



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](http://www.healthandenvironment.org)



Biweekly Bulletin October 6, 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

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 will be available on the [CHE website](#) soon.

New Members

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

- Lauren Clyde, Petaluma, California
- Morgan Fender, RN, MSN, Collinsville, Illinois
- Phanimohan Krishna, Chennai, India
- Jo Miller, Sartell, Minnesota
- Irene Solnik, MS, Bay City, Texas
- Tipu Sultan, MD, Florissant, Missouri

Announcements

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

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

[New Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative.](#)

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment has launched a new initiative on Healthy Aging and the Environment to build on the seminal work instigated by the *Healthy Aging* report and continue to develop a set of "ecological" approaches to healthy aging.

[New program: Eco-Healthy Child Care.](#)

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) today launches its national Eco-Healthy Child Care program (EHCC), which encourages healthier child-care settings by training child-care providers to protect children and staff from harmful chemical exposures -- from bisphenol-A in plastic food containers, PVC in toys, and formaldehyde in commonly used furniture to lead and mercury -- with free or low-cost alternatives that are easy to implement.

[National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 24-30, 2010.](#)

CDC and HHS share the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States

and have developed a NLPPW Campaign Toolkit to encourage information-sharing, collaboration, and promotion of NLPPW and lead poisoning prevention in general.

[New online resource: Take Back Your Meds.](#)

This site raises awareness about the importance of safe disposal of leftover and expired medicines to protect our kids, families and environment. It explains how to properly dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines, provides info about temporary take-back locations that are working in 11 Washington counties, and explains why Washington State needs a statewide medicine take-back program.

[See a related announcement: [EPA urges citizens to clear out medicine cabinets for drug take-back events](#)]

[EPA observes Children's Health Month/President proclaims Oct. 4 as Children Health Day.](#)

As President Obama proclaims today as Children Health Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with its partners to expand the conversation on what all of us can do to protect children from environmental health hazards.

[New report: State of the Evidence 2010: The Connection Between Breast Cancer and the Environment.](#)

The Breast Cancer Fund's landmark report summarizes and evaluates the scientific evidence linking exposures to chemicals and radiation in our everyday environments to increased breast cancer risk.

[EPA will propose rule to protect waterways by reducing mercury from dental offices.](#)

EPA expects to propose a rule next year and finalize it in 2012. Dental offices will be able to use existing technology to meet the proposed requirements.

[See a related announcement: [EPA proposes to cut mercury emissions from sewage sludge incinerators](#)]

[New report: Coal Ash: The Toxic Threat to Our Health and Environment.](#)

Many people are still not aware of how toxic coal ash is, much less how much coal ash is generated each year and how grossly mismanaged its disposal is.

[EPA issues draft Chesapeake Bay 'pollution diet -- draft TMDL contains strong federal measures to fill in gaps in state pollution reduction plans.](#)

The draft TMDL -- which EPA is legally required to produce -- sets limits on the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution discharged into the Bay and each of its tributaries by different types of pollution sources.

[New report: Wireless technology and health outcomes: evidence and review.](#)

The recent proliferation of Wi-Fi devices has increased concerns about potential effects of RF exposure on human health and raised questions as to whether exposure limits set on the basis of tissue heating are sufficiently protective. This report is from the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion.

[Call for abstracts: 3rd Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference.](#)

The Northwest Environmental Health Conference Planning Team is accepting abstracts for presentations at our 3rd Annual Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon, February 11, 2011. Submissions are due Friday November 12, 2010.

[Call for proposals: Pesticide Incident Surveillance Program \(PSP\).](#)

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is soliciting applications from state or local government public health authorities to support state pesticide incident surveillance efforts. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov on or before 5:00 PM Eastern time on November 4, 2010.

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

Breast Cancer Action seeks a vocal and visionary executive director with the passion and

experience to lead the effort to end the breast cancer epidemic.

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

The United Nations Foundation is seeking an executive director to develop and lead a new Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. The Alliance seeks to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

[Job opening: Lowell, Massachusetts.](#)

The University of Massachusetts Lowell Toxics Use Reduction (TUR) Program is seeking a manager to develop and deliver, and coordinate the development and delivery, of courses and workshops for toxics use reduction planners. The application deadline is September 30, 2010.

