



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin October 20, 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](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

## ICEH Highlights

### Children First Symposium, October 1, 2010

The symposium, *Children First: Promoting Ecological Health for the Whole Child*, was held October 1st at the Mission Bay Conference Center in San Francisco. More than 200 health care professionals, students, nutritionists, parents, research scientists and others concerned with ensuring children have the best possible environments in which to grow and develop participated in this day-long event. For those who could not attend, speaker PowerPoint presentations, additional speaker resources and MP3 audio recordings of the day's presentations are available on the [CHE website](#).

## Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### [Portland receives \\$100K EPA grant to improve environmental health for citizens.](#)

With the help of a \$100,000 grant from EPA, the City of Portland will address local environmental issues, including to implement EPA strategies for reducing exposures to local toxic pollutants.

### [Duwamish Waterway cleanup options released for public review.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology today released a draft study of cleanup alternatives for the 5-mile-long Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup site. The agencies are seeking public input on a wide range of cleanup options to reduce toxic pollutants in the waterway.

### ['Pollution Diet' meetings set for Pennsylvania.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency will hold four public meetings in Pennsylvania next week to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) -- a strict "pollution diet" to restore local waters and the Chesapeake Bay.

### [Chlorpyrifos data now available on TEDX's Critical Windows of Development.](#)

Chlorpyrifos now joins bisphenol A, phthalates, and dioxin in the timeline, which reveals effects of chlorpyrifos on the central nervous system, thyroid, heart, liver and more, in laboratory animals experiencing prenatal and early postnatal exposure.

### [EPA administrator signs memorandum of understanding with China on environmental protection.](#)

Under the MOU, EPA will continue to collaborate with China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) on the prevention and management of air pollution, water pollution, pollution from persistent organic pollutants and other toxics, hazardous and solid waste, and the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental law.

**[Job opening: Lacey, Washington.](#)**

The Washington Department of Ecology in Thurston County has an opening for a community outreach and environmental education specialist 3. Applications are due by October 21, 2010.

## 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) Looking to the Future: Opportunities and Challenges in Health Reform for Maternal and Child Health**

Thursday October 21, 2010

Washington, DC

at the at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in the Woodley Park area

Sponsor: Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and CityMatCH

This one-day meeting co-sponsored by will provide a forum for public health and health care leaders to assess the impact of health reform on maternal and child health programs. Sessions will be led by policy experts from Washington, DC, and around the country.

Price: \$195

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: AMCHP Events Manager, 703-964-1240 or [AMCHPmeetings@conferencemanagers.com](mailto:AMCHPmeetings@conferencemanagers.com)

### **2) Sixth Biennial Scientific Symposium: Prenatal & Early Life Exposures: How Environmental Toxins Affect the Course of Childhood**

Thursday and Friday, October 21 - 22, 2010

Houston, Texas

at Space Center Houston

Sponsor: Children's Environmental Health Institute

Participants will examine the role of toxins on the health of infants and young children. Leadership from the medical, corporate and government sectors will provide evidence-based scientific information on the consequences of prenatal environmental exposure to toxins and of not taking action to protect the health of infants and young children.

Price: see the [Registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Janie Fields, [janie.fields@cehi.org](mailto:janie.fields@cehi.org)

### **3) Contaminant Chemistry 101**

Monday October 25, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento, California

at Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, Sacramento Public Library, 828 I Street

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course provides participants with an overview/refresher of key chemistry concepts associated with environmental contamination and provides a foundation for understanding contaminant transport, fate and remediation. This material is intended for environmental professionals who are not chemists and require a fundamental understanding of chemistry principles for their work. This course is recommended for all

environmental professionals working with contaminated soil and water with minimal formal training in the subject. It is also recommended for project managers seeking a review of contaminant chemistry. This course includes a review of chemical naming rules (e.g., understanding what 1,1,1-TCA is) and how to use chemical names to predict molecular geometry and environmental behavior.

Price: \$300 until July 16, 2010, or \$245 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 425-270-3274

#### **4) 2010 ANAC National Conference**

Monday through Wednesday, October 25 - 27, 2010

Toronto, Ontario Canada

at the Hilton Toronto Airport

Sponsor: Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC), with its collaborative partners, the Canadian Men in Nursing Group, Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment and Diabetes Nursing Interest Group of the RAO

With a theme of "Linking our Knowledge through Diverse Interests", this national conference celebrates not only the 35th Anniversary of ANAC but also celebrates the many changes in nursing practice and collaborative distinct partnerships in the 2010 International Year of the Nurse. This celebration provides opportunities for aboriginal and non-aboriginal nurses and other health professionals to come together to share, support, network and link our knowledge across a wide variety of diverse, yet overlapping health topics, including Aboriginal health, environment, diabetes, and the anniversary themes.

