



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin April 21, 2010

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

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

ICEH Highlights

Children First Symposium October 1st

This groundbreaking one-day symposium will highlight a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care. Hosted by CHE, the Whole Child Center and the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, the symposium will feature leaders on these topics who will also describe model programs and concrete steps toward creating optimal and sustainable environments in which children can thrive and reach their full potential. Registration is now open. [Visit the website](#).

New Practice Prevention Column on PFCs

A new column on perfluorochemicals, including PFOA / C8, is now available on our [Practice Prevention column page](#). Written to make the science and current knowledge accessible to parents and others, this succinct fact sheet summarizes health hazards and methods to reduce exposures.

Announcements

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

[Reach the Decision Makers Training Program.](#)

This project of the UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, is an innovative science and policy training program that works to increase the number of scientists, community-based leaders, public health professionals and health care providers who are actively involved in informing the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) of current and relevant scientific findings impacting their decisions in setting policy. Applications are due May 7th, 2010. The 2010 inaugural class of 18-24 fellows will be for California-based participants only. Starting in 2011, the program will accept applications from throughout the United States.

[National Healthy Schools Day.](#)

Celebrated on Monday, April 26, 2010, National Healthy Schools Day's 2010 campaign will focus on using certified green cleaning products which help reduce pollutants from indoor air.

[Environmental health in the 2009 state legislative sessions.](#)

In every state, some bill related to environmental health was introduced, totaling 1,333 bills in the 50 states. Doug Farquhar at the National Conference of State Legislatures has put together a concise summary of all environmental health bills introduced and enacted in state legislatures in 2009.

[New group: ACHEMMIC.](#)

ACHEMMIC is a newly formed group consisting of physicians, scientists, researchers, indoor air quality experts, advocates and others who are working together to promote the truth in health policy about the adverse effects of mold, microbes and indoor contaminants.

[New data added for cancer, reproductive health, birth defects and air.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has added new information to the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network.

[EPA moves to slash mercury from gold production.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to cut emissions from gold ore processing and production facilities, the sixth largest source of mercury air emissions in the country.

[Call for submission of manuscripts: International Journal of Nursing in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.](#)

The Fall 2010 issue of IJNIDD will be focusing on exposures to toxic chemicals in environments where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work, and receive health services and preventing or minimizing exposures that can lead to developmental disabilities. Original manuscripts must be submitted by June 30th to be considered for publication.

[Study charts path for better protection from harmful "chemical mixtures."](#)

The EU can and should assess and manage the risks from exposure to chemical mixtures, better known as the "cocktail effect", according to a significant report commissioned by the Environment Directorate General (DG) of the European Commission. DG Environment is inviting comment and questions on the report by April 30, 2010.

[See the report: [State of the Art Report on Mixture Toxicity](#)]

[Call for comments: EPA's reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency requests comments on the issue of EPA's reassessment of PCB use authorizations. Comments must be received on or before July 6, 2010.

[Take the Don't Fry Day pledge.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency is asking teachers to pledge to teach about sun safety in spring and summer activities.

[EPA's Office of Research and Development launches newsletter.](#)

EPA's Office of Research and Development is now publishing *Science Matters*, a newsletter devoted to sharing the innovative environmental and human health science conducted by EPA scientists and engineers and our partners.

[Call for comments: Addition of National Toxicology Program carcinogens.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to add 16 chemicals to the TRI list of reportable chemicals. Comments are due by June 6, 2010.

[EPA proposes adding more chemicals to Toxics Release Inventory list.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to add 16 chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list of reportable chemicals, the first expansion of the program in more than a decade.

[Job opening: United Kingdom.](#)

The Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry has several openings for professorships and lectureships in Environment & Human Health. The closing date is April 30th.

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

Greenpeace is seeking an up-and-coming campaigner with good writing skills for a position on the Toxics Campaign Chemical Security Project. Applications are due by April 27, 2010.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events, including requests for proposals and abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) Health Effects Institute 2010 Annual Conference

Sunday through Tuesday, April 25 - 27, 2010

Alexandria, Virginia

at The Westin Alexandria

Sponsor: Health Effects Institute

This conference will explore the health effects of air pollution, with sessions on new technologies and fuels, accountability research, multipollutant science and policy, critical issues in air pollution and children's respiratory health and more.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Robert Shavers, 617-488-2308 or rshavers@healtheffects.org

2) Contaminant Chemistry 101

Monday April 26, 2010

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

Seattle, Washington

at Northwest Environmental Training Center Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course provides participants with an overview/refresher of key chemistry concepts associated with environmental contamination and provides a foundation for understanding contaminant transport, fate and remediation. This material is intended for environmental professionals who are not chemists and require a fundamental understanding of chemistry principles for their work. This course is recommended for all environmental professionals working with contaminated soil and water with minimal formal training in the subject. It is also recommended for project managers seeking a review of contaminant chemistry. This course includes a review of chemical naming rules (e.g., understanding what 1,1,1-TCA is) and how to use chemical names to predict molecular geometry and environmental behavior.

Price: \$350 or \$295 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

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

3) The Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference and the Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees Conference

Tuesday through Friday, April 27 - 30, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: The Lead and Environmental Hazards Association and The National Association of Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees

The joint conference includes program tracks and technical assistance workshops dealing with lead hazard control, lead-poisoning prevention and Healthy Home program issues. Program tracks, technical assistance workshops and consultation roundtables are offered from Tuesday afternoon through Thursday afternoon to provide in-depth education and

discussion. Sessions and workshops are organized under the two conferences listed on the website. Attendees are encouraged to participate in any session.