[Job opening: Australia.](#)

This environmental health officer position is part of a team of public health practitioners and integrated service teams who plan, develop, implement and evaluate environmental health promotion, protection and enforcement programs and activities to protect the public from physical, chemical, biological and radiological agents in the environment which may adversely impact on human health. This is a targeted position for aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people to apply. Applications are due October 22nd.

[Job opening: North Carolina](#)

Toxic Free NC is North Carolina's only organization working to put people before pesticides, by advocating for common-sense alternatives that protect our health and environment. As part of their expansion of mission and programs, they have created a new assistant director position that will begin on or around December 1, 2010. The application deadline is October 15th.

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) Revealing Socioeconomic Factors That Influence Your Health

Thursday October 7, 2010

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Saint Paul, Minnesota

at the Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Parkway North

Sponsor: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation and Twin Cities Compass

Be among the first to learn about key findings from a new report, *The distribution of unequal health in the Twin Cities*, prepared by Wilder Research, commissioned by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. Learn about links between health outcomes and income, education, neighborhood conditions, and race in the Twin Cities. Then stay for a provocative panel discussion about ways to reduce health inequities including policy changes that can make the Twin Cities healthier for everyone.

Price: free, but preregistration is requested

[Visit the website](#)

2) Antibiotics Overuse: Why Healthcare Should Care about Agriculture Use

Thursday October 7, 2010

5:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Health Care Without Harm

Of all the antibiotics consumed each year in the US, only an estimated 15 percent are

used for human therapy. The bulk of the remaining antibiotics, an estimated 70 percent, are routinely given to poultry, beef cattle, and swine in their feed, not to treat diagnosed disease, but to promote faster growth and for routine disease prevention. Many such feed antibiotics are identical or very nearly so to human medicines, including penicillin, tetracycline, erythromycin and sulfa drugs. This currently legal, routine and unnecessary use of antibiotics in animal agriculture contributes significantly to the rise in resistant bacterial infections in humans. Numerous health organizations including the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have called for an end to this practice. In 2003, the US Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Science stated that decreasing "antimicrobial use in human medicine alone will have little effect on the current [antibiotic-resistant] situation" and that "substantial efforts must be made to decrease inappropriate overuse [of antibiotics] in animals and agriculture." The presenter will be David Wallinga, MD, of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Continuing education for physicians (CME) is available.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

3) CHE Café Call: Living Downstream: A Conversation with Sandra Steingraber and Chanda Chevannes

Tuesday October 12, 2010

1:00 p.m. Pacific / 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The recently released documentary *Living Downstream* explores the impact of environmental toxins on human health. This feature-length film focuses on the work of Dr. Sandra Steingraber, ecologist, author and cancer survivor. Based on Dr. Steingraber's 1997 book of the same name, *Living Downstream* follows Sandra over the course of one pivotal year as she works to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links, and as she finds herself in a period of medical uncertainty about whether her cancer has recurred. Join CHE for a conversation with Dr. Steingraber and the film's producer and director, Chanda Chevannes.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

4) First Regional Health Sciences and Nursing Conference 2010

Tuesday through Thursday, October 12 - 14, 2010

Shah Allam, Selangor Malaysia

at the SACC Convention Centre

Sponsor: Universiti Teknologi MARA

The conference is designed to address health problems and issues related to environmental health, medical imaging, medical technology, nursing, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, optometry and physiotherapy. Other related fields are also welcomed.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: +603-3258 4494/4326/4382/4362 or frhsnc2010@gmail.com

5) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Great Lakes Mercury Research Synthesis

Wednesday October 13, 2010

10:00 a.m. - noon 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. David Evers, PhD, will present "Great Lakes mercury research synthesis" and Kevin Crist, PhD, will present "Mercury fate, transport, depositional patterns, and major source characterization in the Great Lakes region."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

6) Are Vaccines Safe and Effective? An Educational Opportunity for Parents and Practitioners

Wednesday October 13, 2010

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

New York, New York

at the Philip Coltoff Center, 219 Sullivan Street

Sponsor: Lawrence B. Palevsky, MD, FAAP

In this workshop, you will hear discussions on vaccine science: 1) What is current vaccine science and who is funding it and doing it? 2) How do vaccines work, and have they done, and do they do what we're told they do? 3) What role do vaccine ingredients play when injected into infants and children? 4) What do the ingredients do to our children once they're injected? 5) Do vaccines contribute to the development of chronic illnesses in children? 6) How do our children get into school if they're not vaccinated? 7) How does the immune system work in babies and children? Attendees will hear some of the answers to these questions, along with the research that questions whether vaccines are safe and effective, and whether the scientific process is even at work to prove the answers to these questions. Attendees will also be asked to look at the issues that drive us to make the decisions we make, many of which come to us through fear, bullying, uncertainty and a lack of knowledge, and to perhaps think alternatively about how illnesses occur and disappear.