Price: see the [Registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: ANAC, 866-724-3049 or [ctoulouse@anac.on.ca](mailto:ctoulouse@anac.on.ca)

#### **5) Psychosocial Environment, with Danny George and Peter Whitehouse**

Tuesday October 26, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

In this presentation we will explore the intergenerational approach to creating psychosocial learning environments and communities. Human beings, both in our evolution as hunter-gatherers and then in agrarian societies, have existed in communities composed of adults, children, and elders. Not surprisingly, a growing body of research demonstrates the biopsychosocial benefits of intergenerational engagement for persons in their late life stages. However, urbanization and changing demographics in modern societies have served not only to intensify the environmental threats to healthy aging, but have also disrupted possibilities for human connection across the generations. We will review the relationship between psychosocial environments and brain health, but also focus on deeper and broader aspects of brain health including the strong and sustaining sense of purpose and usefulness that human beings manifest in community. We then turn our attention to current international efforts to develop intergenerational programs that support brain health and healthy aging, spotlighting our experiences at The Intergenerational School (TIS), a 10-year old public school in Cleveland, Ohio that provides a shared learning environment for children, young adults, middle-aged adults, and elders.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

**6) International Actions to Eliminate the World's Most Dangerous Chemicals: Recommendations of International Panel of Experts on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

Wednesday October 27, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska and Alaska Community Action

An international panel of experts met in Geneva, Switzerland October 11 - 15, 2010, to review chemicals being considered for a worldwide ban under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The 31 members of the POPs Review Committee (POPRC) will be considering whether endosulfan (an insecticide used in agriculture and already banned in 60 countries), short-chained chlorinated paraffins (used primarily in metalworking, but also as flame retardants, plasticizers and additives in paints) and hexabromocyclododecane (used as a flame retardant in insulation board for construction, electrical and electronic equipment, upholstery fabric, draperies and car interiors) should be banned under the Convention. All three of these dangerous chemicals can be found in the Arctic due to long range transport by wind and ocean currents. International observers representing nongovernmental organizations from around the world are attending the meeting to advocate for meaningful international action to eliminate the production and use of these harmful chemicals. Join us for a discussion with international observers Karl Tupper of Pesticide Action Network North America, Pamela K. Miller of Alaska Community Action on Toxics, and Eva Krueffel (invited) of Inuit Circumpolar Council to hear the outcomes of the meeting and to find out how you can help ensure that these chemicals are eliminated from worldwide production and use.

Price: free

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or [diana@akaction.org](mailto:diana@akaction.org)

**7) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) & Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)**

Wednesday October 27, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. Stuart Batterman, PhD, will present "BFR emission rates from sources in the Great Lakes basin" and Michelle Homan, PhD, will present "Evaluation of the extent and transport of PAHs in Lake Erie basin."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

**8) Phone Seminar - Arlene Blum, Executive Director, Green Science Policy Institute**

Wednesday October 27, 2010  
3:00 p.m. Eastern / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The Green Science Policy Institute provides unbiased scientific data to government, industry and nongovernmental organizations to facilitate more informed decision making about chemicals used in consumer products. They are currently focusing on reducing the use of organohalogen flame retardants due to their adverse impacts on human and environmental health and the Institute's extensive experience in this area. Dr. Blum is a biophysical chemist, visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Department of Chemistry, and author of *Annapurna: A Woman's Place* and *Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life*. Blum's research contributed to the regulation of two cancer-causing flame retardants used in children's sleepwear in the 1970s and prevented unnecessary flammability standards that would have led to the use of hundreds of millions of pounds of persistent toxic chemicals each year. Dr. Blum was selected by the National Women's History Project as one of 100 "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet," received the Society of Women Geographers' Gold Medal and a top Purpose Prize from Civic Ventures.

Price: free  
[Visit the website](#)

### **9) Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities**

Wednesday October 27, 2010  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
New Bedford, Massachusetts  
at Sgt. William H. Carney Memorial Academy, 247 Elm Street

Sponsor: Technologies of the Future

This talk is part of the series of three talks to help increase interest in and raise public awareness of environmental issues facing the city. The guest speaker will be Dr. David Turcotte, senior program manager and research professor at the Center for Family Work and Community at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Price: free  
[Visit the website](#)  
Contact: John G. Andrade at 508-993-8500 or [obvdc@yahoo.com](mailto:obvdc@yahoo.com)

### **10) CHE Cafe call: State of the Evidence: The Connection Between Breast Cancer and the Environment**

Thursday October 28, 2010  
10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Breast Cancer Fund recently released its sixth edition of *State of the Evidence: The Connection Between Breast Cancer and the Environment*. This latest edition reflects the burst of scientific research on breast cancer and the environment, incorporating more than 250 new research articles. It also includes a new focus on breast cancer and vulnerable populations. Join CHE for a conversation with Janet Gray, PhD, author of the report and director of Vassar College's Program in Society, Technology & Science.

Price: free  
[Visit the website](#)  
Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **11) The Intimate Ecology of Motherhood with Dr. Sandra Steingraber**

Thursday October 28, 2010  
7:30 p.m.

