policy Database

Response due by: August 26, 2011

Sponsor: The NIH Common Fund's Health Economics Program

NIH is seeking input about developing a State Health Policy Database (SHPD) to support scientific research on key research questions in health economics and to facilitate applied health economics research on issues relating to health care reform. The SHPD is envisioned as a research tool that will document state-level policies in a manner that facilitates valid comparisons across states and over time.

# NOT: Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers (PO1)

Expected publication: Fall 2011

Sponsors: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health

Notice of Intent to Publish a Request for Applications: The NIEHS and the US EPA intend to renew an initiative by publishing a FOA to solicit applications for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers. The purpose of this program is to support a multidisciplinary program of applied and basic research along with an active community outreach translation effort to examine and translate the effects of early exposure to environmental hazards on children's health and wellbeing.

## FOA: Translational Research in Pediatric and Obstetric Pharmacology (R01)

Application due by: October 4, 2011

Sponsor: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to encourage applications for translational and clinical research as well as clinical trials that will advance our knowledge about the underlying mechanisms of drug action, response, and safety in children at various developmental stages, and/or in pregnant women and the developing fetus.

# NIH Notice: Extramural Loan Repayment Program for Contraception and Infertility Researchers (NOT-OD-11-088)

Applications accepted September 1-November 15, annually

Issued by: National Institutes of Health, Office of Extramural Programs Division of Loan Repayment, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Extramural LRPs provide for the repayment of educational loan debt of up to \$35,000 annually for qualified health professionals performing research within the mission of NIH at domestic, non-profit, or government entities.

# FOA: Male Reproductive Health Research (MRHR) Career Development Program [K12]

Application due by: November 14, 2011 Sponsor: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to increase the clinical research capacity among practitioners in the area of male reproductive biology and

promote the translation of basic science advances to clinical practice. The MRHR program will accomplish this through a mentored program, bridging clinical training with research independence. The intent is to stimulate clinical research in male reproductive health and bring a more holistic approach to fertility regulation in clinical practice in which the male is an equal partner.

# Calendar of Events & Submission Deadlines

#### Online Calendar

These and more upcoming events and abstract deadlines are listed in the <u>CHE-Fertility</u> searchable calendar.

# Call for Symposia Topics: ENDO 2012

Submissions due by: July 29, 2011; 5:00 PM, Central Time

Houston, Texas

The Endocrine Society is seeking suggestions for symposia for their next annual meeting June 23-26, 2012. To suggest a full symposium, include a session title, three talk titles and three speakers' names with institutions and rationale. The Annual Meeting Steering Committee strives for inclusiveness in the education program by including international participants, underrepresented minorities and women as speakers and session chairs. Session ideas that further the diversity of the program, or help to identify members who can serve as session chairs, are extremely helpful and strongly encouraged.

# **Conference: Reproduction and the World's Future**

July 31-August 4, 2011

Portland, Oregon

Sponsor: Society for the Study of Reproduction

The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) was founded in 1967 to promote the study of reproduction by fostering interdisciplinary communication among scientists, holding conferences, and publishing meritorious studies. The Society is an association of scientists and physicians interested in research in reproduction. Some members are engaged in basic or applied research, while others perform clinical practice. All are dedicated to advancing knowledge of reproductive processes in animals and in humans.

## **Conference: International Workshop on Endocrine Disruptors**

September 7-9, 2011

Montalbano Elicona, Sicily, Italy

Sponsor: The Endocrine Society, Society for Reproduction and Fertility (UK), European Medical Association (Belgium)

The endocrine disruptors (EDs) or endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) impact on a variety of homeostatic systems from conception to the elderly, and their unwanted effects can be transmitted to each subsequent generation through epigenetic modifications of the gamete DNA. The Endocrine Society has attributed and continues to attribute the utmost importance on basic and clinical research in this field. The aim of this international workshop is to inform a wide category of stakeholders on the most recent data on the endocrine consequences of animal and human exposure to the EDs.

# Conference: The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)

September 13-16, 2011

Barcelona, Spain

Conference themes include- 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 and we hope that the conference will stimulate discussion and research in these particular areas. These do not exclude work in other important areas of the ISEE community and we expect fruitful and interesting presentations and discussions on many of the important challenges that our society is facing.

# Conference: Reproductive Health 2011

September 15-17, 2011

Las Vegas, Nevada

Sponsor: Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

This clinical conference combines the latest research science with interactive, hands-on training and offers take home points for immediate practice improvement. This year's conference includes a module on environmental health. The program content is developed by leading experts in the field with a focus on evidence-based education that can be directly applied to practice change.

# Conference: American Society of Reproductive Medicine

October 15-19, 2011

Orlando, Florida

Sponsor: American Society of Reproductive Medicine

The 67th Annual Meeting of ASRM will explore the theme of Realizing Scientific Dreams. ASRM is a non-profit organization whose members demonstrate the high ethical principles of the medical profession, and evince an interest in infertility, reproductive medicine and biology.

# Conference: APHA: Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds & Bodies

October 29-November 2, 2011

Washington, D.C.

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

The APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world, attracting more than 13,000 national and international physicians, administrators, nurses, educators, researchers, epidemiologists, and related health specialists. APHA's meeting program addresses current and emerging health science, policy, and practice issues in an effort to prevent disease and promote health. APHA has a world of public health in store for you.

# <u>Conference: World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility (COGI)</u>

November 17-20, 2011

Paris, France

The groundbreaking series of COGI Congresses provide a unique platform to discuss controversial issues in all fields of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Infertility. The ability to discuss only controversial topics with emphasis on clinical solutions in cases where no agreed-upon answers or consensus exist, provides clinicians with an insight and a takehome message that ameliorates treatment in the most difficult situations.

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Please email Karin Russ, CHE's Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:karin@healthandenvironment.org">karin@healthandenvironment.org</a> with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <a href="http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application">http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application</a>. Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listsery. 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 CHE Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Karin Russ

Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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