Price: \$35 per ticket or \$60 per couple from the same household

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

7) Use of *In Utero* and Postnatal Indicators to Predict Health Outcomes Later in Life

Thursday and Friday, October 14 - 15, 2010

Washington, DC

at the Washington Club, 15 Dupont Circle NW

Sponsor: National Academy of Science

This workshop will provide a brief background on traditional testing strategies used to detect later-life effects following *in utero* or postnatal stressors. It will also explore the emerging science in this area using two case studies. The first case study is end-point driven and will examine developmental origins of obesity, insulin resistance, and

hypertension. The second will explore *in utero* or postnatal exposure to arsenic and potential indicators that could predict later-life effects. Finally, the workshop will include discussions on implications for using this emerging science for risk assessment or decision-making purposes. This workshop is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

8) La Leche League of Washington Parenting & Breastfeeding Conference

Friday through Sunday, October 15 - 17, 2010

Redmond, Washington

at the Redmond Marriott Town Center

Sponsor: La Leche League of Washington

The conference theme is "Embrace, Enrich, Embolden!" The conference offers a unique opportunity to meet other like-minded parents and professionals while learning about breastfeeding, parenting, childbirth, discipline, nutrition and child development from parents and professionals who are experts on these topics. Conference sessions and schedule will be online May 1, 2010. Registration will begin in July 2010.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer Wenzel, Wenzel05@live.com

9) 48th International Making Cities Livable Conference

Sunday through Thursday, October 17 - 21, 2010

Charleston, South Carolina

Sponsor: City of Charleston and the International Making Cities Livable Council

Children are profoundly affected by the environment in which they live. The opportunity to safely walk to school, play outdoors in a park or live in a healthy environment affects their well being and future development. The physical layout of our communities can promote or restrict active living and healthy development. This conference offers an opportunity to get involved in creating child-friendly communities. Towns and cities play a critical role as they focus on building child-friendly green spaces, community places, safe routes, and urban design. The conference theme is "True Urbanism: Planning Healthy and Child-Friendly Communities." An exhibit on Successful Solutions for Healthy and Child-friendly Communities will also be featured.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Making Cities Livable at the [Contact Us page](#)

10) CDC Healthy Homes Meeting

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 19 - 20, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Westin Atlanta Perimeter North

Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The goal of the meeting is to build on knowledge gained from our childhood lead poisoning prevention activities to enhance healthy homes program planning and facilitate dialogue around healthy homes initiatives. The agenda will be posted on the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

11) Protecting Children's Health for a Lifetime: Environmental Health Research Meets Clinical Practice and Public Policy

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 19 - 20, 2010

Washington, DC

at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street, NW

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

During Children's Health Month, several federal and professional organizations will convene to explore the interplay between research, clinical applications and policy implications in the field of children's environmental health. The US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development and Office of Children's Health Protection; The Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; and the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics are working together to sponsor and celebrate the next phase of the Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers (Children's Centers) program and the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs) North American network. The meeting will feature the expertise of the Children's Centers and the PEHSUs through interdisciplinary presentations and discussions that explore connections between research findings, clinical and community practice and child protective policies. Speakers also will discuss effective approaches for communicating with the scientific community and for sharing research findings and technical information with parents and the general public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Devon Payne-Sturges, 202-343-9852 or payne-sturges.devon@epa.gov

12) Maternal and Child Health Federal/State Partnership Meeting

Wednesday October 20, 2010

Washington, DC

at the Hilton Washington, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Sponsor: Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau

This year's meeting will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Title V of the Social Security Act. Title V is the longest-standing public health legislation in American history and continues to work to improve the health of women and children. The meeting will bridge the rich history and successes of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Program with new health care priorities and ongoing challenges. The spirit and passion of the nation's early Maternal and Child Health leaders will be celebrated at the same time that emerging leaders bring new vision and renewed commitment to the planning process for the future. Registrations will be accepted through October 1, 2010.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Carol O'Toole, 301-443-0869 or COToole@hrsa.gov

13) 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

14) 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

15) 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

16) 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 RNAO

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 is 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

17) 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

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](#)

18) 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

19) 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

20) 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

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](#)

21) 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](#)

22) 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](#)

23) 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

News and Journal Articles

[American children facing new public health crisis: Obama.](#)

Tuesday, October 05, 2010

"On Child Health Day, we reaffirm the critical importance of the quality health care, nutritious foods, clean air and water, and safe communities our kids need to grow into strong and active adults," [President Obama] said. Press Trust of India, India.

[See other articles about children's environmental health: [Developmental milestones in children's environmental health](#); [AAP publishes oil protection guidelines for children](#) and [New Calif. law limits toxic cadmium in jewelry](#)]

[Ensuring safe, healthy living.](#)

Tuesday, October 05, 2010

Environmental health is a field that integrates diverse scientific disciplines to study the hazardous agents in the environment, with the aim of assessing, preventing, controlling and overcoming their adverse impacts on the well-being of present and future generations. Sun2Surf.

[Livestock superbugs threaten humans: doctor.](#)

Tuesday, October 05, 2010

Dr. Bill Mackie, chair of the B.C. Medical Association's environmental health committee, says antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria developing in livestock pose a real risk to humans. CBC News.

[Laptops can cause 'toasted skin syndrome': medical reports.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

Frequently working on a laptop computer that is on your lap, heating up your legs, can lead to "toasted skin syndrome," an unusual-looking mottled skin condition caused by long-term heat exposure, according to medical reports. Associated Press.

[Nail salons urged to cut chemicals.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

The City is putting pressure on San Francisco's 200 nail salons to discontinue use of products containing three toxins to protect the industry's estimated 1,800 workers, along with customers. San Francisco Examiner, California.

[See other articles about toxic chemicals in cosmetics: [Hair-straightening product at Portland salons found to have high levels of formaldehyde](#) and [Abercrombie & Fitch: Stop spraying toxic fragrance!](#)]

[Autism coal link study stalled by government.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

A researcher who has found strong evidence that autism is caused by mercury poisoning has been refused access to data that could point to emissions from coal-fired power stations. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[Green chemistry digs in on pollution.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

Supporters of green chemistry are no longer satisfied with reducing the amounts of toxins and pollutants in water, air and soil one at a time. They also want to look at how people's health is affected by where they live and work, what they eat, drink and breathe, and how they feel. Raleigh News & Observer, North Carolina.

[See a related article: [Sustainable R&D](#)]

[Vietnam could become toxic waste dump to the world, officials warn.](#)

Saturday, October 02, 2010

Vietnam will become the dumping ground to the world if authorities fail to stop the illegal importation of toxic waste, officials said. A raft of garbage schemes were busted

up recently, mostly in major port cities of Hai Phong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City. VietNam Net.

[See a related article from Ghana: [Polluters warned against damage to environment](#)]

Detecting low-level impurities.

Saturday, October 02, 2010

Since 2007, guidelines from the European Medicines Agency and the US FDA have called on the drug industry to reduce DNA-reactive genotoxic impurities in pharmaceuticals. But the result has been a paradigm shift in pharmaceutical impurity profiling and control, one observer reports. Chemical & Engineering News.

New study finds frac'ing chemicals hazardous.

Saturday, October 02, 2010

A total of 944 chemicals used to extract natural gas, some of which are said to cause serious health problems for humans, have been identified in a recent study. The industry maintains that there is no scientific evidence, but critics assert that's because industry has squelched research. Glenwood Springs Post Independent, Colorado.

Evaluating the science on cell phone safety.

Saturday, October 02, 2010

As part of its ongoing efforts to evaluate the toxicity and carcinogenicity of cell phone radiofrequency radiation, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) invited world-renowned researcher, Dariusz Leszczynski, PhD, DSc, to share his views on the status of current science regarding cell phone safety, as well as the need for more and better designed studies. Environmental Factor.