San Francisco, California  
at the Jewish Community Center San Francisco, 3200 California Street

Sponsor: EcoBirth

In her electrifying book, *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, Sandra Steingraber, award-winning writer, mother, and biologist, explores the intimate ecology of motherhood. Both a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation of fetal toxicology, *Having Faith* reveals the extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each stage of infant development. In the eyes of an ecologist, the mother's body is the first environment for life. An enthusiastic and sought-after public speaker, Steingraber has keynoted conferences on human health and the environment. She is recognized for her ability to serve as a two-way translator between scientists and the common culture. Steingraber will be joined with a panel of local experts from the environmental, birthing and academic communities.

Price: \$18

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 415-292-1200 or [info@jccsf.org](mailto:info@jccsf.org)

### **12) Chemical Environment, with Maye Thompson and Marybeth Palmigiano**

Tuesday November 2, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

Modifiable lifetime environmental factors that influence healthy aging include exposure to toxic chemicals. The US imports or produces approximately 42 billion pounds of chemicals daily. Synthetic chemicals contaminate every ecosystem - air, water, soil and food - in the world. Virtually all people and wildlife are regularly exposed to a complex mixture of industrial chemicals that did not exist before World War II. Studies of newborns' umbilical cord blood shows they have been exposed to industrial contaminants in the womb. Most industrial chemicals in the workplace and in consumer products have not undergone even basic toxicity screening. Only a few of 200 chemicals known to be neurotoxic to humans have been evaluated for their impacts on the developing brains of children or aging brains of adults. Data that do exist show that exposures to environmental chemicals can increase the risk of many diseases and conditions relevant to an aging population, including neurodegenerative disorders, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and diabetes. In this presentation we will review toxic chemicals and their effect on health throughout the lifespan with a particular emphasis on obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and neurodegeneration including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Additionally we will discuss current state and national efforts to reform chemical policy.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **13) Stakeholder Meeting Concerning EPA's Long-Term Revisions to the Regulation of Lead and Copper in Drinking Water**

Thursday November 4, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and virtual

at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has convened a regulatory workgroup to



evaluate potential long-term revisions to EPA's regulations for the control of lead and copper in drinking water. This set of regulations is known as the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). EPA is holding a stakeholder meeting to provide information to the public and an opportunity for the public to provide input on potential revisions to the LCR under consideration by the Agency. Discussion topics may include but are not limited to lead service-line replacement, actions that could be taken at schools and monitoring procedures and sample site selection. Teleconferencing will be available for individuals unable to attend the meeting in person.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jerry Ellis, 202-564-2766 or [ellis.jerry@epa.gov](mailto:ellis.jerry@epa.gov)

#### **14) Pesticides and Child Health: A Review of the Evidence**

Thursday November 4, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Room T-625

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Catherine Karr, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

#### **15) Organics Foods, Pesticides and Sustainable Food Production**

Thursday November 4, 2010

5:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Health Care Without Harm

Long-term, low-level exposure to pesticides has been linked to an array of chronic health problems, including cancer; birth defects; neurological, reproductive and behavioral effects; and impaired immune function. Today, the entire web of life is contaminated with pesticides. From a human perspective, this contamination begins in the womb, where metabolites to common pesticides have been found in meconium and in fetal cord blood. Pesticides and their metabolites are now routinely part of the human body burden, the load of chemical contamination carried by human populations. Throughout the foods system the impacts of pesticides are observed on soil microorganisms, air and water quality, farmworkers, communities through pesticide drift and in the hive and pollen of honeybees, important agricultural pollinators. The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) has completed a literature review of pesticides and determined that, "The results of the systematic review do not help indicate which pesticides are particularly harmful. Exposure to all the commonly used pesticides ... has shown positive associations with adverse health effects." The literature does not support the concept that some pesticides are safer than others; it simply points to different health effects with different latency periods for the different classes. Not to be overlooked are the substantial public health costs of pesticide use. Cost of hospitalizations, outpatient cost, lost work, cancers and fatalities associated with pesticide poisonings have been estimated at \$1.1 billion dollars annually. This presentation will provide an ecological health overview on agricultural pesticide use, strategies for reduction such as organic food production and policy opportunities for physicians. Presenters include Joel Forman, MD, of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Kathryn Gilje of Pesticide Action Network. Continuing education for physicians (CME) is available.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **16) International Congress on Environmental Health**

Thursday through Saturday, November 4 - 6, 2010

Coimbra, Portugal

at the College of Health Technologies of Coimbra

Sponsor: Department of Environmental Health, College of Health Technologies of Coimbra, College of Health Technologies of Lisbon, College of Health Technologies of Oporto, College of Health of Beja

The International Congress on Environmental Health offers an opportunity for all those involved in environmental health to present their work, share expertise and promote partnerships at a nationwide context, thus providing a current snapshot of this interdisciplinary field.

