



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin March 10, 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

New CHE Blog

CHE has launched a blog to promote dialogue on issues at the intersection of human health and environment. Main blog posts are invited essays from CHE partners. Comments and discussion are welcome from all.

<http://ourhealthandenvironment.wordpress.com/>

CHE on Facebook

In addition to a new blog, CHE has also created a Facebook page to be updated several times a week with CHE announcements, important new reports and news and other information that may be of interest to our Partners. We invite you to visit and join the [Facebook page](#).

New Members

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

- Greg Boulos, MS, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Vickie Carper, Mercer Island, Washington
- Mark Hengen, MS MA, Cranston, Rhode Island
- Daniel Keller, PhD, Dandridge, Tennessee
- Richard Krein, DC, Portland, Oregon
- John Price, Boise, Idaho
- Rey Sabio, Baguio, Philippines
- Angie Sturm, South Lake Tahoe, California

Announcements

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

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

[EPA requests public comments on vessel water discharges report.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comments on a draft report that, when made final, will provide Congress with information it may use for the regulation of incidental discharges from certain vessels.

[EPA announces environmental justice video contest: Faces of the Grassroots.](#)

The Faces of the Grassroots contest is an opportunity to publicly exhibit creativity with environmental justice stories, and connect with others working to raise awareness of the movement.

[New policy statement: American Chemical Society on endocrine disruptors.](#)

The American Chemical Society strongly endorses expanded endocrine disruptor

education and research and the development of more effective science-based decision-making tools and methods for reducing and eliminating exposures of humans and the environment.

[EPA accepting comments on ArcelorMittal requests for hazardous waste injection well permits.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will accept public comments until April 7th on ArcelorMittal's requests to continue injecting hazardous waste deep underground at its facility in Burns Harbor, Indiana.

[US EPA partners with Indonesia to improve public health in Jakarta.](#)

The program aims to better understand Jakarta's air pollution problems and to develop cost-effective strategies for improvement. EPA and its partners will provide technical assistance and training for developing air quality monitoring and emissions inventories.

[Call for proposals: Pesticide Safety Program for Agricultural Workers and Farmworker Children.](#)

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is soliciting applications from eligible parties for an EPA cooperative agreement to provide financial assistance to an eligible organization for an education and training pesticide safety program aimed at reducing exposure to pesticides for agricultural workers, their families and the agricultural community. Applications are due April 5th.

[Call for proposals: Smart Growth Program.](#)

The Development, Community, and Environment Division (DCED), known as the Smart Growth Program, in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation is seeking letters of interest from states, regions, and communities that want to develop in ways that reflect the principles of smart growth and meet environmental and other goals. EPA will provide technical assistance to successful applicants. Letters of interest are due April 9th.

[Job opening: Portland, Oregon.](#)

Josiah Hill III Clinic is currently hiring an executive director. Review of applications will begin March 15th.

[Job opening: Portland, Oregon.](#)

Josiah Hill III Clinic is currently hiring an AmeriCorps communications specialist to assist with spreading the word about Josiah Hill III Clinic's services and the variety of opportunities for community members to become involved with the organization.

[Job opening: Providence, Rhode Island.](#)

Brown University has an opening for a postdoctoral research position at in environmental health with a focus on research ethics. Please send a cover letter, CV and names of three references to Phil Brown, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies, Brown University, Box 1916, Providence RI 02912 by March 15, 2010.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Asthma

Thursday March 11, 2010
noon - 12:45 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Lung Association in Oregon

This webinar series focuses on health outcomes of proactive indoor air quality programs and trigger strategies around the areas of asthma, radon, integrated pest management, and diesel retrofitting.

Price: free, but space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Michelle Cunha, 503-718-6159 or michelle@lungoregon.org

2) Human Health Risk Assessment Workshop: Practical Approaches to Estimating Risk and Developing Site-specific Cleanup Levels

Thursday and Friday, March 11 - 12, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kirkland, Washington

at the Kirkland Computer Lab, Yarrow Bay Office Park, One North Building, 10604 NE 38th Place, Suite 118

Sponsor: Northwest Environmental Training Center

Risk assessments are now being performed at almost all sites, whether part of a Risk-Based Correction Action (RBCA) analysis, to determine remediation strategies, or for litigation support and prevention. This class is hands-on, covering each of the steps in a risk assessment. Emphasis will be placed on fate and transport modeling to estimate exposure point concentrations. RISC software will be used for classroom exercises, however the principles learned are can be applied to other risk-assessment software. Each participant will have their own computer workstation throughout the class.

