



## Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment



Biweekly Bulletin October 7, 2009

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's Environmental Health Forum

CHE-WA's working group on Children's Environmental Health was thrilled to host more than 300 participants at its Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum last week, October 1-2, in Tukwila, Washington. A diverse audience participated, including health care providers, students, scientists, policymakers, elected officials' staff, children's advocates, local citizens and more. Elise Miller, national director of CHE, opened the event with a speech emphasizing the importance of scientific research on the environmental factors impacting our children's health and intellectual potential. Ted Schettler, MD, science director for the Science and Environmental Health Network, framed environmental factors in the broader context of social and economic stresses that together exacerbate children's ability to reach their full potential. Other plenary speakers shared the latest research on environmental factors linked to learning and developmental delays, autism, endocrine systems, and impacts that can be passed down through several generations in a family.



The second day of the forum focused on policy opportunities to better protect children's health. CHE-WA was honored to host Ron Sims, the new Undersecretary for Housing and Urban Development, and Martha Berger, EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, offering perspectives on national efforts to protect children's environmental health.

To learn more about the forum (slides and other materials will be posted within a month), or to join CHE-WA's Children's Environmental Health Working Group, please visit the CHE-WA website: <http://washington.chenw.org> or email Gail Gensler at [gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov).

#### New members

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

- Jen Garcelon, MPH, Port Angeles, Washington
- Emily Long, Columbia, Missouri
- Uduak Offiong, MBCh, Abuja, Nigeria
- Jennifer Shortall, Ottawa, Canada
- Shirley Thompson, PhD, Winnipeg, Canada

### Announcements

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

[New Practice Prevention Column: Endocrine-disrupting Chemicals](#)

CHE's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative working group has published a new Practice Prevention column detailing the links between learning and developmental disabilities and exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs). Based on the seminal scientific statement from the Endocrine Society published in June 2009 indicating strong associations between EDC exposures and a wide range of chronic diseases and disabilities, the column makes the scientific information about EDCs accessible for non-scientists. Written for parents, educators, child-care providers and others who are responsible for children's well-being, this column describes how children are exposed to EDCs and how to reduce exposures.

**[Sister study exceeds recruitment goal: Now the real work begins.](#)**

The study has recruited nearly 51,000 women from all walks of life, whose sisters had breast cancer, to participate in this long-term study that is focusing on uncovering environmental and genetic factors that influence breast cancer risk. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**[Proposals to identify Substances of Very High Concern: Annex XV reports for commenting by interested parties.](#)**

Interested parties have until October 15th to provide comments to the Agency on the identification of the substance as SVHC as well as further information related to use, exposure, alternatives and risks. European Chemicals Agency.

*[See a related article: [REACH: The second list of 'very harmful' chemicals is proposed](#)]*

**[Help protect children from environmental risks: EPA provides tips during Children's Health Month.](#)**

Friday, October 02, 2009 To heighten awareness about environmental issues impacting children, EPA is providing parents and caregivers simple tips they can use to help protect children in their homes, schools and communities.

**[EPA opens transparency window into pesticide registration decisions.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is establishing a new transparent process that will allow the public to review and comment on risk assessments and proposed registration decisions for pesticides. This expanded process will apply to all new pesticide active ingredients and first food uses, first outdoor uses, and first residential uses.

**[EPA announces research strategy to study nanomaterials.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today outlined a new research strategy to better understand how manufactured nanomaterials may harm human health and the environment.

**[Drinking water contaminant candidate list and regulatory determinations.](#)**

In September 2009, EPA published the final version of the third Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 3). EPA uses the CCL to prioritize research and data collection efforts to inform the Agency's decision on whether we should regulate a specific contaminant. US Environmental Protection Agency.

**[New online information: PCBs in Caulk in Older Buildings.](#)**

In recent years, EPA has learned that caulk containing potentially harmful polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was used in many buildings, including schools, in the 1950s through the 1970s. This site provides guidance for school administrators and building managers with important information about managing PCBs in caulk and tools to help minimize possible exposure.

*[See related articles: [Schools should test for PCBs in brittle caulking says EPA](#) and [EPA finds PCB-containing equipment for sale without proper identification on eBay](#)]*

**[Television show: Ghost in Your Genes.](#)**

NOVA explores how the epigenome -- the body's complex chemical network that controls gene expression -- plays a role in human biological destiny. A teachers guide is available.

*[See a related news article: [Key environmental epigenetics paper challenged](#)]*

**[Call for comments: Standard Operating Procedures for Residential Pesticide Exposure Assessment.](#)**

A SAP (Scientific Advisory Panel) peer review is scheduled for October 6 - 9, 2009. Written and oral comments are now being submitted. US Environmental Protection Agency.