Price: see the [Registration information page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

### **17) SOPHE 61st Annual Meeting**

Thursday through Saturday, November 4 - 6, 2010

Denver, Colorado

at the Denver Marriott City Center

Sponsor: Society for Public Health Education

Public health professionals working in disease prevention and health promotion have much to celebrate and still more to discover. At the conclusion of the Healthy People (HP) 2010 decade, we should pause to take stock of our achievements and learn from our challenges. At this conference, plenary speakers and presenters will share progress and discovery in disease prevention and health promotion, discuss goals and expectations for the next decade, and describe innovative strategies for achieving those objectives.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: SOPHE, 202-408-9804 or [info@sophe.org](mailto:info@sophe.org)

### **18) 138th Annual APHA Meeting & Exposition**

Saturday through Wednesday, November 6 - 10, 2010

Denver, Colorado

at the Colorado Convention Center

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

The conference theme is "Social Justice: A Public Health Imperative." The social circumstances in which we are born, live, and work, play a greater role in longevity and overall health in the United States than genes, health insurance and access to health services. Annual Meeting sessions will explore why certain populations bear a disproportionate burden of disease and mortality and what the public health community can do to better address the causes of these inequities.

Price: see the [Registration Fees page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: APHA, 202-777-APHA

### **19) CHE Partnertship Call: Fracking: Implications for Human and Environmental Health**

Tuesday November 9, 2010

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



Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

After decades of declining US natural-gas production, a new and powerful drilling technique that fractures rock with high-pressure fluid is opening up vast shale-gas deposits in Texas, Colorado and now many parts of the Northeast. Hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" injects tons of toxic chemicals into the ground in order to break up shale beds rich in natural gas. Researchers, health and environment experts, and community groups have expressed strong concerns about these chemicals' contributing significantly to air and water pollution. The shale gas reserves, however, are seen by a number of companies, states and landowners as an enticing economic opportunity that could reap billions while lowering residential heating bills. The Environmental Protection Agency began public hearings last March to investigate the issue, and a number of citizen protests have recently been held in regions where fracking is already being undertaken or proposed. This CHE Partner call will feature four leading researchers in different fields of expertise to discuss the potential human and environmental health implications of fracking.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, 360-331-7904 or [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **20) Food Environment, with Michelle Gottlieb and Emma Sirois**

Tuesday November 9, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

Healthy food is a vital component of healthy aging across the lifespan. A growing body of evidence indicates that numerous nutritional factors influence the risk of disease including neurodegeneration. They include saturated and trans fats, omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, refined carbohydrates, antioxidants, and micronutrients. Specific dietary patterns can increase or decrease the risk of neurodegenerative diseases and diseases in the "Western disease cluster" of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome more generally. Trends in agriculture and food production over the past 50 to 100 years - including agriculture heavily dependent on fossil fuels, factory farming, and rapid growth in consumption of fast foods and highly processed foods - have created a nutritional profile that is high in calories, saturated fats, refined carbohydrates, and omega-6 fatty acids and low in omega-3 fatty acids and micronutrients. This dietary pattern stimulates an inflammatory response in many tissues and organs. In this presentation we will review food trends and patterns across time, the benefits of a Mediterranean-type diet, and the benefits of sustainably produced food to individual health as well as the greater community, farmworkers and food security. We will discuss the importance of healthy food in healthcare settings and more.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **21) CHE Science Café Call: Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States: A Conversation with Author Steve Lerner**

Monday November 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Low-income Americans and people of color who live immediately adjacent to heavy industry and military bases are subjected to higher levels of pollution than more affluent

citizens and suffer disproportionately severe health effects. Through studies of twelve communities across the US, *Sacrifice Zones* (MIT Press / September 2010), a new book by Steve Lerner, describes the plague of environmentally induced diseases endured by people who live nearby heavy industry and shows how these communities are rising up to take action against the polluters. The book is based on hundreds of interviews of residents of communities on the fence line with heavy industry. Lerner lets the victims of environmental injustice speak in their own words and describe in detail what they experience and how they are organizing to improve their quality of life and protect themselves.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

## **22) 36th National Environmental Health Australia Conference**

Tuesday through Friday, November 16 - 19, 2010

Melbourne, Australia

at the Crown Promenade, 8 Whiteman Street, Southbank, Victoria

Sponsor: Environmental Health Australia (Victoria)

An innovative and diverse program will deliver keynote, plenary and workshop sessions around the conference theme "Environmental Health Innovation and Diversity."

