



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin January 13, 2010

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

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

ICEH Highlights

Additions to CHE's Online Calendar

CHE's [searchable calendar of events](#) now lists upcoming deadlines for funding proposals and calls for conference abstracts. We invite partners to submit events and deadlines for inclusion in the calendar.

New Autism Working Group

CHE is initiating CHE-Autism, a working group dedicated to exploring the new paradigm of autism research and treatment in Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). CHE and Commonweal have had a strong interest in ASD for many years. Commonweal co-hosted a series of conferences over the past decade exploring the new paradigm of autism research and treatment. Two of the co-hosts of these conferences, Martha Herbert and Robert Hendren, have agreed to serve as science advisers to CHE-Autism. Michael Lerner will facilitate CHE-Autism initially with his colleague Sheila Opperman, who has been involved with autism work for years. CHE hopes to identify partners who would like to be candidates for the position of co-facilitators.

To join CHE-Autism contact info@healthandenvironment.org. For more information on the CHE Autism Working Group, please visit [its web page](#).

Forum Presentations Online

Videos from presentations at the Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum in October have all been added to the Forum web page: www.chenw.org/CEHforum.html.

New Members

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

- Molly Arthur, Tiburon, California
- James Campbell, MD, MPH, Rochester, New York
- Carol Carver, RN, MSN, Cathlamet, Washington
- Nicola Culeddu, Sassari, Italy
- Ellen Dashwood, BSN, Victoria, Canada
- Sarah Flakus, Bellingham, Washington
- Fiona Hanley, RN, MSc, Montréal, Canada
- Laura Hirsh, Portland, Oregon
- Anna Johanson, Denver, Colorado
- Daniel King, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Heather Kuiper, DrPH, Oakland, California
- Marleen Luckman, MS, BBEI, Ojai, California
- Gene McConnachie, PhD, Seattle, Washington
- Heather McDermott, MEd, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Jolleen McLeod, Eureka, California

- Jennifer Pere-Alderman, BSN, Kirkland, Washington
- Ehidiamen Anthony Ukhun, MPH, Lagos, Nigeria

Announcements

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

[Call for comments: Propoxur; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption.](#)

Ohio is requesting a Section 18 Exemption for the use of three formulations of Propoxur for the control of bed bugs in residential single or multiple unit dwellings, apartments, hotels, motels, office buildings, modes of transportation, and commercial industrial buildings in Ohio. Comments are due January 21st.

[Draft public health assessment for public comment.](#)

The Tennessee Department of Health's Environmental Epidemiology Program, under a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), has completed a draft Public Health Assessment (PHA) for the TVA Kingston coal ash release and now is accepting public comments through February 9, 2010.

[EPA announces 4th annual Rachel Carson contest.](#)

The categories are poetry, photography, essays and dance. The contest seeks to instill a sense of wonder for the environment among all generations and spur environmental stewardship.

[Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. -- Act now to reduce risk.](#)

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after cigarette smoking. January is the best time to test for radon now that doors and windows are all tightly closed.

[Call for comments: The National Plan for Action Changing Outcomes - Achieving Health Equity.](#)

Initiated by the Office of Minority Health, the National Plan for Action inspires us to move forward to implement the strategies and provides us a roadmap to make an impact in the elimination of health disparities, a costly and undue burden on our country. Comments are due by February 12, 2010.

[EPA to hold public listening sessions on potential stormwater rule.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold five listening sessions to provide information to the public about a potential rule to strengthen stormwater regulations and to establish a comprehensive program to reduce stormwater from new development and redevelopment. Sessions will be held throughout January in EPA offices in Chicago, San Francisco, Denver, Dallas and Washington, DC.

[EPA seeks public input on interim guidance for dioxins in soil cleanup goals.](#)

Dioxins are contaminants that are very widespread in the environment that have been of concern to EPA and the public health community for decades. This action would strengthen EPA's preliminary remediation goals at dioxin contaminated sites.