[See related articles: [The disturbing truth about cellphones](#), [FCC changes cellphone safety guidance](#), [Cut phone radiation](#) and [NY town enacts tough cell tower limits](#); one about radiation from wireless electricity meters: [Public worried wireless power meters might cause cancer, other health issues](#); and one about radiation effects from compact fluorescent bulbs: [Shedding light on 'miracle' bulbs](#)]

The exposome: A powerful approach for evaluating environmental exposures and their influences on human disease.

Friday, October 01, 2010

To succeed in identifying the combined effects of genetic and environmental factors on chronic diseases, scientists need 21st-century tools to characterize exposures of human populations. Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions.

[See related articles: [Regulation of cellular genotoxic response](#) and [Growing knowledge: Using stem cells to study developmental neurotoxicity](#)]

Study links C8, changes in puberty age.

Friday, October 01, 2010

Teenagers who were exposed to DuPont Co.'s C8 [also called PFOA] pollution experienced a four- to six-month delay in puberty, according to a new study that adds to the growing concerns about potential health effects of chemicals that have been widely used in nonstick and stain-resistant products. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[See related articles: [Accumulation and clearance of PFOA in current and former residents of an exposed community](#) and [Private drinking water wells as a source of exposure to PFOA in communities surrounding a fluoropolymer production facility](#)]

Dietary iodine: Why are so many mothers not getting enough?

Friday, October 01, 2010

The task now is to understand why so many women are deficient in iodine -- and what it will take to make sure pregnant women get enough. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article about thyroid function: [Disruption of thyroid hormone receptor-mediated transcription and thyroid hormone-induced purkinje cell dendrite arborization by polybrominated diphenylethers](#)]

Doctors urged to minimize CT scans in children.

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Because CT scans and other tests that use X-ray technology expose the body to often large doses of radiation, their unnecessary, repeated and excessive use may increase cancer risk, especially in children. Johns Hopkins Medicine.

[See a related article: [California tightens oversight of CT scans](#)]

National study finds strong link between diabetes and air pollution.

Thursday, September 30, 2010

A national epidemiologic study finds a strong, consistent correlation between adult diabetes and particulate air pollution that persists after adjustment for other risk factors like obesity and ethnicity, report researchers from Children's Hospital Boston. PR Newswire.

[See other articles about air quality and health: [Associations between ambient fine particulate levels and disease activity in systemic lupus erythematosus \(SLE\)](#); [Poisoning by leaf smoke is a rite of fall](#); [Utah ozone pollution on the decline](#); [The global burden of air pollution on mortality: The need to include exposure to household biomass fuel-derived particulates](#); [Study: Firefighters face heart disease risk](#); [Tona Coke grossly underestimated benzene levels](#); [Ports seek more cuts in pollution](#); [Carcinogen from gas compressor stations being monitored](#) and [Gaseous air pollution and emergency hospital visits for hypertension in Beijing, China: a time-stratified case-crossover study](#)]

Grappling with the 'gray zone', Feds focus on nano workers' health.

Thursday, September 30, 2010

How do you protect someone from something they can't see? That's the trick for researchers trying to ensure that workers in the growing business of nanotechnology aren't threatened by their livelihood. New Haven Independent, Connecticut.

[See a related article: [New approaches needed to gauge safety of nanotech-based pesticides](#)]

Grow your own vegetables, city dwellers, but do mind the lead.

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Those baby lettuces growing in the downtown community garden are lovely, but are they safe to eat? Research by a geochemist at Indiana University has found that soil in abandoned urban lots in industrial cities like Baltimore, Brooklyn, Detroit and Indianapolis is sometimes contaminated with lead. National Public Radio.

[See other articles about soil contamination: [Soil tests needed to lower risk of lead poisoning, says expert](#) and [Fear, tainted trust at Westlawn](#)]

A flu jab too close for comfort.

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Sharron Coppin was flabbergasted to discover some of the federal Department of Health and Ageing's top immunisation advisers have links with the drug company that created the vaccine that landed her kids in hospital. The flu shots, provided free by West Australian health authorities, had never been tested in children through clinical trials. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See other articles about flu and health: [Modeling the airborne survival of influenza virus in a residential setting: the impacts of home humidification](#), [H1N1 flu virus can mutate in immunosuppressed patients-study](#) and [Tobacco smoke exposure and altered nasal responses to live attenuated influenza virus](#) and one about vaccinations in general: [Database to raise alarm on vaccines](#)]

Surprise: chromium's in the home but where's it from?