Price: see the [price list](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: EHA National Conference Secretariat, 61 3 9018 9332 or [adam@conferencemanagement.com.au](mailto:adam@conferencemanagement.com.au)

## **23) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Integrated Monitoring**

Wednesday November 17, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. James Pagano, PhD, will present "PBT Monitoring in Lake Ontario Basin" and Thomas Holsen, PhD, will present "Development and evaluation of passive samplers for PBT monitoring."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

## **24) Health Effects of Chemicals on Humans**

Wednesday November 17, 2010

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

New Bedford, Massachusetts

at Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School, 286 South Second Street

Sponsor: Technologies of the Future

This talk is part of the series of three talks to help increase interest in and raise public awareness of environmental issues facing the city. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Mitchell, specializing in epidemiology, public and environmental health and president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: John G. Andrade at 508-993-8500 or [obvdc@yahoo.com](mailto:obvdc@yahoo.com)

**25) CHE-WA meeting: Environmental Health in the Media: Developing Effective Messages and Getting Better Coverage of Your Issues**

Thursday November 18, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

in the conference room at the American Lung Association of Washington, 2625 Third Avenue

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington

Come meet with media expert Sian Wu of Seattle's Resource Media to hear her talk about their work to increase the profile of key environmental health campaigns. Bring questions about how to better communicate your own environmental health work to the public and decisionmakers. Please also bring good ideas and any new tools/innovations you are using to communicate across internet social networks or in-community outreach. We'll leave plenty of open time for group discussion and to generate practical ideas to better communicate the links between human health and the environment across our region and nationally. This meeting is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

**26) National School Response Conference 2010**

Thursday and Friday, November 18 - 19, 2010

New York, New York

Sponsor: National School Response Conference

NSRC 2010 will address topics of high concern as wide ranging as school violence - school shootings, bullying, dating violence, vandalism, gang activity, alcohol and drugs, bomb threats, child abuse, vandalism, school massacres - catastrophic events such as pandemic outbreaks, tornadoes, terrorist attacks, and technological intrusions. Associations, academic institutions, EMS providers, and law enforcers will showcase the country's statewide initiatives on school security for the development of the best practices for the school community.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer McCrory, 425-996-7102 [jennifer@eve-ex.com](mailto:jennifer@eve-ex.com)

**27) Health Effects of Shale Gas Extraction: What Is Known and What Can We Predict?**

Friday November 19, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

at the University of Pittsburgh University Club

Sponsor: University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

This free conference will explore the science and methodological approaches behind understanding environmental health impacts associated with increasing development of natural gas extraction from shale deposits found under wide geographical areas of the United States. The conference will present the scientific challenges and issues that are being explored by government and academic investigators, as well novel methodologies being employed to assess the health impacts and reduce the hazards produced by gas extraction, refining and delivery operations. Registration is required.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 412-383-7540 or [seg14@pitt.edu](mailto:seg14@pitt.edu)

### **28) Nurses & Environmental Health: Health Consequences of the Gulf Oil Spill**

Friday November 19, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mobile, Alabama

at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing, 5721 USA Drive North

Sponsor: University of South Alabama College of Nursing; UAB School of Nursing, Leadership Education in Child-Health Nursing (LECHN) Program; and University of Maryland Environmental Health Education Center

This is a one-day workshop designed to inform nurses of the environmental health consequences of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and learn health-risk communication strategies. Nursing CEU's will be available

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dr. Anne Turner-Henson, 205-934-7533

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Feds should ban 'dirty dozen' chemicals: report.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 19, 2010*

Looking primped and polished can be hazardous to your health, according to a new report by the David Suzuki Foundation that's calling on the government to do more to keep a "dirty dozen" toxic chemicals out of personal care products sold in Canada. Postmedia News.

[See other articles about chemical exposures: [Trying to understand our chemical exposure](#) and [Deadly chemical reactions](#)]

### **[Acetaminophen no asthma trigger after all?](#)**

*Tuesday, October 19, 2010*

Doctors have been scratching their heads for years over the higher asthma risk in kids who use acetaminophen, a common painkiller known as Tylenol in the US. In a letter to the editor of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, however, researchers say there is no cause for alarm. Reuters.

### **[Living with fear: A chip fab's health scare.](#)**

*Monday, October 18, 2010*

The semiconductor industry often bills itself as one of the cleanest manufacturing sectors in the world. But the fears of residents in a small village in New Mexico offer a cautionary tale about how living in the shadow of a chip fab can put a real health scare into a community. Albany Times Union, New York.

### **[Three decades of environmental activism.](#)**

*Monday, October 18, 2010*

Three decades ago, Diane Takvorian branched out from her work helping the poor into the then-nascent environmental movement. Since then, her work has prompted

landmark reforms, from shutting down a chrome-plating business next to Barrio Logan homes to banning lead-laced candy statewide. San Diego Union-Tribune, California.

**[Special report: The problem with phthalates.](#)**

*Monday, October 18, 2010*

A report published last week by a consortium of 140 environment groups shows that potentially risky chemicals are present in dozens of everyday plastic items for sale by European retailers -- from shoes to erasers, from pencil cases to sex toys. Reuters.

*[See other articles about phthalates: [Flooring, wallpaper emit toxic chemicals, group says in urging regulation](#); [Cosmetics carry cancer agent](#) and [Phthalate exposure through medication](#)]*

**[Researcher discusses ill effects of light pollution.](#)**

*Saturday, October 16, 2010*

Human sleep patterns are disrupted by excess artificial light, sometimes causing deficient melatonin levels, which has been linked to cancer. Winona Daily News, Minnesota.