[EPA announces actions to address chemicals of concern, including phthalates: Agency continues efforts to work for comprehensive reform of toxic substance laws.](#)

For the first time, EPA intends to establish a "Chemicals of Concern" list and is beginning a process that may lead to regulations requiring significant risk reduction measures to protect human health and the environment. In addition to phthalates, the chemicals EPA is addressing today are short-chain chlorinated paraffins, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and perfluorinated chemicals, including PFOA.

[See related articles: [What the EPA's "chemicals of concern" plans really mean](#) and [Use of potentially harmful chemicals kept secret under law](#)]

[Call for proposals: Community Environmental Action and Justice Fund.](#)

The Justice Fund Committee will consider only applications from California grassroots, community-based environmental justice groups with annual budgets of less than \$500,000. Applications and all supporting materials are due by February 19, 2010.

[EPA requests grant applications to fight climate change.](#)

Grant proposals should support feasibility studies, technology transfer, deployment of technology, training, methane emissions inventories, and other activities that promote methane capture and use.

[Call for proposals: Health Impact Project.](#)

Government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply to undertake health impact assessment (HIA) demonstration projects. The application period is rolling and there are no deadlines for letters of interest.

[Job opening: Washington, DC.](#)

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) seeks an articulate, creative and experienced grassroots organizer to server as chapter development and student program manager, coordinating and strengthening PSR's network of state, local and student chapters. The application deadline is January 22, 2010.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) CHE-Fertility Call: Disinfectants Overkill

Thursday January 14, 2010
10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group

This call will highlight the recently released Women's Voices for the Earth report, [Disinfectants Overkill](#). Featured speakers include Erin Switalski, executive director of Women's Voices for the Earth; Alexandra Gorman Scranton, MS, director of Science and research for Women's Voices for the Earth; Patricia Hunt, PhD, Meyer Distinguished Professor at the School of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University; and Ann Blake, PhD, Environmental & Public Health Consulting.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Varshavsky, julia@healthandenvironment.org

2) NIEHS Superfund Research Planning Meeting

Thursday January 14, 2010
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Washington, DC
in Room 325 A, 200 Independence Avenue, SW

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

The NIEHS Superfund Research Program is holding a series of meetings with a broad range of stakeholders to receive suggestions for a five-year strategic plan. This plan will establish priorities for the multidisciplinary research and training called for in CERCLA on the health effects of Superfund chemicals and methods to assess their risks to health, methods to clean up or contain Superfund waste, and technologies to detect and trace their movement in the environment.

Price: free

Contact: Mary Gant, 301-496-2919

3) IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium

Thursday through Saturday, January 14 - 16, 2010
Washington, DC
at the Grand Hyatt Hotel

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA hosts its annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS) National Symposium to bring together past, present and future leaders in protecting and improving IAQ in our nation's schools. The IAQ TFS Program is a nationwide initiative to help school officials assess, resolve, and prevent IAQ problems, and to reduce exposure to asthma triggers in school facilities. While school officials, administrators, facilities and operations personnel, teachers, parents, and students traditionally attend, the Symposium is open to anyone with an interest in IAQ in schools.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 703-842-5596

4) Thailand "Reverse Brain Drain Project": Conference on Cadmium in Food and Human Health

Friday through Sunday, January 15 - 17, 2010
Phitsanulok, Thailand
at the Topland Hotel, 68/33 Akathodsarod St. A.Muang

Sponsor: Reverse Brain Drain/National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), the Commission for Higher Education (CHE), Perkin Elmer, Bangkok Equipment and Chemical, Gibthai, Bio-Active

This conference is a step towards enhancement of research and research training in Thailand in the area of environmental health along with the sensor technological innovation for on-site use in monitoring of environmental pollution. TH-RBD-CCFH will cover three main themes: health effects, case studies, and management & risk minimization. It is designed to be inclusive and thus it will consider also other toxic metals of local concerns which may include lead and mercury. All interested individuals are encouraged to participate. Thai-to-English translation will also be made available to enhance information exchange on local environmental health issues.