**[Share your stories, successes, and visions for environmental health.](#)**

The Health & Environmental Funders Network has launched a new project to highlight and archive the diverse and exciting work that has happened over the past ten years and capture people's visions and hopes for the next ten years.

**[Call for proposals: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Communities Putting Prevention to Work.](#)**

The purpose of this FOA is to create healthier communities through sustainable, proven, population-based approaches such as broad-based policy, systems, organizational and environmental changes in communities and schools. Funding number CDC-RFA-DP09-912ARRA09. Applications are due by Dec 1, 2009.

**[Call for proposals: Approaches to Assessing Potential Food Allergy from Genetically Engineered Plants.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing this request for applications (RFA) for applied research on innovative or improved methods to predict whether or not a pesticide protein is a food allergen. The deadline is January 7, 2010.

**[Call for proposals: Identification and Characterization of Sensitive Periods for Neurodevelopment in Studies of Mental Illness.](#)**

The National Institute of Mental Health solicits research grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to investigate the role of sensitive periods (i.e., periods during which the developing brain is maximally sensitive to environmental influences that confer risk or resilience) in the development of cognitive or affective function and behaviors relevant to mental health disorders. The expiration date is October 21, 2009.

**[Call for proposals: Mechanisms Underlying the Links between Psychosocial Stress, Aging, the Brain and the Body.](#)**

This FOA from the National Institutes of Health is looking for research focused on (1) aging and how neural mechanisms respond to psychosocial stress and affect other body systems, (2) characterizing the behavioral, psychological and social mechanisms and pathways involved in transducing psychosocial stressors into health outcomes, (3) how stressors modulate physiological process underlying life-span, immune mechanisms, and metabolism, and (4) how psychosocial stress contributes to the development or progression of geriatric syndromes, chronic medical conditions, and disabilities in later life. The closing date is September 8, 2012.

**[Call for proposals: Diet, Epigenetic Events, and Cancer Prevention.](#)**

The aim of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA), issued by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is to promote clinical and preclinical research to determine how diet and dietary factors, including dietary supplements, impact DNA methylation, histone posttranslational modification, noncoding RNA, and other epigenetic processes involved in cancer prevention and development. The closing date is September 8, 2012.

**[Call for proposals: Effects of Gene-Social Environment Interplay on Health and Behavior in Later Life.](#)**

This FOA from the National Institute on Aging is intended to lay the foundation for future studies of the role of gene-environment interplay in accounting for links between social experiences and physical health, functionality, and psychological well-being in midlife and older age. Of particular interest are applications that can embed this foundation within a lifespan perspective.

**[Call for proposals: Nutrition and Physical Activity Research to Promote Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Health.](#)**

The FOA from the National Institutes of Health aims to (1) improve knowledge of the

contribution of diet and physical activity to these conditions and how sleep influences these relationships, (2) increase the evidence base for refining public health recommendations and clinical guidelines regarding these lifestyle behaviors, and (3) develop and test strategies to improve the adoption of these recommendations. The closing date is September 8, 2012.

**[Call for proposals: Healthy Aging through Behavioral Economic Analyses of Situations.](#)**

The National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health, solicits Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to translate basic findings from behavioral economics into behavior change interventions targeting health behaviors associated with chronic health conditions of mid life and older age. Applications should propose small pilot clinical trials or demonstration projects. The application deadline is November 2, 2009.

**[Job opening: Minneapolis, Minnesota.](#)**

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy has an opening for a senior program associate to direct their Food and Health Program's outreach, organizing and project development. Deadline for applications is October 20, 2009.

**[Job opening: Falls Church, Virginia.](#)**

The Center For Health, Environment and Justice has an opening for a coordinator for its Childproofing Our Communities Campaign which works to protect children from exposure to environmental health hazards where they live, learn, play and pray.

**[Job opening: Anchorage, Alaska.](#)**

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) seeks a full-time development/communications coordinator to facilitate the implementation of ACAT's Development Plan. The coordinator is responsible for fundraising and communication with ACAT supporters and constituents to increase public awareness and support of ACAT's work.

## Upcoming Events

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

### **1) 74th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition**

Friday October 9, 2010  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

Abstracts are sought for a variety of presentation formats, including lecture hall, learning laboratory and poster session. 2009 conference tracks included general environmental health, food safety and protection, terrorism and all-hazards preparedness, and sustainability.