Price: \$945/\$895

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NWETC, 206-762-1976

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

Monday March 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

4) California's Toxics Information Clearinghouse: Scientific Approaches to Implementation

Monday and Tuesday, March 15 - 16, 2010

Sacramento, California

at the Cal/EPA building, 1001 I Street

Sponsor: UCLA Law and Environmental Health Sustainable Technology Policy Program, the UC Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), with primary funding from the UC Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program

The first of two workshops, this will focus on indicators for human health hazards in three sessions: 1) state of the science on identifying chemical hazards; 2) human health hazard indicators for cancer, developmental neurotoxicity and endocrine disruption; and 3) moving forward with human health hazard indicators. The second workshop will be May 10 - 11th in Berkeley.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sara Hoover of OEHHA, shoover@oehha.ca.gov

5) Distinguished Lecture - "Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure and the Development of Children Living in an Agricultural Community: Results of the CHAMACOS Study"

Tuesday March 16, 2010

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
at the NIEHS campus, Rall Building Rodbell ABC

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

The speaker will be Brenda Eskenazi, PhD, professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. This lecture is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

6) Annual East Tennessee Environmental Conference

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 16 - 17, 2010

Kingsport, Tennessee

at the Meadowview Marriott Conference Resort & Convention Center

Sponsor: see the [Sponsors page](#)

The conference presentations will be in four tracks: Environment, Health, Economics and Industry

Price: \$100 until February 28th or \$200 thereafter. special rates are available for students and nonprofit exhibitors

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jan.Compton@state.tn.us

7) 2010 Michael & Susan Dell Lectureship in Child Health and Social and Environmental Solutions to Obesity Conference

Wednesday March 17, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Austin, Texas

at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, University of Texas at Austin Campus

Sponsor: Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, HEB, The University of Texas System, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, The University of Texas School Public Health, and the Texas Medical Association

Speakers will be Kelly Brownell, PhD, director of the Yale University Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity; Lew Kuller, MD, DrPH, Distinguished University Professor of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health; and Kenneth Warner, PhD, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 512-482-6163 or 512-346-6163 or Emily.B.Hines@uth.tmc.edu

8) Strengthening Environmental Justice Research and Decision Making: A Symposium on the Science of Disproportionate Environmental Health Impacts

Wednesday through Friday, March 17 - 19, 2010

Washington, DC

at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Research and National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, the Office of Environmental Justice, and the Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education

This is a science symposium on disproportionate environmental health impacts. The primary goal is to lay the foundation for developing analytical tools that federal, state and local governments can use to better quantify and characterize disproportionate environmental health impacts on minority and low-income populations that may result from their programs, policies and activities.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

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

9) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Radon

Thursday March 18, 2010

noon - 12:45 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Lung Association in Oregon

This webinar series focuses on health outcomes of proactive indoor air quality programs and trigger strategies around the areas of asthma, radon, integrated pest management, and diesel retrofitting.

Price: free, but space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Michelle Cunha, 503-718-6159 or michelle@lungoregon.org

10) Environmental Speaker Series - Dr. Linda Birnbaum, NIEHS

Tuesday March 23, 2010

6:00 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. lecture

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

at the University of North Carolina Sonja Haynes Stone Center Theater

Sponsor: University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment

The IE Environmental Speaker Series is a seminar series that brings an important environmental researcher to the UNC campus once per semester. This event is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Josh Meyer, josh_meyer@unc.edu

11) 2010 Food Safety Education Conference

Tuesday through Friday, March 23 - 26, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Sponsor: USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service; USDA, Food and Nutrition Service; USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service; NSF International; US Food and Drug Administration; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; NSF/WHO Collaborating Centre for Food Safety; Partnership for Food Safety Education

Foodborne illness is a preventable and underreported disease that presents a major challenge to both general and at-risk populations. Empowering consumers worldwide with knowledge and safer food-handling behaviors is one of the best lines of defense against

pathogens causing these illnesses. The intended audience for this conference includes public-health educators, health-care providers, medical communicators, food-safety educators, cooperative-extension educators, sanitarians, consumer representatives, and health writers and journalists