Price: \$150

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: thrbd.ccfh@gmail.com

5) Are Cell Phones Safe? How Teens Can Avoid Risk

Sunday January 17, 2010 at 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the San Francisco Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin Street in San Francisco
and repeated Tuesday January 19th at 7:00 - 8:30 at the Marin Academy Performing Arts Center in San Rafael

Sponsor: City and County of San Francisco's Environment Department, the Main Library Stegner Environmental Center, California Endowment, International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety, Environmental Health Trust, Teens Turning Green, California Brain Tumor Association, Healthy 880 Communities - San Leandro, San Leandro High School Social Justice Academy, and Environmental Working Group

Devra L. Davis, PhD, MPH, will be the featured speaker. A new video, "Cell Phones: Just Like Cigarettes?" will be premiered at this workshop. Teens Turning Green, a national environmental health organization, will moderate a high-participation event that will

involve students from San Leandro High School's Social Justice Academy and from other bay area schools. The agenda is posted on the website. **Password for the website is "teensBsafe"**.

Price: free, but electronic RSVPs are advised as space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

6) CHE Science Cafe Call: A Conversation with Elizabeth Grossman, Author of *Chasing Molecules*

Tuesday January 19, 2010

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Known for her book *High Tech Trash*, an exposé of the electronic waste industry, Elizabeth Grossman's new book, *Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health, and the Promise of Green Chemistry*, reveals the dangers and the extent of the chemicals that are found in everyday products such as BPA, perfluorinated compounds, brominated flame retardants and phthalates, and offers up hope for a future without them. With *Chasing Molecules*, Grossman reveals that we can do better; that we can make materials that we have come to rely on with chemicals that have been tested to be safe and are in fact "benign by design." In a radical departure from how synthetic chemistry has been practiced, Grossman suggests that green chemistry should be used to create new materials for use in everything from sippy cups to carpets.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

7) CHE Partnership Call: Upstream: Complex Chemical Contributors to Thyroid Function and the Potential Impacts on Policy

Thursday January 21, 2010

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will involve a discussion of the complex array of chemical contributors to thyroid function. Presenters will cover chemicals linked to thyroid function, upstream biological impacts to thyroid hormones during pregnancy that can lead to a variety of health problems later in life, and the policy implications given all the complexity. In particular, speakers will address perchlorate, which inhibits the uptake of iodide into the thyroid gland, an essential part of the process of making thyroid hormone. Small changes in maternal thyroid hormone are associated with significant decreases in IQ.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, 360-331-7904 or info@healthandenvironment.org

8) Lead-Safe Remodeling and Renovation Train-the-Trainer Program

Thursday and Friday, January 28 - 29, 2010

Los Angeles, California

Sponsor: Alliance for Healthy Homes in partnership with the Healthy Homes Collaborative

This class will help prepare organizations to become accredited trainers under EPA's new Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule. By April 2010, this rule will require virtually every contractor working in pre-1978 homes to complete an 8-hour course in lead safe work practices or face a Federal fine of up to \$37,500 a day. The Train-the-Trainer course does not certify participants to be accredited trainers under the rule, but rather

gives participants background on the requirements of EPA's rule and instruction on how to most effectively deliver the new lead safe work practices course for renovators.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vikki Paulus, vikki@healthyhomescollaborative.org

9) A Conversation with Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Thursday February 4, 2010

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

We will hear from Birnbaum on the priorities and challenges facing the NIEHS in the coming years as well as discuss other pressing environmental health concerns.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

10) Mercury Exposure, Nutritional Deficiencies and Metabolic Disruptions May Affect Learning in Children

Tuesday February 9, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The speaker will be Renee Dufault, MAT, of United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Top environmental health stories of 2009.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Environmental Health News has compiled a list of stories that we consider the year's most important when it comes to informing the public about the array of issues related to environmental health. Environmental Health News.