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Surprisingly, the amount of chromium in house dust in New Jersey is just as high in homes far from industrial sites where chromium has been used as in homes nearby the industrial facilities. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [With hexavalent chromium lawsuit pending, Oregon Democrats challenge war contractors' immunity in new bill](#)]

Fluoridation is still a hard sell in Mass.

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Massachusetts, the birthplace of public health, has long led the nation in disease-fighting

crusades, vaccinating children at high rates and crafting antismoking campaigns exported around the world. But it ranks 36th when it comes to providing residents with fluoridated water. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

[Urinary concentrations of parabens and serum hormone levels, semen quality parameters, and sperm DNA damage.](#)

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

We found no evidence for a relationship between urinary parabens and hormone levels or semen quality, though intra-individual variability in exposure and a modest sample size could have limited our ability to detect subtle relationships.

[Another reason to quit: Smoking linked to ectopic pregnancy.](#)

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

A chemical found in cigarette smoke increases women's risk of suffering a pregnancy which develops outside the womb, Scottish researchers have found. Edinburgh Scotsman, United Kingdom.

[See other articles about smoking and health: [Secondhand smoke affecting nation's youth](#) and [Russia eyes cigarette ad ban, public smoking curbs](#)]

[120 leading U.S. health groups, experts to Congress: Allow EPA regulation of global warming pollution to proceed.](#)

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

The letter notes that preserving the authority of the EPA to regulate global warming emissions is of paramount concern to the health of "children, older adults, those with serious health conditions and the most economically disadvantaged." PR Newswire.

[See a related article: [Temperatures rising: Sprawling cities have the most very hot days](#)]

[There's no cure for Alzheimer's, but you can fight it -- doctor.](#)

Monday, September 27, 2010

A guest speaker at the third annual Symposium on Aging Care in Fredericton said that reducing risk factors could play a crucial role in preventing Alzheimer's disease. Daily Gleaner.

[Strong law to put an end to plastic pollution urged.](#)

Monday, September 27, 2010

Environmental health and justice advocates on Monday asked senators to enact a law to bring the reckless use and disposal of plastic bags under control. Inquirer.net.

[BPA: Studies suggest it should be avoided.](#)

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical used to make plastic and epoxy resins, among other things, that have been both common and useful in our day-to-day life for more than 50 years. The problem is that it may be toxic, especially to fetuses, infants and young children. Fort Wayne Business Weekly, Indiana.

[See other articles about BPA: [Something's in the air: BPA found around the world](#); [EU watchdog says no need to cut cap on BPA in food](#) and [The dangers of a food chemical: new evidence against BPA](#)]

[First SVHCs added to REACH authorisation list.](#)

Saturday, September 25, 2010

A committee of member states has voted to add the first six substances of very high concern (SVHCs) to an authorisation list under the REACH chemicals regulation. ENDS Europe.

[See a related article from the US: [Investors warn Congress: Obsolete federal chemicals policy threatens business recovery](#)]

[Is a virus making us fat?](#)

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Could a viral infection be helping to fuel the global obesity epidemic? In recent years,

some researchers have advanced this provocative theory based on laboratory experiments that showed animals tend to gain weight after being infected with a particular virus. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See other articles about obesity: [Parents of fat kids obstacle to help: MDs](#); [Maternal diet high in trans fats doubles risk of excess body fat in breastfed babies, study finds](#) and [USA is fattest of 33 countries, report says](#)]

Food watchdog asks who's minding the store.

Friday, September 24, 2010

The amount of imported food on Canadian dinner plates is growing, but the federal agency responsible for inspecting it relies to a large extent on inspectors in other countries to ensure safety. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See other articles about food and health: [6 genetically modified foods that changed the world](#); [Told to eat its vegetables, America orders fries](#); [Seeing red over additives](#); [Food safety under microscope amid contaminated meat crisis](#); [Neurobehavioral effects of artificial food dyes, with Bernard Weiss](#); [Children, males and blacks are at increased risk for food allergies](#); [Survey finds harmful bacteria, chemicals rife in popular foods](#); [National Organic Week](#) and [Agency warns farmers over use of chemicals](#)]

White House meeting yields 'environmental justice' pledges from agencies.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

During a meeting at the White House Wednesday, the heads of U.S. EPA, and the Departments of Interior, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development agreed to update their environmental justice plans by next fall and to restart a long-dormant panel that was created to address that issue. Greenwire.