Price: \$295, \$195 for nonprofit or government employees, \$95 for students

[Visit the website](#)

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

12) Public Schools and Contaminated Land in Rhode Island: Integrating Research, Research Translation, and Advocacy through the NIEHS Superfund Research Program

Monday March 29, 2010

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
at the NIEHS campus, Keystone Room 1003A

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

The speaker will be Laura Senier, MPH, PhD, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Community and Environmental Sociology and Department of Family Medicine. The event is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

13) EPA Grants Award Process Webinar

Thursday April 1, 2010

2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider attending this one hour webinar. The webinar will cover grants topics, including how to find and apply for grant opportunities, an update on the status of Grants.gov, and preparing a proper budget detail.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Elizabeth January, 617-918-1315 or january.elizabeth@epa.gov

14) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Diesel Retrofitting

Monday April 5, 2010

noon - 12:45 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Lung Association in Oregon

This webinar series focuses on health outcomes of proactive indoor air quality programs and trigger strategies around the areas of asthma, radon, integrated pest management, and diesel retrofitting.

Price: free, but space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Michelle Cunha, 503-718-6159 or michelle@lungoregon.org

15) Taking it to the Curbside: Engaging Communities to Create Sustainable Change for Health

Tuesday April 6, 2010

Boston, Massachusetts

at Harvard Medical School Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur

Sponsor: Association for Prevention Teaching and Research and other groups listed on the website

The workshop will focus on how academic and community partners can work together using research to foster sustainable health interventions and will include a panel discussion from an investigator and community partner team who have been working on these issues, and also representatives from policy and funding agencies.

Price: \$50 APTR member, \$95 non-APTR member or \$15 community partner

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dr. Ann DiGirolamo, 617-499-6608 or adigirolamo@challiance.org

16) Slow Death By Rubber Duck Webinar

Tuesday April 6, 2010

5:00 p.m. Pacific time / 8:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Studies show that harmful toxic chemicals are common in household items, including rubber ducks and bubble bath, and that many of these chemicals are also found inside of our bodies. Over a four-day period, *Slow Death By Rubber Duck* authors Rick Smith and Bruce Lourie used everyday household products suspected of causing harm to our ecosystem and to human health. By revealing the pollution load in their bodies before and after the experiment, Rick and Bruce tell a unique inside story of common toxins and body burden. On the April 6 Webinar, author and Executive Director of Environmental Defence Canada Rick Smith will read from *Slow Death By Rubber Duck*, and we'll discuss toxic chemicals found in products as common as hand soap and what you can do to protect your family and the planet. Preregistration is required. The recorded webinar will be available on the Safe Cosmetics website after the event.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

17) Public Relations Training for Environmental Professionals - Perfecting Environmental Communication with the Public, Press, and Industry

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 6 - 7, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at EOS Alliance (NWETC) Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

A well-designed public relations program can supercharge your organization's image, reputation and success. During this intensive two-day course, you will obtain a fundamental background on the key issues, concepts and practice of effective communications and media relations, with the focus on environmental projects. The course is designed to provide participants with an insight on fundamentals and practicalities behind public-relations practice in the context of protocol functions and communications planning.

Price: \$495/*\$395 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and AFS, NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members; a \$50 early-bird savings applies to registrations received by March 5, 2010

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

News and Journal Articles

[Dry cleaning usually uses a toxic chemical, but the safety picture is unclear.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

Because a company says it's green, that doesn't make it so. Sneaky "greenwashing" cleaners are claiming to be "organic" because they use carbon-based solvents. Under that definition, even perchloroethylene is organic. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Vienna battles toxins in drinking water](#)]

[Working outdoors reduces male kidney cancer risk, study says.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

In the largest study of its kind, scientists found that vitamin D -- produced by the skin when exposed to ultraviolet light -- was associated with a reduced rate of renal cancer of up to 73 percent among men. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[Low birth weight may affect adult lung health.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

In a study of 627 Chinese men and women in their 40s, researchers found that participants' scores on standard lung-function tests generally lined up with their birth weights. Reuters Health.

['Eating for two' may harm baby.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

A study in pregnant mice found that diets which were high in fat or carbohydrates had an effect on almost 2,000 genes in the developing offspring, including those involved in kidney function and smell. London Times, United Kingdom.