[Study: More daily TV use contributes to increased risk of death, disease.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

A new study has found that each hour of daily TV watching was linked with an 18 percent greater risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, an 11 percent greater risk of all causes of death and a 9 percent increased risk of death from cancer. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Gov. Corzine signs N.J. law requiring parental notification of contaminated school sites.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Trustees must tell parents when hazardous contamination is found on school grounds, under a bill signed today by Governor Jon Corzine. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

[Stronger controls urged on chemicals in water.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

An environmental group filed a legal petition Monday for tighter federal standards on pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants that can disrupt the hormones of

animals and wildlife. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Methylmercury exposure in a subsistence fishing community in Lake Chapala, Mexico: an ecological approach.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Consumption of carp appears to contribute significantly to body burden in this population. Environmental Health.

[Air quality key to good health.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Canadians spend 90 per cent of their time indoors, but not all think about the health risks of indoor air quality. Belleville Intelligencer, Ontario.

[See a related article: [Health district raising carbon monoxide awareness](#)]

[Beware dangerous cling wrap.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Of concern are materials containing polycarbonate - used to make food storage containers and bottles - and epoxy resins, used to line tin cans, Choice said. Australian Associated Press.

[Teaching green, beyond recycling.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

At the Green School in Brooklyn, the students are encouraged to delve into local issues that may affect them and their families, like contamination in waterways like the Gowanus Canal, water quality, or the razing of low-scale housing. New York Times.

[Chernobyl nuclear accident: figures for deaths and cancers still in dispute.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

The UN's World Health Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency claim that only 56 people have died as a direct result of the radiation released at Chernobyl and that about 4,000 will die from it eventually. But other reputable scientists are not convinced. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Irrational fears give nuclear power a bad name, says Oxford scientist](#)]

[Popular kids' trinkets loaded with toxic metal.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Barred from using lead in children's jewelry because of its toxicity, some Chinese manufacturers have been substituting the more dangerous heavy metal cadmium in sparkling charm bracelets and shiny pendants being sold throughout the US, an AP investigation shows. Associated Press.

[See related articles: [China will look into report of cadmium in children's jewelry, US consumer chief warns Asian firms on cadmium use](#) and [U.S. to develop safety standards for toxic metals](#)]

[Beverages obtained from soda fountain machines in the U.S. contain microorganisms, including coliform bacteria.](#)

Sunday, January 10, 2010

These findings suggest that soda fountain machines may harbor persistent communities of potentially pathogenic microorganisms which may contribute to episodic gastric distress in the general population and could pose a more significant health risk to immunocompromised individuals. International Journal of Food Microbiology.

[Hazardous waste gets special treatment.](#)

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Toxic, corrosive and highly volatile waste materials generated in Abu Dhabi from sources as wide-ranging as batteries, pesticides and solvents will be disposed of at a specialised plant outside the capital, a top waste-disposal official said. Abu Dhabi National, United Arab Emirates.

[Atrazine getting new scrutiny from EPA.](#)

Sunday, January 10, 2010

As soon as February, the federal environmental regulator expects to seek a scientific peer review of its proposed plan for adding new health studies into its atrazine risk assessment. Lincoln Journal Star, Nebraska.

[Prenatal and postnatal tobacco exposure and behavioral problems in 10-year-old children: Results from the GINI-plus Prospective Birth Cohort Study.](#)

Saturday, January 09, 2010

Prenatal exposure to tobacco smoke is associated with behavioral problems in school-age children. Although our findings do not preclude the influence of postnatal exposure, prenatal exposure seems to be more important. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Smoking, drinking up risks of gut, throat cancers](#); [North Carolina sets curbs on smoking](#) and [Disease-causing bacteria found in tobacco and smoke](#)]

[Why genes aren't destiny.](#)

Saturday, January 09, 2010

It is through epigenetic marks that environmental factors like diet, stress and prenatal nutrition can make an imprint on genes that is passed from one generation to the next. Time Magazine.