Price:

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Denise Devotta, ext. 313 or [ddevotta@neha.org](mailto:ddevotta@neha.org)

### **2) Climate Change: Mastering the Public Health Role**

Tuesday October 13, 2009  
noon - 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Public Health Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Society for Public Health Education, the National Association of County & City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Public health professionals have the opportunity to participate in a new webinar series covering climate change. Topics will include the basic science of climate change, impacts to human health, the role of public health in climate change action plans, vulnerable populations, communication challenges, case studies, and more. This webinar is the first in a series. The presentations will be made available after the webcast.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **3) Thyroid Hormone, Brain Development and the Environment**

Tuesday October 13, 2009

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time / 11:00 a.m. - noon Pacific time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Environmental Health Initiative

R. Thomas Zoeller, PhD, is professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He will describe the work his lab conducts on thyroid hormone, which is essential for normal brain development. The main focus of research in the laboratory is to understand the molecular mechanism(s) by which thyroid hormone affects brain development and brain function. His lab pursues this goal within the context of two large projects. First, they are cloning genes expressed in the fetal brain that are regulated by maternal thyroid hormone. These genes have led them to examine the effect of thyroid hormone on cortical cell proliferation, differentiation and fate specification. Second, they are examining the mechanisms by which thyroid hormone action can be disrupted by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These chemicals are structurally similar to thyroid hormone and are known to affect neural development. They can alter circulating levels of thyroid hormone.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, [Laura@aaidd.org](mailto:Laura@aaidd.org)

### **4) Late Lessons From Early Warnings: the Precautionary Principle 1896-2000, a Conversation with David Gee**

Thursday October 15, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call is an international conversation with David Gee, senior advisor at the European Environment Agency (EEA). Michael Lerner, president of Commonweal, will discuss with Gee a wide variety of topics of importance to environmental and human health, including chemical science and policy, recent work in the field of EMF science and the far-reaching framework of ecological health and the implications such a framework has for policy changes.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

### **5) Chemicals in Schools: Real Problems, Real Solutions**

Thursday October 15, 2009

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

When it comes to students' health, our kids deserve the best protection possible. These days, elementary and secondary schools have many important safety issues to deal with,



not the least of which is to ensure that students are protected from dangerous chemicals where they learn. Join us for the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign RCC Web Academy to hear from school, community and industry experts who have all grappled with school chemical-management issues and come away from the experience with valuable lessons learned and stories to share. In addition to expertise in their respective fields, each of the panelists bring very fresh perspectives on chemical management in K-12 schools to the table. All three panelists recently participated in the White House "United We Serve" summer service initiative. The US Environmental Protection Agency recognized the panelists for their efforts to implement sustainable long-term responsible chemical management and to inventory and safely dispose of over 500 pounds of outdated, unknown and unneeded chemicals in Grandview, Missouri. They will discuss their experiences in the webinar. Speakers will be Patricia Johnson, Science Department chair at Grandview High School; Tita LaGrimas, executive vice president of Regulatory Affairs, Pollution Control Industries (PCI); and Roarke Holzschuh, state on-scene coordinator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The target audience for this call is federal, state, local and tribal government waste-management professionals.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Janice Johnson,

### **6) Capitol Hill Summit on Sustainable Communities, Environmental Justice and the New Economy**

Thursday and Friday, October 15 - 16, 2009  
Washington, DC

Sponsor: The Community Revitalization Alliance

Hosted by Representative John Conyers, the summit will convene organizations to seize this moment to impact the new green economy. In terms of recovery expenditures and other important appropriations, the Capitol Hill Summit will gather key constituencies and the Administration to address resolving economic, social and health disparities through sustainable infrastructure investments, jobs, wealth creation and resource commitments. The Capitol Hill Summit is a venue wherein the community sector frames and leads a public policy conversation among multi-stakeholders from the perspective of sustainable communities. Our concern is about people - families, children and workers who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods with unhealthy air and housing, vacant and contaminated properties, unsafe parks, unreliable public transportation, limited grocery stores and healthy food options, and health disparities. Preregistration is requested.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sustainable Community Development Group, Inc., or  
[info@SustainableCommunityDevelopmentGroup.org](mailto:info@SustainableCommunityDevelopmentGroup.org)

### **7) 2009 National Mid-Year Conference on Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning, Implementing Healthy Homes Programs, and Combating Indoor Environmental Hazards**

Thursday and Friday, October 15 - 16, 2009  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
at the Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport

Sponsor: Healthy Housing Conferences

The conference brings together professionals from health, housing, community development, community groups, advocacy organizations, the lead industry, real estate firms and residential and commercial facilities to explore ways to undertake programs and projects designed to prevent incidents of lead poisoning and eliminate indoor environmental hazards.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Steve Weil,

### **8) From International to Global Health: Why Health Around the World Concerns Us All**

Thursdays from October 15 - November 19, 2009

7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

San Francisco, California

513 Parnassus Avenue

Sponsor: University of California San Francisco Osher Center for Integrative Medicine

The shift from the term "International Health" to "Global Health" reflects the fact that many health problems in "developing" countries with limited resources also affect "developed" countries with abundant resources. This course presents a framework for understanding complex global health problems and highlights how some of these problems are understood and confronted by those seeking to alleviate them. Topics include emerging infections such as H1N1 (swine flu) and SARS, the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, the fight against malaria, and health as a human right. For each topic, implications for us (and the US), and how we all might get involved to help address these issues is discussed.