*[See a related article: [Night-time lights bring insects, disease](#)]*

**[EPA faulted for not disclosing coal ash's recycling risks.](#)**

*Saturday, October 16, 2010*

The Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general reported this week that the EPA had improperly used an official website to promote ways of recycling the waste that's left over when power plants burn coal, commonly known as coal ash. McClatchy Newspapers.

**[Right food effectively protects against risk for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cognitive decline, study finds.](#)**

*Saturday, October 16, 2010*

For the first time, researchers in Sweden have found out what effect multiple, rather than just single, foods with anti-inflammatory effects have on healthy individuals. Science Daily.

*[See another article about food and health: [Excessive meat-eating 'kills 45,000 each year'](#)]*

**[Debunking the detection limit myth.](#)**

*Friday, October 15, 2010*

Critics of environmental regulations often argue that as analytical methods become more precise, policymakers push for tougher regulations. A new report concludes that this criticism, known as the "vanishing zero effect," is a myth-at least when it comes to U.S. drinking water regulations. Chemical & Engineering News.

**[Synthetic chemicals pose growing threat to global water supply.](#)**

*Friday, October 15, 2010*

Synthetic chemicals that damage the human reproductive system are creeping into the world's water supply. Scientists say the chemicals, once waterborne, can quickly spread throughout the globe. Deutsche Welle, Germany.

*[See other articles about water contamination: [The assessment of population exposure to chlorination by-products: a study on the influence of the water distribution system](#); [Estimation of incidence and social cost of colon cancer due to nitrate in drinking water in the EU: a tentative cost-benefit assessment](#); [Nitrates in drinking water and methemoglobin levels in pregnancy: a longitudinal study](#); [State water quality board wants to cut back on inspections](#) and [Coal ash in water worries officials](#)]*

**[Green movement prying loose details about cleansers.](#)**

*Friday, October 15, 2010*

And now, amid pressure from environmental, health and consumer groups, makers of household cleaning agents are beginning to reveal more about the chemicals in their products, in some cases hoping to head off requirements for greater disclosure. MSNBC.

*[See a related article: [Coming clean about household cleaners](#)]*

**[Warning over 'harmful' food supplement.](#)**

*Friday, October 15, 2010*

FIFE'S environmental health officers are warning the public not to take the food supplement Miracle Mineral Solution as it could cause severe sickness and dehydration. Dunferline Press.

[See another article about a suspected dangerous treatment: [FDA warns about \[chelator\] treatments for autism, heart disease](#)]

### **Global climate change and children's health: Threats and strategies for prevention.**

Friday, October 15, 2010

Need exists to further quantify the effects of climate change on children's health globally and also at regional and local levels through enhanced monitoring of children's environmental health and by tracking selected indicators. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See a related article: [Uncertainties associated with quantifying climate change impacts on human health: A case study for diarrhea](#)]

### **'Smart' meters 'are not a threat.'**

Thursday, October 14, 2010

The "smart" electricity meters that are being installed by Central Maine Power Co. don't pose a health threat because they operate within a similar frequency and power range as the wireless routers that people use for home computers, according to initial findings by Maine's public health director. Portland Press-Herald, Maine.

[See related articles: [Wireless worrisome: professor](#); [Critics voice concerns about new electrical meters](#) and [16:9 The bigger picture](#)]

### **Canada declares BPA, a chemical in plastics, to be toxic.**

Thursday, October 14, 2010

The government of Canada formally declared bisphenol A -- a chemical widely used to create clear, hard plastics, as well as food can liners -- to be a toxic substance on Wednesday. BPA has been shown to disrupt the hormone systems of animals and is under review in the U.S. and Europe. New York Times.

[See other articles about BPA: [Recipe for high BPA exposure: Canned vegetables, cigarettes and a cashier job](#); [BEP delays vote on proposed BPA ban extension](#); [Plastic chemical may heighten breast cancer risk](#); [Variability and predictors of urinary bisphenol A concentrations during pregnancy](#) and [Bisphenol A exposure in Mexico City and risk of prematurity: a pilot nested case control study](#)]

### **Formaldehyde levels disputed in Brazilian Blowout warning.**

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Health Canada's recent warning that hair stylists should stop offering the 90-minute Brazilian Blowout treatment, claiming the product contains 12 per cent formaldehyde, confirmed what veteran hair stylists feared almost from the moment the treatments took off in Canada almost two years ago. Toronto Star, Ontario.

### **Australia joins other countries in banning endosulfan.**

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

A federal government agency has banned pesticides that use the toxic chemical endosulfan, reversing earlier rulings that said it was safe if used correctly. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[See other articles about pesticides: [EPA plans national bed bug summit](#) and [Locust plague pesticide \[fenitrothion and fipronil\] 'risky to humans'](#)]

### **Poverty forces Roma people to scavenge toxic e-waste.**

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Roma communities in France, currently the subject of a controversial crackdown by the Sarkozy administration, are being forced to scavenge growing volumes of potentially dangerous e-waste in a bid to escape poverty, an Ecologist investigation has revealed. Ecologist.