[See a related article: [This just in: More research needed](#)]

[Girls with prenatal exposure to bisphenol A more aggressive, hyperactive: Study.](#)

Saturday, January 09, 2010

Daughters of women who were exposed to bisphenol A while they were pregnant are more likely to show aggressive and hyperactive behaviors as two-year-olds, a new study shows. Canwest News Service.

[See a related article: [Phthalates may play a role in ADHD symptoms](#)]

[Plastic not fantastic.](#)

Saturday, January 09, 2010

With something like 80,000 synthetic chemicals around us and 1000 new chemicals created every year, endocrine disrupters are everywhere and often turn up where you least expect them. Auckland New Zealand Herald.

[Ecologist guide to detox.](#)

Friday, January 08, 2010

We live in a world surrounded by synthetic man-made compounds, found in everything from cleaning products to pesticides, which can make their way into our food, water, air and our bodies. Wherever you live you are likely to be carrying a wide range of chemicals that shouldn't be there. Ecologist.

[Scientists say mountaintop mining should be stopped.](#)

Friday, January 08, 2010

The study also linked mountaintop mining to threats to human health, citing potentially toxic dust in the air, well water contaminated with chemicals from mines and fish tainted with toxic metals. Washington Post.

[EPA seeks stricter rules to curb smog.](#)

Friday, January 08, 2010

The EPA proposed a stricter new standard for smog-causing pollutants on Thursday that, if adopted, will impose large costs on industry and local governments but will also bring substantial health benefits to millions of Americans. New York Times.

[Toxic dust from roads travels into homes.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

A widely used type of asphalt sealant derived from coal tar appears to be making its way into the house dust of homes nationwide, according to new research. Young children may actually be playing on coal-tar-sealed driveways and playgrounds, potentially raising their exposure to harmful chemicals. Discovery News.

[See a related article: [Study sees parking lot dust as a cancer risk](#)]

[Ottawa orders study into environmental, health effects of making renewable](#)

[fuels.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

A study has been ordered into the environmental and health effects of producing ethanol and biodiesel after other countries found facilities that make renewable fuels could be behind problems with air, water and human health. The Canadian Press.

[Low selenium tied to throat, stomach cancers.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

Low selenium levels may increase risk of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and gastric cardia adenocarcinoma, as well as esophageal adenocarcinoma in women, never-smokers, and people with low antioxidant intakes. Reuters Health.

[Radiation risk low with whole-body airport scanners.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

The radiation risk from full-body scanners used to improve airport security is low and unlikely to raise an individual's risk of cancer, U.S. experts said on Wednesday. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Cancer risks debated for type of x-ray scan](#)]

[Cell phone use may fight Alzheimer's, mouse study says.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

The study found that if cell phone exposure began before the genetically engineered mice started showing signs of Alzheimer's, they were less likely to develop symptoms later on in life. National Geographic News.

[Unsafe toys seized and crushed.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

Thousands of toys have been seized and crushed in Victoria to stop them from being sold to children. The state government destroyed the toys on Thursday after they were seized during raids in 2009 because they failed safety standards. Australian Associated Press.

[Even low exposure to lead poses risk.](#)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

According to a review of studies in the December Journal of Environmental Health, adult health impacts are occurring at lead exposure levels far below those regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's standards, and those standards, set in 1978, are no longer protective of human health. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

[See related articles: [Lead damages child kidneys, even low levels: study](#) and [Blood lead levels and major depressive disorder, panic disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder in US young adults](#)]

[Genetic effects on toxic and essential elements in humans: arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium and zinc in erythrocytes.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Although environmental exposure is a pre-condition for accumulation of toxic elements, individual characteristics and genetic factors are also important. Identification of the contributory genetic polymorphisms will improve our understanding of trace and toxic element uptake and distribution mechanisms. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[E-waste still being exported, says watchdog.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

As more people replace their old televisions with flat-panel screens, a toxic-waste watchdog is warning that many e-waste recyclers are still illegally shipping old TVs to developing nations. CBC Canada.