Price: \$75

[Visit the website](#)

Contact:

### **9) Climate Change and You: Putting a Face on Global Warming**

Monday October 19 - Wednesday October 28, 2009

Sponsor: EcoRes Forum

The purpose of the EcoRes Forum E-Conference Series is to provide an easily accessible platform for moderated discussions among global stakeholders about the socio-cultural aspects of climate change. The forum includes several tracks, including one on health and nutrition.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact web page](#)

### **10) Food Safety Webinar**

Tuesday October 20, 2009

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Society for Public Health Education

A panel of three food safety experts will discuss the importance of food safety education and the role of the health educator during SOPHE's webinar focusing on this year's National Health Education Week theme, "Let's Dish: Food Safety at the Table." Resources available online and in print will emphasize the importance and relevance of food safety, explain the role of health education in food safety, and provide examples of how health educators can address this important topic in their communities. More specifically, a toolkit will outline recent food-safety news, identify common foodborne pathogens, highlight at-risk populations, and provide case examples of how to reach members of a community in a variety of settings. The toolkit will provide sample handouts and fact sheets as well as links to websites that offer additional educational resources. Tips for

communicating with the media and spreading the word through social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, etc) will also be included.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: or [info@sophe.org](mailto:info@sophe.org)

### **11) 2009 CARE National Training Workshop**

Tuesday through Thursday, October 20 - 22, 2009

New York, New York

at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Times Square, 1605 Broadway

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Justice

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) is a unique community-based, community-driven program designed to help community partnerships understand and reduce risks due to toxins and environmental pollutants from all sources. The objectives of the workshop are to provide training, tools and resources to both Level I and Level II CARE grantees to improve their communities' environment and health. The workshop's aim is to facilitate networking and communication among CARE grantees to enhance and encourage peer-to-peer learning.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Radha Adhar, or [Radhar@endyna.com](mailto:Radhar@endyna.com)

### **12) 2009 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference**

Thursday October 22, 2009

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

Wheaton, Illinois

at the DuPage County Administration Building, Building #421, 111 North County Farm Road

Sponsor: Illinois Department of Public Health

This conference is held to assist environmental professionals, renovation contractors, and home property managers in identifying home health risks and improving maintenance and remodeling practices while maintaining a healthy home environment for occupants. Sessions will focus primarily on exposure to lead and home toxicants that may cause short- and long-term health effects as a result of these exposures. This conference will cover the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vicky Ritz, or [vicky.ritz@illinois.gov](mailto:vicky.ritz@illinois.gov)

### **13) Perspectives from UK/US Policymakers on Obesity Prevention**

Thursday October 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Washington, DC

at the Institute of Medicine Keck Building, 500 5th Street, NW, Room 100

Sponsor: The Institute of Medicine, the UK Department of Health and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The workshop will provide insight to the similarities and differences between how the US and UK address obesity prevention and a forum for comparative understanding of



obesity-related policies. In turn, this workshop can provide shared discussion on the possible solutions from each country to confront the obesity epidemic. Preregistration is requested.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Institute of Medicine, or [iomwww@nas.edu](mailto:iomwww@nas.edu)

#### **14) 16th Annual Canadian Conference on International Health**

Sunday through Wednesday, October 25 - 28, 2009

Ottawa, Ontario Canada

at Crowne Plaza Ottawa Hotel, 101 Lyon Street N

Sponsor: Canadian Society for International Health

The 2009 Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) will examine inequities of health status and the impact on the health of marginalized, vulnerable and indigenous populations of changing environments, whether these changes are due to climate, technology, the economy or threats to human security. This conference will bring attention to our responsibility as global citizens to take action on progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ultimately health equity. The conference will address the best evidence and action on the progress of the MDGs, the role of health diplomacy and the evidence and opportunities for action as we integrate a social-determinants-of-health framework into our policies, programs and action at the global, national and local levels.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: x 326 or [2009ccih@csih.org](mailto:2009ccih@csih.org)

#### **15) 2009 National Environmental Public Health Conference**

Monday through Wednesday, October 26 - 28, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street NE

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health, US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Environmental Health Association, US Department of Health and Human Services