### **Canada's oily sands yield energy and protests.**



*Tuesday, October 12, 2010*

Enormous quantities of fresh water and natural gas are required to process the bitumen from the Canadian oil sands. Extraction has felled large tracts of boreal forest and created huge toxic tailing ponds. Crude from oil sands releases 10 to 30 percent more greenhouse gases than conventional crude. New York Times.

#### **[A toxic legacy: Eastern Europe dotted with disasters in waiting.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 12, 2010*

Abandoned mines in Romania leech heavy-metal contaminated waters into rivers. A Hungarian chemical plant produces more than 100 000 tons of environmental toxins a year. Soil in eastern Slovakia is contaminated with cancer-producing PCBs. Associated Press.

*[See other articles about contaminated sites: [Rialto: Superfund cleanup plan issued](#); [North Jersey Superfund cleanups plagued by errors, cutbacks](#); [Superfund sites grow as money dwindles](#); [Toxic danger: hazardous materials dumped in the United States](#); [Hungary toxic sludge spill an 'ecological catastrophe' says government](#); [Pollution by chemical substances declines in 2009](#); [Toxic sludge spill could happen elsewhere, campaigners warn](#); [Russian company-town choking on environmental hazards](#); [Once-toxic stretch of Elizabeth River teeming again](#); [DEC aims to clean up solvents](#); [Crisis with chromium is public health hazard](#); [Expert: Waste flowed to McCullom Lake](#); [Five thousand roses to clean soil in polluted Macedonian city](#); [Kalamazoo River monitoring expected through at least 2015: Ecosystem recovering has long way to go after oil spill](#); [Warning of disaster at toxic waste dump](#); [EPA's "environmental justice" tour comes to California](#); [Waste remains at Wayne site despite years of prodding](#); [Fund for S.C. dry-cleaning sites short on revenue](#) and [State sends radioactive waste west](#)]*

#### **[Supreme Court to consider vaccine case.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 12, 2010*

The Supreme Court's review of the no-fault system for vaccines could have an effect on hundreds of lawsuits over childhood vaccines and autism. New York Times.

*[See other articles about vaccines: [Survey: Most U.S. docs getting flu shots](#), [Why fear of vaccination is spelling disaster in the developing world](#) and [Swine flu jab linked to rare nerve disease](#)]*

#### **[Autism linked to jaundice in babies.](#)**

*Monday, October 11, 2010*

Infants born with jaundice are at much greater risk of developing autism, a study published on Monday showed. Agence France-Press.

#### **[Environmental groups launch children's health initiative.](#)**

*Sunday, October 10, 2010*

Utah environmental and public health agencies on Saturday launched a children's environmental health and justice initiative that will focus on several neighborhoods in central and west Salt Lake City that were selected because of the presence of several environmental risk factors. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

#### **[Benefits of diagnostic radiation outweigh the dangers.](#)**

*Sunday, October 10, 2010*

With X-rays, radon in the basement and cosmic rays, we're literally surrounded by radioactivity and high-powered radiation. But, in fact, in low doses - the kind that most of us will be exposed to - the risks of radiation are meager compared with many other hazards in life. Los Angeles Times, California.

*[See a related article: [Are there health risks associated with full-body airport scanners?](#)]*

#### **[Clearville residents blame reduced property values on natural gas project.](#)**

*Sunday, October 10, 2010*

People say they and their families and animals have been poisoned with water and air pollution as well as bombarded with noise, traffic and a loss of power over their properties. Altoona Mirror, Pennsylvania.

*[See related articles: [Two hundred people filled the hall](#); [Philadelphia City Council passes](#)*

[resolution supporting three-year statewide moratorium on new gas drilling permits and Hundreds fight wells by homes, schools in South Fayette\]](#)

### **Cancer-linked epigenetic effects of smoking found.**

*Monday, October 11, 2010*

For the first time, UK scientists have reported direct evidence that taking up smoking results in epigenetic changes associated with the development of cancer. Science Daily. [See other articles about cigarettes: [Tobacco companies accused of promoting cigarette brands online](#) and [Anti-smoking campaign hits home](#)]

### **Cadmium risk in 'Shrek' glasses' is detailed.**

*Friday, October 08, 2010*

Consumers were originally told the recalled McDonald's Shrek glasses were being recalled out of an abundance of caution. But regulatory records show that government scientists had concluded that a 6-year-old could be exposed to hazardous levels of the carcinogen after touching one of the glasses eight times in a day. Chicago Tribune, Illinois. [See another article about cadmium in children's products: [Kids' jewelry shows high levels of toxic metal cadmium: Health Canada documents](#)]

### **Fear the nano?**

*Friday, October 08, 2010*

States are beginning to ponder the effects of nanotech in the vacuum left by federal regulators. Meanwhile, the heads of government regulators around the country are spinning, including those at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, about how to oversee nanotech. Milwaukee Magazine, Wisconsin.