[Obesity tops tobacco as biggest health threat.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Obesity has surpassed smoking as North America's greatest health risk, a U.S. study and Canadian experts say. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[See related articles: [Weight gain from quitting smoking linked to diabetes](#) and [Children with ADHD linked to obese mothers](#)]

[Fighting formaldehyde exposure dangers.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar is co-sponsoring a bill to establish national health standards for formaldehyde in composite wood. Twin Cities Daily Planet, Minnesota.

[Dirty secret.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

According to a Chicago Reporter analysis, residents within a half mile of the Cicero and other Chicago area rail yards could suffer a cancer risk more than 10 times higher on average than people four miles away. Some scientists say cardiac disease is an even bigger concern than cancer. Chicago Reporter, Illinois.

[Autism clusters found in California, linked to highly educated parents.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

California scientists have discovered clusters of autism, largely in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, where children are twice as likely to have autism as children in surrounding areas. Environmental Health News.

[Urinary concentrations of four parabens in the U.S. population: 2005-2006.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

The general U.S. population was exposed to several parabens during 2005-2006. Differences in the urinary concentrations of methyl and propyl parabens by sex and race/ethnicity likely reflect the use of personal care products containing these compounds. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Prenatal exposure to PBDEs and neurodevelopment.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

This epidemiologic study demonstrates neurodevelopmental effects in relation to cord blood PBDE concentrations. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Economic activity and ambient air pollution trends.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

This new approach outlines an alternative method to reconstruct historical exposures that may greatly aid epidemiologic research on specific causes of health effects from urban air pollution. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Beware of eating river fish.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Wildlife issued what has become an annual warning about potentially toxic fish in rivers around the state. Wichita Eagle, Kansas.

[School lunches: Push for healthier foods faces barriers.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

Parents find the rules stacked against them as they try to remove entrees such as pancakes. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[New York considers list of 85 chemicals to avoid buying.](#)

Monday, January 04, 2010

New York is poised to create a list of 85 chemicals for state agencies to avoid buying -- a measure short of a ban, but which could still drive industry to produce fewer products with toxins and carcinogens. Associated Press.

[Deadly animal diseases poised to infect humans.](#)

Monday, January 04, 2010

The world is facing a growing threat from new diseases that are jumping the human-animal species barrier as a result of environmental disruption, global warming and the progressive urbanisation of the planet, scientists have warned. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[Fake pharmaceuticals.](#)

Monday, January 04, 2010

Of the chemicals he uncovered in various counterfeit malaria pills, Facundo M. Fernandez did not expect to find sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra. He also didn't expect to find one of the building blocks for the street drug ecstasy, or metamizole, banned in the U.S. because it may cause serious bone marrow disorders. Chemical & Engineering News.

[Many misunderstood dangers to those who smoke water pipes.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

Would you enter a room if someone told you that you would be breathing a cocktail of carbon monoxide, polyhydrocarbons, formaldehyde, nitrogen, nitric acid, arsenic, chromium, lead and volatile aldehydes? Abu Dhabi National, United Arab Emirates.

[See a related article: [Health officials discourage use of e-cigarettes](#)]

[Britain must produce more food, government to warn.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

A soaring global population, climate change, diminishing energy sources and depleted fish stocks mean that society can no longer be complacent about its ability to feed itself, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will say. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[Organic ... or not.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

These foods are not always what consumers think they are. Some are not chemical or pesticide free. Health benefits are questionable. Only certain thing? They cost more. Lancaster Sunday News, Pennsylvania.