[Scope of salmonella-tainted flavouring recall will continue to grow.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

It could take months for some companies to figure out whether a flavoring ingredient contaminated with salmonella found its way into their products, experts say. The U.S. FDA says this could turn into one of the largest-ever food recalls in North America. Canwest News Service.

[Court to decide if vaccine makers can be sued.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

The Supreme Court said on Monday that it would decide whether a federal law protects vaccine manufacturers from lawsuits in state court seeking damages for alleged design defects. The case involves a lawsuit by the parents of a child who suffered seizures after her third dose of a DTP vaccine. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [1 in 4 parents buys unproven vaccine-autism link](#)]

[Are fire retardants putting us at risk?](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

You have flame retardant chemicals in your body. They're toxic. Americans have the highest levels of anyone in the world. The chemicals are in the dust in our homes and offices and schools. And they're showing up in our food. Environment Report.

[Yale study details how and why of BPA's dangers.](#)

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

Exposing a female fetus to a chemical found in plastics causes permanent changes in a daughter's uterus that might result in cancer -- and a research team led by a Yale doctor has figured out why. New Haven Register, Connecticut.

[See related articles: [U.S. examining possible effects of bisphenol A, Md. among states seeking to limit BPA](#), [Keeping harmful chemicals out of water](#), [Decision to ban BPA in baby bottles was controversial: Documents](#), [BPA update](#), [Doyle signs bill limiting BPA use](#), [Boys and girls differ in genetic response to what mom eats](#) and [For pregnant mice, eating matters more for their sons](#)]

[Health Canada offers environmental health resource.](#)

Monday, March 08, 2010

The site includes links for information about the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), which is Canada's national hazard communication standard, as well as information about drinking water, indoor air quality, chemical substances, and the National Dosimetry Services, an agency that since 1951 has provided medical surveillance services to Canadian workers exposed to ionizing radiation. Environmental Protection.

[One hospital's simple measure to defeat infections.](#)

Monday, March 08, 2010

Nearly 100,000 patients die every year in the U.S. from infections they get in hospitals. A major cause of hospital-acquired infections, remarkably, is poor hand-washing. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Burn plants seem cleaner, but facts debated.](#)

Sunday, March 07, 2010

Every year, Dutchess County's trash-burning incinerator in the Town of Poughkeepsie releases 3,777 tons of global-warming carbon dioxide, along with 333 tons of soot, sulfur compounds and various other pollutants, according to environmental reports. Poughkeepsie Journal, New York.

[Can technology solve nuclear's problems?](#)

Sunday, March 07, 2010

Will nuclear power plants become safe, viable options in the coming decades? Where do we put all of the waste from those new nuclear power plants if Yucca Mountain is closed? Talk of the Nation, NPR.

[Fat American children: Many causes, a lifetime of effects.](#)

Sunday, March 07, 2010

The percentage of American children who are overweight or obese has been growing for decades, and now nearly one in three has a body mass index that's greater than normal. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See a related article: [Obesity risks start before birth](#), [Striking number of obesity risks hit minority kids](#) and [Childhood obesity linked to heart ills](#)]

[Studies show danger of even small amounts of lead in children's blood.](#)

Sunday, March 07, 2010

High doses of lead have for some time been linked to chronic kidney damage. But a recent study out of Johns Hopkins Children's Center found that even small levels of lead exposure may be damaging to children's kidneys. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See related articles: [Lead abatement effort gets \\$5.2 million shot in arm](#), [Clashing lead laws may derail progress](#) and [The awful cost of a rural lead-smelting miracle](#)]

[Climate change may extend allergy season: study.](#)

Saturday, March 06, 2010

Sneezing, congestion, and runny noses from hay fever may be lasting longer because climate change may be extending pollen seasons, doctors in Italy said on Monday. Reuters.

[ExxonMobil guilty in pipe case.](#)

Saturday, March 06, 2010

After deliberating over seven days, a Jefferson Parish jury on Friday found that ExxonMobil Corp. failed to warn workers at a Harvey industrial yard that the offshore drilling pipes they cleaned contained radioactive material, heightening their chances of developing cancer. New Orleans Times-Picayune, Louisiana.

[Martin County Health Department seeking women for mercury study.](#)

Saturday, March 06, 2010

With a snip of hair and a survey, the Martin County Health Department hopes to test mercury levels in the county's childbearing-aged women, and create awareness about the risks of high mercury levels on children. TC Palm, Florida.