### **Prenatal arsenic exposure quintuples infant death risk.**

*Friday, October 08, 2010*

Babies born to mothers with high levels of arsenic exposure are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than infants whose mothers had the least exposure to the toxic mineral, new research shows. Reuters Health. [See a related article: [Arsenic-associated oxidative stress, inflammation, and immune disruption in human placenta and cord blood](#)]

### **FDA chief focuses on antibiotic resistance.**

*Thursday, October 07, 2010*

The Food and Drug Administration is intensifying its focus on problems caused by antibiotic resistance among humans and feed animals through the widespread use of those drugs over the past several decades, said FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg. Wall Street Journal.

### **Where children live influences stress hormones, and perhaps, disease.**

*Thursday, October 07, 2010*

Children -- especially African Americans -- who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods have consistently low levels of the stress hormone cortisol, according to a study that examined children in Alabama. Environmental Health News. [See related articles: [Stress, war can affect fetal development](#) and [Where we live can determine how long we live](#)]

### **With new evidence on the dangers of mobile phones, we examine the worrying risks you're NOT being told about.**

*Wednesday, October 06, 2010*

With mobile phone use soaring, especially among the young, Dr Davis says we could face a 'global public health catastrophe' in as little as three years if the problem is ignored. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom. [See a related article: [Disguised cellular phone towers sprout up across N.J.](#)]

### **Gender bending chemicals in plastics 'raises risk of prostate cancer.'**

*Wednesday, October 06, 2010*

A gender-bending chemical [BPA] found in babies' bottles may raise their odds of

prostate cancer in later life, scientists have warned. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom. [See other articles about cancer risks: [Fish oil linked to increased risk of colon cancer in mice](#); [Specialty supplements and breast cancer risk in the VITamins And Lifestyle \(VITAL\) cohort](#); [Cancer keeps rising throughout Viet Nam](#); [Delaware health: Bad life habits raise your risk of getting cancer](#); [Manchester University study: Cancer is a man-made disease](#) and [The origins of butadiene's carcinogenicity](#)]

### **[Aid groups say lead poisoning has killed 400 children in Nigeria.](#)**

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

As many as 400 children have died of lead poisoning-related illnesses in Nigeria since March, two international aid groups say, and as many as 30,000 people could be affected by lead contamination. CNN.

[See another article about lead poisoning: [Children the worst victims of lead poisoning: Child lead poisoning at an all time low](#); [Group: High lead levels in kids' items at Wal-Mart, Target](#); [Coalition works to raise public awareness about lead poisoning](#) and [Heath Dept. offering free lead toy testing](#)]

### **[Chemicals in mom's blood may contribute to child obesity.](#)**

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

A new study published in Environmental Health Perspectives reveals that babies whose mothers have high levels of the chemical DDE in their blood were more likely to grow rapidly during the first six months of life and to have a high body mass index by 14 months. AOL Health.

[See other articles about obesity: [New York takes new aim at sugary drinks](#) and [Fat men linked to lower fertility](#)]

### **[Air pollution alters immune function, worsens asthma symptoms.](#)**

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

Exposure to dirty air is linked to decreased function of a gene that appears to increase the severity of asthma in children, according to a joint study by researchers at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley. RedOrbit.

[See other articles about air quality: [MfD: D8 motorway responsible for locals' shortened life expectancy](#); [Maternal exposure to ambient levels of benzene and neural tube defects among offspring, Texas, 1999-2004](#); [The myth of unhealthy cabin air exposed](#); [Killer Moscow is still healthier than most of Russia](#); [Ports delay adoption of updated environmental plan](#); [Hong Kong air killing more than SARS puts pressure on Tsang](#); [Move us or move the quarries, say residents](#); [Study: No allergy spike from Katrina mold](#); [Burning rule hangs in the air](#); [Plane exhaust kills more people than plane crashes](#); [Estimating the benefits of reducing hazardous air pollutants: Summary of 2009 workshop and future considerations](#); [Free radon test kits available for one week only](#); [Vapor intrusion's silent threat](#); [Cheaper, tougher smog checks promise to reduce pollution, supporters say](#); [As elections loom, EPA takes bipartisan flak on pollution rules](#) and [Industries heat up over boiler rules](#)]

### **[Population-based inorganic mercury biomonitoring and the identification of skin care products as a source of exposure in New York City.](#)**

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

Population-based biomonitoring identified a previously unrecognized source of exposure to inorganic mercury among NYC residents. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Prenatal organochlorine compound exposure, rapid weight gain and overweight in infancy.](#)**

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

This study found prenatal DDE exposure to be associated with rapid weight gain in the first six months and elevated BMI later in infancy, among infants of normal weight mothers. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article about exposures and infant health: [Genetic, biochemical and environmental factors associated with pregnancy outcomes in newborns from the Czech Republic](#)]

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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