With a theme of "Healthy People in a Healthy Environment", the conference seeks to promote the nation's environmental-health capacity by enhancing the expertise of environmental-health professionals - including public health and health-care professionals, academic researchers, representatives from communities and organizations, as well as advocacy and business groups with a primary interest in environmental public health. The conference aims to develop and encourage innovative strategies for addressing existing and emerging issues in addition to being a forum for CDC/ATSDR and its many partners to share research, scientific and program information focusing on environmental public-health priorities.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: or [d\\_cook@team-psa.com](mailto:d_cook@team-psa.com)

#### **16) ISES 2009 Annual Conference**

Sunday through Thursday, November 1 - 5, 2009

Minneapolis, Minnesota

at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center

Sponsor: International Society of Exposure Science

The ISES 2009 Annual Conference will bring together scientists from a wide range of disciplines to share current research activities and to identify critical needs for exposure science in the 21st century. The goal of ISES is to foster and advance the science of exposure analysis related to environmental contaminants, both for human populations and ecosystems.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [ises09@gmail.com](mailto:ises09@gmail.com)

### **17) 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish**

Monday through Thursday, November 2 - 5, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Avenue

Sponsor: US EPA and co-hosted by the Oregon Department of Human Services

This event brings together public health and environmental professionals from governmental agencies, industry, environmental and health advocacy groups and other interested parties to discuss the many issues related to the risks and benefits of fish consumption.

Price: see the Registration tab on the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the Contacts tab on the website

### **18) Symposium on Food Systems & Public Health S3: Safe, Secure & Sustainable**

Wednesday through Friday, November 4 - 6, 2009

San Diego, California

at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, 1441 Quivira Road

Sponsor: California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, California Department Farming A, California Department of Public Health, California Environmental Health Association, California Retail Food Safety Coalition, Loma Linda University and United States Food and Drug Administration

The health of the public, our environment and the economy are intrinsically linked to our food system and the food choices we make. The 2009 S3 Symposium will examine aspects of our current food system that define varying levels of food safety, security, and sustainability; explore the implications for our health; and unveil groundbreaking solutions to our most pressing issues. Featuring speakers such as Dr. Mark Horton, director of CDPH; A.G. Kawamura, secretary of CDFA; and Andy Fisher, executive director of Community Food Security Coalition, S3 sessions will appeal to a wide array of disciplines, including public health, environmental health, epidemiology, nutrition, food safety, food industry, agriculture, academia and more.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sheryl Baldwin, or [sheryl@ccdeh.com](mailto:sheryl@ccdeh.com)

### **19) Technical Symposium on Corrosive Imported Drywall**

Thursday and Friday, November 5 - 6, 2009

Tampa, Florida

at the Mainsail Suites Hotel & Conference Center

Sponsor: Florida Department of Health, University of Florida Hinkley Center, University of South Florida Sunshine Education and Research Center

Corrosive Chinese drywall has become the focus of health concerns, failing equipment and lawsuits. But what does the research really say about this controversial product and what is being done to fix the problem? This is the first conference to bring together researchers from the primary state and federal agencies to present their findings on materials analysis, emissions testing, exposure assessment and toxicology, remediation/repair and disposal.

Price: \$300

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [conferences@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:conferences@dce.ufl.edu)

## News and Journal Articles

### [Cadmium, environmental exposure and health outcomes.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Adverse effects of cadmium on kidney and bone have been observed in environmentally exposed populations at the frequencies higher than those predicted from models of exposure. There is increasing evidence implicating cadmium in the risk of diseases that involve other tissues and organ systems at cadmium concentrations not producing effects on bone or renal function. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### [Bad air quality could trigger appendicitis.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Short-term exposure to air pollution could trigger appendicitis in adults, possibly because pollutants cause inflammatory responses, according to a Canadian study published Monday. Reuters Health.

### [Helping crops shed pesticides.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Scientists may have found a way to help crops shed pesticides long before they end up on dinner tables around the globe. The idea involves dousing agricultural crops with a naturally occurring plant hormone that seems to boost the ability of the plants to remove pesticide residue in their cells. Science.

### [Adding up the radiation from scans.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Since August, patients who undergo CT scans at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center have gotten a little something extra: a record of the amount of radiation they were exposed to during the test. Washington Post.

### [Use your inhalers if asthmatic and pregnant: Researchers.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Pregnant women who forgo their asthma inhalers to protect their unborn children may be doing their fetuses more harm. Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

[See a related article: [Inhaler may up risk of asthma in some children](#)

### [Healthy foods carry hidden dangers, new study finds.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Researchers analyzed federal data collected since 1990 to identify the foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration that caused the largest numbers of foodborne-illness outbreaks. The 10 riskiest foods were, in descending order: leafy greens, eggs, tuna, oysters, potatoes, cheese, ice cream, tomatoes, sprouts and berries. Washington Post.