[Birth defects in Iraqi town linked to attack?](#)

Saturday, March 06, 2010

A BBC investigation has found a high level of birth defects in the Iraqi city of Falluja - including a baby with three heads - blamed on weapons used by the US in an attack six years ago, it reported on Thursday. South African Press Association, South Africa.

[Attention and debate over study on cancer risk.](#)

Saturday, March 06, 2010

A study that identifies the bottom third of Florida as a massive brain cancer cluster has set off a firestorm among Acreage residents worried about their community's reputation. Cox News Service.

[See a related article: [Lawmakers raise concerns about cancer cluster studies](#)]

[Dust bunnies tainted with toxins?](#)

Friday, March 05, 2010

Around 60 percent of floor dust comes from soil stuck on shoes. And if someone lives near a contaminated Superfund site or industrial plant, that dirt could be loaded with toxins. Discovery News.

[Leukemia: the price of living close to an oil refinery?](#)

Friday, March 05, 2010

Swedish scientists have discovered a remarkable increase in the incidence of leukemia in people living close to an oil refinery. Environmental Health News.

[Feds targeting three pollutants.](#)

Friday, March 05, 2010

Delaware has made strides in improving its air quality, but a "national solution" is necessary to curb emissions from out-of-state power plants, the state's top environmental official told lawmakers Thursday. Wilmington News Journal, Delaware.

[EPA drastically underestimates coal waste pollution's threat to human and environmental health.](#)

Thursday, March 04, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has severely underreported the severity of coal ash waste pollution and its threat to human and environmental health throughout the United States, a new independent study released February 24 by the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) and Earthjustice says. AlterNet.

[See related articles: [Group: NC power plants have tainted water](#) and [Disposal of spilled coal ash a long, winding trip](#)]

[EPA adds 10 sites to the Superfund list.](#)

Thursday, March 04, 2010

After years of languishing as the neglected stepchild of environmental enforcement, there are signs that the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program is beginning a big shift in priorities for cleaning up federal toxic waste sites, advocates say. Christian Science Monitor.

[Cigarette smoking may raise prostate cancer risk.](#)

Thursday, March 04, 2010

Cigarette smoking may increase a man's risk for developing and dying from prostate cancer, pooled data from 24 studies involving 21,600 men with the disease indicates. Reuters Health.

[Cell phone warnings Maine panel weighs cancer alerts.](#)

Thursday, March 04, 2010

Ignoring the health risks of heavy cell phone use invites a cancer epidemic, supporters of a bill requiring manufacturers to put labels on mobile phones and packaging said Tuesday. Brattleboro Reformer, Vermont.

[See related articles: [Cell-phone safety](#), [Green your phone, save your brain](#) and [Cell phones and electromagnetic radiation a growing concern](#)]

[Plasticizers kept from leaching out.](#)

Thursday, March 04, 2010

Scientists working with the widely used plasticizers known as phthalates have locked down these compounds, preventing them from migrating. The research may lead to improved versions of hard plastics that don't leach their ingredients. Science News.

[See related articles: [Hidden dangers of phthalates](#), [Phthalates predispose mice to allergies](#), [Relationship between environmental phthalate exposure and the intelligence of school-aged children](#) and [Association of exposure to phthalates with endometriosis and uterine leiomyomata: Findings from NHANES, 1999-2004](#)]

What's best for kids: Bottled water or fountains?

Thursday, March 04, 2010

Tap water may be better for kids than sugary sodas, but many schools have lead-contaminated water. National Geographic News.

Lead in our roadways.

Thursday, March 04, 2010

Many asphalt companies in and around Kansas City use a type of hard rock known as chat, that is ideal for creating super pave, a hard asphalt used for highways and interstates. Unfortunately chat, a byproduct of 1920's lead and zinc mining, is a potential health hazard. Kansas City KCTV5, Kansas, Missouri.

Fat rats skew research results.

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Failure to recognize that many laboratory animals live unhealthy lives may be leading researchers to misinterpret their findings, potentially misdirecting efforts to develop therapeutic drugs. Nature.

Study points to high cost of polluted air.

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Foul, filthy air is wafting over California and making people sick to the tune of almost \$200 million a year in hospital expenses, according to a Rand Corp. study released today. San Francisco Chronicle.