[Findings point new path for dealing with Vietnam War's poisonous legacy.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

Results showed that levels of the cancer-causing poison dioxin were far greater than guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for residential areas. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See related articles: [VA to ease access to Agent Orange disease care](#), [Vet's daughters cope with toxic inheritance](#) and [The environmental consequences of war](#)]

[Ohio River leads nation in toxic waste, including cancer-causing contaminants.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

The EA study stated that about 31 million pounds of toxic substances went into the river in 2007. Yet, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORANSCO) identifies the river as the drinking water source for more than three million people. Huntington News, Ohio.

[Groundbreaking plan to tighten reviews of toxic air pollution stirs debate over development.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

Under proposed new air-quality guidelines, for the first time in the country, the developer would be told to study the health effects of the freeway pollution on the people who will live in the homes if extra cancer risk meets a specific threshold. Contra Costa Times, California.

[Arsenic in water: Major cause of cancer in Punjab.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

Punjab Agriculture University (PAU) scientists in a major breakthrough identify the reasons behind the rapid spread of cancer in the Punjab, arsenic in water is one of the major causes for abnormal cell growth in human body. Punjab Newsline, India.

[China closes down battery maker.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

Authorities halted production at a battery company in southern China after dozens of children near a factory tested positive for elevated lead levels, including eight with serious poisoning. Associated Press.

[Another study finds no MMR-autism link.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

A new study finds that children who had received the MMR vaccine actually had a lower risk of autism than their unvaccinated peers. Nor was there any evidence of an increased autism risk with the measles-only vaccine. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Panel: No proof of autism, diet link](#)]

[Allergy epidemic may start in womb.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

After years of seeing a dramatic rise in children coming to hospitals with severe allergies and asthma, researchers believe the environment of expectant mothers may be to blame for health problems. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[EPA questions New York state plan to drill for shale gas.](#)

Friday, January 01, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has "serious reservations" about allowing shale gas drilling in New York City's watershed, warning of a threat to the drinking water for 9 million people. Reuters.

[Miriam warns of toxic substances in fertilizers, pushes bill to halt use.](#)

Friday, January 01, 2010

The practice of adding hazardous materials to fertilizers had been a serious issue since 1997. Industries have found a way to get rid of toxic wastes, including industrial wastes and pesticides by putting them in fertilizers. Manila Bulletin, Philippines.

[Studies find heavy heating oil has severe effect on air quality.](#)

Friday, January 01, 2010

When it comes to finding a major culprit for the tainted air in a wintry New York, one often needs to look no farther than out the window to see a big building spewing black smoke. New York Times.

[Early menstruation linked to heart disease risk.](#)

Friday, January 01, 2010

British researchers found that among nearly 16,000 middle-aged and older women followed for more than a decade, those who'd started menstruating before age 12 were more likely to die early and more likely to develop cancer, heart diseases, and to suffer strokes. Reuters Health.

[Dust: Tiny particles with a big impact.](#)

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Scientists are beginning to have new respect for the way dust alters the environment and affects the health of people, animals and plants. As global warming raises temperatures and forests are cleared, the amount of dust swirling through the Earth's atmosphere is expected to grow. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See related articles: [Latest cancer rates show we're gasping for air](#) and [Coal linked to cancer in Chinese province](#)]

[Safety of beef processing method is questioned.](#)

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Government and industry records show that in testing for the school lunch program, E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims about the effectiveness of their novel ammonia treatment. New York Times.

[Trans fat banned from California restaurants.](#)

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

California will be the first state to ban the use of "trans fat" in restaurants. ABC News10.

[J&J expands recall of Tylenol arthritis caplets.](#)

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The FDA said the unusual moldy odor consumers brought to their attention was believed to have been caused by the breakdown of a chemical used to treat wooden pallets that transport and store packaging materials. It said the health effects of the compound have

not been well studied. Reuters Health.

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

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the ICEH Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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