### ['Spanish flu' affected long-term health of unborn babies: Study.](#)

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Canada's original H1N1 epidemic -- back in 1918 -- affected babies in the womb,

causing them to have higher rates of heart disease later in life, a new study shows. Canwest News Service.

[See related articles: [Flu virus behind infant pneumonia in poor countries](#) and [Pollution puts people at greater risk of H1N1 flu](#)]

### **[BPA in the womb shows link to kids' behavior.](#)**

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

Researchers have just linked prenatal exposure to bisphenol-A -- a near-ubiquitous industrial chemical ---with subtle, gender-specific alterations in behavior among two-year-olds. Science News.

[See another story about effects of BPA: [Maternal bisphenol A exposure promotes the development of experimental asthma in mouse pups](#)]

### **[Anti-wi-fi paint offers security.](#)**

Monday, October 05, 2009

The paint contains an aluminium-iron oxide which resonates at the same frequency as wi-fi -- or other radio waves -- meaning the airborne data is absorbed and blocked. BBC.

### **[The dish on phosphates.](#)**

Monday, October 05, 2009

Pennsylvania is among 15 states that have banned dishwasher detergents containing phosphates - compounds that are great for sparkling silverware, but become an algae-nourishing problem once they wash down the drain. But will the new kinds work as well? Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

### **[Report finds 13 million premature births worldwide each year.](#)**

Monday, October 05, 2009

Nearly 13 million babies, or about 10% of total worldwide births, are born prematurely each year, presenting a major and growing challenge for health systems and governments, according to a report by the March of Dimes. Wall Street Journal.

### **[Two government studies find autism disorders in 1 in 100 US children.](#)**

Monday, October 05, 2009

The new estimate would mean about 673,000 American children have autism. Previous estimates put the number at about 560,000. Associated Press.

[See a related article from the UK: [Study finds no evidence of autism surge in children](#)]

### **[Events seek to prevent lead poisoning.](#)**

Sunday, October 04, 2009

October is Lead Awareness Month in North Carolina, and state health and housing officials are holding events aimed at preventing lead poisoning. Asheville Citizen-Times, North Carolina.

[See related journal articles: [The social costs of childhood lead exposure in the post-lead regulation era](#), [Altered myelination and axonal integrity in adults with childhood lead exposure: A diffusion tensor imaging study](#) and [Eating venison, other game raises lead exposure](#) and related news articles: [Target must pay \\$600,000 fine for selling toys with lead paint](#) and [For kids' safety, federal agency cracks down on secondhand sellers](#)]

### **[With natural gas drilling boom, Pennsylvania faces an onslaught of wastewater.](#)**

Sunday, October 04, 2009

The Monongahela, a drinking water source for 350,000 people, had apparently been contaminated by chemically tainted wastewater from the state's growing natural gas industry. ProPublica.

### **[The big idea that might beat cancer and cut health-care costs by 80 percent.](#)**

Saturday, October 03, 2009

Paul Ewald says infections are responsible for at least four-fifths of all cancers -- and we have the tools to prevent them. Discover.

### **[Stress can protect against cancer: New study confirms confounding in cell phone project.](#)**

Saturday, October 03, 2009

Mice that were placed under short-term stress before being exposed to UV radiation, a known cancer-causing agent, developed fewer skin tumors than those that just got the UV. Microwave News.

**[EPA, D.C. sign agreement to focus efforts on city's top environmental matters.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*  
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the District Department of the Environment agreed to focus their resources and environmental protection efforts in five key areas for improving quality of life in the District.

**[Diesel emissions down drastically at ports of L.A., Long Beach.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

A program to cut diesel emissions at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach by phasing out older cargo trucks is ahead of schedule, and has delivered cleaner air to neighborhoods once enveloped by fumes, the mayors said Thursday. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[We're dying for a tan.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

A ban on under-18s using sunbeds was yesterday announced in Wales - and today Live It Health demands the same protection for teens in England, along with a nationwide ban on unmanned tanning booths. London Sun, United Kingdom.

**[Smoking in pregnancy risks psychotic children: study.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

Mothers who smoke during pregnancy put their children at greater risk of developing psychotic symptoms as teenagers, British scientists said on Thursday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Monitoring the dangers of secondhand smoke](#)]

**[EPA finds toxic agent in air at 15 schools.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

Outside 15 schools in eight states, government regulators have found elevated levels of a substance [acrolein] that -- in a more potent form -- was also used as a chemical weapon during World War I. USA Today.

**[Environmental factors in birth defects: What we need to know.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

The causes of only about 30% of birth defects are somewhat well understood, and knowledge even of those is sometimes spotty. The 70% still unknown leaves open the possibility that environmental factors could play a significant role. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[The effect of our surroundings on body weight.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

Results of a large number of studies support the conclusion that environmental cues exert a powerful influence on our eating behaviors. Scientific American.