[See related articles: ['Sacrifice Zones' predominantly poor, minority](#) and [Yellow dirt](#)]

How the first nine months shape the rest of your life.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

The nutrition you received in the womb; the pollutants, drugs and infections you were exposed to during gestation; your mother's health and state of mind while she was pregnant with you -- all these factors shaped you as a baby and continue to affect you to this day. Time Magazine.

[See a related article: [Permeable boundaries: How mothers' meds affect a fetus](#)]

Study: Stress increases cancer risk.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Chronic stress acts as a sort of fertilizer that feeds breast cancer progression, significantly accelerating the spread of disease. San Gabriel Valley Tribune, California.

[See another article about cancer: [Vitamin D protects against obesity-induced endometrial cancer, study suggests](#); [Could daily vitamin pill cause skin cancer?](#); [Cancer threat in our houses](#); [Cancer: Reduce the risk](#); [Low-income men show more high-risk prostate tumors](#); [Breast cancer: The risk factors you can control](#); [Integrative medicine: Enlist fruits and vegetables to fight off cancer](#) and [Searching for breast cancer culprits in chemicals](#)]

Dry cleaners and greenwashing.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

New York City doesn't lack for dry cleaners, but many customers these days want their clothes not only clean but processed with environmentally sound practices. A bill pending in the City Council may help consumers identify environmentally responsible dry cleaners, but some say it's enough. New York Times.

Abbott recalls beetle-tainted Similac formula.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Abbott Laboratories is voluntarily recalling millions of containers of its top-selling Similac powdered infant formulas after beetles were found in the products and in a Michigan plant where they are made. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

UN investigates Nigeria lead poisoning deaths.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

The UN has sent an emergency environmental team to Nigeria to investigate the deaths of more than 200 children this year from lead poisoning. BBC.

[See another article about lead exposure: [Mood rings and necklaces recalled because of high lead levels](#); [Hemoglobin, lead exposure, and intelligence quotient: Effect modification by the dopamine receptor D2 Taq IA polymorphism](#); [Toxins in city garbage killing children](#); [Exposure to lead can shorten lifespan](#); [Soil tests needed to lower risk of lead poisoning, says expert](#); [Paint, petrol raise lead alarm for city children: Mark Taylor](#); [Evaluating and regulating lead in synthetic turf](#); [Brain imaging measures effects of lead on development](#); [Lead tainted product found at Calif. stores](#); [Exide exposes neighborhood to illegal levels of lead in air and Homes top threat, health officials say](#)]

Toxic overflow Part 1.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

The contamination of many First Nations by unregulated landfills and dumps is a dirty story that has yet to be fully told. Aside from the mess you can see -- and smell -- the risk of groundwater pollution is probably the most severe environmental impact from these waste sites. Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

[See other articles about water contamination: [Sandusky's coal tar reaches bay](#); [ATSDR panel discusses water modeling, Lejeune water contamination](#); ['Action plan' targets Columbia River pollution](#); [ATSDR officials detail findings from Superfund study](#); [Boulder, Xcel testing downtown groundwater for toxic chemicals](#); [Attica pollution lawsuit gains class action status](#); [Power plants' effects targeted](#); [Dry-cleaning chemical in downtown Boulder groundwater 460 times state limit](#); [Nuclear spill could contaminate Canadian waters for centuries, environmentalists argue](#); [Cameron calls for Alberta oilsands to be developed properly](#); [Excessive rains may cause problems with private wells, drinking water supplies](#); [U.S. oil spill waters contain carcinogens: report](#); [Ukraine drives toxic wastes to Britain](#); [Feds look into water woes](#); [Illegal sewage overflows common](#); [Following protest, EPA board upholds finding that mountaintop removal threatens environmental health](#); [Gratiot weighing drinking water options, El Toro's most toxic 200 acres](#); [Cities key source of toxics in bay, study finds](#) and [Colo. county planners reject nuclear-waste loading facility](#)]

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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