[See related articles: [Air pollution: It's not just your lungs that suffer](#), [Clearing the air at American ports](#), [AQMD cracks down on ports](#), [Something in the air in Krakow](#), [Chronic social stress and susceptibility to concentrated ambient fine particles in rats](#), [Black lung lofts](#) and [Settlement reached in pollution complaint](#)]

Tap water contaminant 'castrates' frogs.

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

An herbicide [atrazine] that contaminates the tap water consumed by millions of Americans has been found to produce gender-bending effects in male frogs, "chemically castrating" some and turning others into females, a study shows. USA Today.

[See related articles: [Frogs: Clues to how weed killer may feminize males](#) and [Sex change chemicals in river](#), plus others regarding pesticides: ['Pesticide drift' eluding efforts to combat it](#); [Pesticide exposure deprives Yaqui girls of breastfeeding -- ever](#); [Neurobehavioral deficits and increased blood pressure in school-age children prenatally exposed to pesticides](#); [Perturbation of lipids and glucose metabolism associated with previous 2,4-D exposure: a cross-sectional study of NHANES III data, 1988-1994](#); [Pesticides pose health risks](#); [Derived from flowers, but not benign: Pyrethroids raise new concerns](#); [Campaign targets lawn weedkillers, pesticides](#); [Perth's pesticide peril](#); [Loopholes in pesticide regulation](#) and [Officials in China at odds over food scandal](#)]

Secondhand smoke damages arteries in teens: Study.

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Children as young as 13 who have evidence of secondhand smoke in their blood also have visibly thicker arteries, Finnish researchers reported on Tuesday. Reuters.

[See related articles: [Where there's no smoke](#) and [Statewide smoking ban starts on July 1](#)]

Cost of food-borne illnesses is deemed much higher than earlier estimates.

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

A new report has found that the health-related costs of food-borne illnesses total \$152

billion a year, including medical bills, lost wages and lost productivity. That's more than four times an earlier USDA estimate. Los Angeles Times, California.

[EPA makes polluters pay less.](#)

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency is riling many businesses with proposals to regulate greenhouse gases for the first time, but data suggest it has been slow out of the gate under President Barack Obama in enforcing existing regulations on traditional pollutants. Wall Street Journal.

[Use of acetaminophen in pregnancy associated with increased asthma symptoms in children.](#)

Tuesday, March 02, 2010

Children who were exposed to acetaminophen prenatally were more likely to have asthma symptoms at age five in a study of 300 African-American and Dominican Republic children living in New York City. Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health.

[Radiation risks prompt push to curb CT scans.](#)

Tuesday, March 02, 2010

Federal regulators, radiology groups and hospitals are launching efforts to scale back use of the scans, also called CAT scans, amid growing evidence that they are exposing patients to radiation that may elevate the risk of cancer in the future. Wall Street Journal.

[See related articles : [CT scans for children face more scrutiny](#) and [Chip of tooth tells radiation dose](#)]

[Panel kills bill barring some beauty products.](#)

Tuesday, March 02, 2010

Fifteen harmful chemicals, including formaldehyde and arsenic, will remain in beauty products in the state after a legislative panel Monday killed a proposal that would have prohibited the sale of toiletries and cosmetics that contain them. Denver Post, Colorado.

[While we were sleeping...GM food and the brink of no return.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

Beneath public radar, there has been a silent infiltration of GMOs into our food supply with minimal testing and misrepresented results. Salem News, Oregon.

[New Indiana rules would restrict wood-fired boilers.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

Wood-fired boilers that send soot and dust from backyard smokestacks could face tougher regulations under rules proposed by Indiana environmental officials to help protect air quality. Columbus Republic, Indiana.

[Rulings restrict clean water act, foiling E.P.A.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

Thousands of the nation's largest water polluters are outside the Clean Water Act's reach because the Supreme Court has left uncertain which waterways are protected by that law, according to interviews with regulators. As a result, some businesses say that the law no longer applies to them. New York Times.

[EPA issues stricter limitations on fish.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on Friday released new, stricter limitations on fish consumption in local waterways. Sandusky Register, Ohio.

[Arsenic-contaminated water threat to southern Punjab inhabitants.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

Southern Punjab is facing serious threat due to high-level arsenic contamination in the drinking water, which is causing cancer, still births, post-neonatal mortality and other diseases. Lahore Nation, Pakistan.