[See related articles: [Mom's obesity tied to daughters' early puberty](#) and [Excess weight prior to conception tied to congenital heart defects](#)]

**[EPA: Dow Chemical Co. study little help in planning dioxin cleanup.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

A scientific analysis of dioxin exposure near a Dow Chemical Co. plant in Midland will be of little use in planning a long-delayed cleanup, government regulators said Thursday. The study measured dioxin levels in blood. None of the study subjects were children, likely to be most affected. Associated Press.

**[Children's diseases linked to chemicals on rise, professor says.](#)**

*Thursday, October 01, 2009*

Chronic childhood diseases linked to exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment have been surging upward, costing the U.S. almost \$55 billion a year. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

**[Snake Valley water deal could kill Utahns, docs warn.](#)**

*Thursday, October 01, 2009*

Utah's top medical organization warns that a proposed agreement to divide Snake Valley water with Nevada could expose the public to carcinogens, radiation and valley fever and jeopardize Utahns' very lives. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

**[Obama plan would tighten rules on toxic chemicals.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 30, 2009*

The Obama administration unveiled the outlines of a proposal to overhaul the regulation of thousands of chemicals used in consumer products and the workplace, calling for more testing and greater authority to restrict toxic products. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

**[Sources of mercury exposure for U.S. seafood consumers: Implications for policy.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 30, 2009*

Despite uncertainties in the exposure pathway, results indicate that a combination of North American and international emissions controls with adaptation strategies are necessary to manage methylmercury risks across various demographic groups in the U.S. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[New tests find unsafe levels of toxic PCBs in 2 local rivers.](#)**

*Monday, September 28, 2009*

The latest results, officials say, offer a clearer picture of how PCBs are contaminating rivers -- mostly by washing off lands and waste sites, often during rain storms, and creating toxic conditions that violate state water standards. Hampton Roads Virginian-Pilot, Virginia.

[See a related article: [Christina's future murky yet improving](#)]

**[Mercury limits suspended for H1N1 vaccine to improve access.](#)**

*Monday, September 28, 2009*

Officials said Secretary of Health Mary Selecky is temporarily suspending Washington's limit on the amount of mercury (thimerosal) allowed in H1N1 vaccine given to pregnant women and children under three. Lewiston KLEW TV, Idaho.

[See a related article: [Don't blame shots for all ills, swine flu officials say](#)]

**[Is your playground toxic?](#)**

*Monday, September 28, 2009*

Playgrounds are supposed to be safe places for kids to play. But a leaked memo from the Environmental Protection Agency indicates there might be a problem with crumb rubber. Environment Report, Michigan.

**[Taking care of home key to battling mold.](#)**

*Sunday, September 27, 2009*

Some health effects brought on by molds include allergies, asthma, coughing and runny noses, he said. These are all symptoms of mold allergies. Carroll County Times, Westminster, Maryland.

**[Lake Ontario's fish less toxic, but alerts unheeded.](#)**

*Sunday, September 27, 2009*

More than three decades after New Yorkers were first warned to limit their consumption of Lake Ontario fish, levels of toxic chemicals in the fish have plummeted, yet continue to threaten the health of those who ignore consumption advisories. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, New York.

**[Dust storms spread deadly diseases worldwide.](#)**

*Sunday, September 27, 2009*

Huge dust storms, like the ones that blanketed Sydney twice last week, hit Queensland yesterday and turned the air red across much of eastern Australia, are spreading lethal epidemics around the world. London Observer, United Kingdom.

**[Meteorologically estimated exposure but not distance predicts asthma symptoms in schoolchildren in the environs of a petrochemical refinery: a cross-sectional study.](#)**



*Saturday, September 26, 2009*

The results support the hypothesis of an increased prevalence of asthma symptoms among children in the area as a result of refinery emissions and provide a substantive basis for community concern. Environmental Health.

**[Opencast mines will lead to public health disaster, warns poison expert.](#)**

*Saturday, September 26, 2009*

Scotland is sleepwalking into a public health disaster by ignoring the dangers of emissions from opencast mines, a leading toxicologist has warned. Glasgow Sunday Herald, United Kingdom.

**[Neonatal organophosphorus pesticide exposure alters the developmental trajectory of cell signaling cascades controlling metabolism: Differential effects of diazinon and parathion.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

These findings indicate that OPs alter the trajectory of hepatic cell signaling in a manner consistent with the observed emergence of prediabetes-like metabolic dysfunction. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[Panel assessing state's analysis of methyl iodide risk.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

A panel of eight independent toxicologists began its work Thursday in assessing whether state regulators have accurately analyzed the potential risk of allowing a controversial new soil fumigant to be used in California. Ventura County Star, California.

**[Cleaning up the 'organic' soap biz.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

The organic food industry is regulated by the federal government, but when it comes to shampoo, soaps and makeup, manufacturers often falsely promote products as all natural or pesticide- and chemical-free, according to Alexis Baden-Mayer of the Organic Consumers Association. Boston Herald, Massachusetts.

**[Jury rejects toxic trailer claim.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

A federal jury on Thursday rejected a New Orleans family's claims that the government-issued trailer they lived in after Hurricane Katrina exposed them to dangerous fumes, with one juror saying the plaintiffs' attorneys never had the "smoking gun" that proved their case. Associated Press.

**[Calif. bans high-emission paint thinners, solvents.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

California air regulators approved strict regulations Thursday for aerosol air fresheners, paint thinners, and solvents that increase ozone, or smog, in the atmosphere and contribute to asthma and cancer cases. Associated Press.

**[J&J recalls some infant's, children's Tylenol lots.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Johnson & Johnson said on Thursday it is recalling 57 different lots of infants' and children's Tylenol manufactured between April and June 2008 because of a possible bacterial contamination of the popular pain and fever treatment. Reuters.

**[Fruit and veg have 'unacceptable' levels of pesticides.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Many fruit and vegetables sold in supermarkets and greengrocers contain pesticide residues that are above the maximum legal level, an in-depth report has said. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

**[Air pollution may raise preterm birth risk.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Exposure to air pollution later in pregnancy may raise a woman's risk of delivering her baby too soon, a new study suggests. Previous studies have linked air pollution exposure in both the first and third trimester of pregnancy to an increased risk of preterm delivery

Reuters.

**[Chemicals in breast milk linked to testicular cancer.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Pollutant chemicals in mothers' breast milk have been linked to an increased rate of testicular cancer. A study in Denmark suggests hormone-disrupting chemicals such as pesticides may explain why so many men in the country develop the disease. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

**[Study finds school drinking water tainted.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Over the last decade, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the country has been found to contain unsafe levels of lead, pesticides and dozens of other toxic chemicals. But the problem has gone largely unmonitored by the federal government. Associated Press.

**[Prenatal exposure to tetrachloroethylene-contaminated drinking water and the risk of congenital anomalies: a retrospective cohort study.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

The results of this study suggest that the risk of certain congenital anomalies is increased among the offspring of women who were exposed to PCE-contaminated drinking water around the time of conception. Environmental Health.

[See a related news article: [Solvent used in Cape pipes linked to birth defects](#)]

**[Can planes be poisonous?](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

An international collaboration between scientists suggests a direct link between the so called aero-toxic syndrome and chemicals present cockpit and cabin air supplies. BBC.

**[Fish and paint chips Part I: The science of trash.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

Scientists have known for years that the world's oceans are full of garbage. Only now are they starting to suspect that it's making its way onto our dinner plates. DC Bureau.

**[Wisconsin passes mercury, invasive species bills.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

The Wisconsin Assembly and Senate approved legislation Tuesday to ban the sale of certain products containing mercury. Business North, Minnesota.

**[1 in 3 homes in metro areas could pose health risks.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

One in three homes in U.S. metropolitan areas have at least one problem such as water leaks, peeling paint, holes or rodents that could harm residents' health or safety, according to a first-of-its-kind study to be released Thursday. USA Today.

**[Power plant fitted with filters to reduce emissions.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

A \$700 million retrofit of the only coal-burning power plant in northern New Jersey promises to dramatically cut down on toxic smokestack emissions. But it will do nothing to curb the plant's release of carbon, the biggest contributor to global warming. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

**[US should watch for animal disease, institute says.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

The United States needs to lead a global effort to protect people from new outbreaks of deadly infectious diseases that originate in animals, such as swine flu, AIDS and SARS, health experts said on Tuesday. Reuters.

**[Are E-cigarettes safe? Details are hazy.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Makers of a new product called an E-cigarette claim it's a safer way to get a nicotine fix than regular cigarettes -- without emitting second-hand smoke. The FDA isn't so sure.

MarketPlace.

**[Flavors banned from cigarettes to deter youths.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Federal health officials banned the sale of flavored cigarettes on Tuesday in the first major crackdown since the Food and Drug Administration was given the authority to regulate tobacco. New York Times.

*[See a related article about a similar proposed ban in Canada: [Senate could gut legislation on flavoured tobacco](#)]*

**[Seeking chemical culprits for those deformities.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Many scientists and public health advocates point to pesticides and other [endocrine-disrupting] environmental pollutants while others, including industry, some government agencies and more scientists, say more study is needed. Miller-McCune.

*Most of the news articles above come from [Environmental Health News](#).*

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.

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