[Toxic toys on sale.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

Laboratory tests carried out on a number of imported toys randomly collected from city markets have shown that they contain high levels of toxic metals and chemicals. Karachi Herald, Pakistan.

[For frogs, and perhaps humans, there's something strange in the water.](#)

Monday, March 01, 2010

Medications leaking into groundwater are producing strange effects on the frogs of Connecticut, effects that could be a harbinger of safety concerns for humans, too, researchers say. Greenwich Time, Connecticut.

[What lies beneath.](#)

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Thousands of tank systems across Pennsylvania have failed and contaminated soil and water exposing neighborhoods to dangerous chemicals. Allentown Morning Call, Pennsylvania.

[Fertility problems may not affect kids' coordination.](#)

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Despite some concerns to the contrary, parents' fertility problems may have little effect on their children's risk of coordination problems as they reach school age, a new study finds. Reuters Health.

[Removing lead pipes could backfire.](#)

Saturday, February 27, 2010

A costly program meant to protect Londoners from lead in tap water may instead be placing thousands at risk, a leading expert says. London Free Press, Ontario.

[Sebastopol safety concerns over PG&E SmartMeters.](#)

Friday, February 26, 2010

Some Sebastopol residents have questioned whether radio frequency radiation from Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s new SmartMeters, which transmit their data to the utility via wireless communications, could threaten their health. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Chemicals: Innocent or guilty?](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta explains why a 1976 toxic chemical law may be putting Americans at risk. CNN.

[See a related article: [States push EPA, Congress to curb business confidentiality claims for chemicals](#)]

[FDA creates partnership to boost regulatory science.](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

The agency will collaborate with the National Institutes of Health in an effort to more quickly rule on the safety and effectiveness of new products and procedures. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Poor are agents, victims of environmental damage.](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Growing environmental degradation is going to become one of the major problems even for economic managers, as the vicious combination of increasing population and deteriorating environment is expected to further worsen the state of poverty in Pakistan. Karachi News International, Pakistan.

[495 workplace carcinogens listed.](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

A group of labor unions, environmentalists and civic activists Thursday disclosed a list of 495 carcinogens that their research showed are in materials being used in Korea and urged the administration to take tougher action to prevent their use. Korea Times, South Korea.

[Fish oil is no snake oil.](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Recent reports on the health benefits of fish oil sound almost too good to be true. The omega-3 fatty acids that it contains have been shown to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes and slow the formation of plaques in the arteries, and they may also lower blood pressure. Discover.

[See a related article: [PCBs found in fish oil capsules, suit says](#)]

[Pakistan: Smoke-free stoves a godsend for village women.](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Siddiqi is happily making a living by building earthenware stoves for the villagers. No ordinary stoves, these are godsend for rural women. Inter Press Service.

[See a related article: [Better burning, better breathing: Improving health with cleaner cook stoves](#)]

[Sunscreen's zinc factor ends up in blood.](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

People who use a lot of sunscreen could be at risk of having "larger than normal" quantities of zinc in their bloodstream, with new evidence showing zinc particles penetrate the skin and are absorbed into the body. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[Suspected carcinogen found in fruit juice.](#)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Researchers at the University of Copenhagen have found extremely high levels of the toxic substance antimony in prepackaged juice drinks. Copenhagen Post, Denmark.

[What's the source of Mississippi River pollution?](#)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

The mighty Mississippi has been the lifeblood of the Crescent City for hundreds of years, but some watchdog groups say the river is now badly contaminated, endangering the livelihood and health of the communities it supports. New Orleans WDSU TV, Louisiana.

[Bomb plant seepage creating Israel's worst-ever water pollution.](#)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Rocket fuel and remains of explosives that seeped into the aquifer from the Israel Military Industries Ramat Hasharon plant are continuing to spread, according to data obtained by Haaretz. It is the worst instance of water pollution in Israel's history. Haaretz, Israel.

[Marcellus Shale: Spills of drilling chemicals worry experts.](#)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Even with no additional chemicals added by gas companies, water that flows back from hydro-fracked wells has enough heavy metals -- and often radioactivity -- to be classified as hazardous waste, said Ron Bishop, a biochemist at SUNY Oneonta. Gannett News Service.

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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