Price: \$270 with discounts for more than one attendee from the same organization

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Steve Weil, 301-924-0804 or the [contact web page](#)

4) National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Call

Wednesday April 28, 2010

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

Sponsor: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The primary topics of discussion will be updates on EPA's response to the NEJAC's Goods Movement Report; and reports from the NEJAC liaisons to the Tribal Operations Commission and the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee School Siting Task Group.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 877-773-0779 or Meetings@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com

5) ADHD and Environmental Toxicity

Tuesday April 28, 2010

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Thiensville, Wisconsin

at the Mequon-Thiensville Library, 11345 Cedarburg Road

Sponsor: Developmental Delay Resources

This is part of a series. The speaker will be Dr. Norman Schwartz.

Price: free, but please RSVP before the event

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-385-1655 or holisticneuro@gmail.com

6) Rethinking Illness: A New Approach to Keeping Children Healthy

Tuesday April 28, 2010

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

New York, New York

at Westside YMCA, 5 West 63rd Street

Sponsor: Lawrence B. Palevsky, MD, FAAP

In consideration of the philosophy of today's conventional medical practice, and of the beliefs of our current dominant cultural norms, we are taught to view symptoms of acute illnesses in children as something bad and dangerous. Parents are taught to believe that symptoms and childhood illnesses can and should be avoided, suppressed and stopped at all costs, with the use of over-the-counter medicines, antibiotics, pharmaceutical drugs, and vaccines. Parents are also made to fear the worst-case scenario each time their children get sick, or when they choose to not vaccinate their children. In this lecture, attendees will begin to understand why children must experience their symptoms and illnesses as a necessary rite of passage that allows their immune and nervous systems to grow, mature, and develop. Attendees will also learn that the expression of these symptoms is not necessarily caused by bacteria and viruses. Instead, these symptoms and illnesses occur as a sign our children are healthy; that their bodies are working to bring to the surface, and cleanse, any accumulation of wastes from deep inside, perhaps even with the aid of bacteria and viruses. You will come to understand that we are

harming children with the constant use of over-the-counter medications, antibiotics, drugs and vaccines that treat and suppress common and necessary childhood symptoms and illnesses. You will also come to learn that it is the use of this dominant treatment approach that drives wastes deeper into our children's bodies, directly contributing to the development of chronic childhood illnesses. Attendees will hear about what contributes to the excess accumulation of wastes in our children, and what they can do to allow these wastes to be safely removed. In a nutshell, we need to facilitate the resolution of our children's symptoms without suppressing them, and we need to take another look at the value of childhood illnesses in our society. Children need to be sick in order for them to get well.

Price: \$35 single, \$60 couple

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@drpalevsky.com

7) Public Meeting: FDA Advisory Committees

Friday April 30, 2010

8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Rockville, Maryland

FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee Conference Room, Room 1066, 5630 Fishers Lane

Sponsor: US Food and Drug Administration

The meeting is being held for individuals and groups interested in nominating or serving as consumer representatives to FDA's advisory committees and panels. Send an email message or fax to the contact person listed below no later than April 23, 2010.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Doreen Brandes, Office of the Commissioner, FDA; see the website for phone and fax numbers or Doreen.Brandes@fda.hhs.gov

8) PATH Safe Water Project

Thursday April 29, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room T-435

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

The speaker will be Kevin Flick, PhD, consumer product officer at PATH. PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

9) CHE Cafe call with Annie Leonard, author of *The Story of Stuff*

Tuesday May 4, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

In December 2007, Annie released *The Story of Stuff*, a hit 20-minute webfilm that takes viewers on a provocative and eye-opening tour of the often hidden costs of our consumer-driven culture. The film has won numerous awards, including a South by Southwest Festival award, and in 2008 Annie was named one of *Time Magazine's* Heroes

of the Environment. Annie's films, writing and presentations combine solid information and first-hand investigative reporting with a profound sense of hope that we can, indeed must, find a more sustainable way to meet our material needs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

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

Tuesday May 4, 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

11) Public Meeting: EPA's reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations

May 4th (New York), May 18th (Chicago), May 25th (Atlanta) and May 27th (Washington, DC)

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

In addition to the requests for information and comments issued online, EPA intends to involve stakeholders through a series of public meetings taking place in locations across the country. The purpose of these meetings is to receive stakeholder comments on the issue of EPA's reassessment of PCB use authorizations, including the questions described in Unit XIV of the online document. Comments must be received on or before July 6, 2010.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

12) EH@Home

May 5th (Oregon City) or May 19th (Portland)

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Oregon State University partnership between the Extension Service and the Environmental Health Sciences Center, funded by the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences

This educational forum is for individuals and professionals who have an interest in environmental health in the home. EH@Home will focus on common environmental health concerns found in residential settings. OSU Faculty will present the latest research findings on key environmental health issues in residential settings. Through engaging, hands-on activities participants will be able to recognize common problems, identify risk reduction strategies, and know when to use specialists for further assistance. These workshops will focus on practical, low- and no-cost solutions to many common environmental health issues in the home. Lunch will be provided along with a Certificate of Attendance.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dave Stone, 541-737-4433 or Dave.Stone@oregonstate.edu

13) Prescription for Radon: A Medical Forum

Wednesday May 7, 2010

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

Minneapolis, Minnesota

at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport, 7901 34th Avenue South

Sponsor: American Lung Association, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, Minnesota Department of Health, US Environmental Protection Agency

The radon forum for medical professionals will serve to increase the awareness of physicians about the health risks/effects associated with prolonged radon exposure. This information will be essential in helping medical professionals address radon as a critical public health issue. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$100, includes the conference, luncheon and all materials, including a radon test kit

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Minnesota Department of Public Health, 651-201-4604

14) The Social Capital Foundation 2010 Malta Conference

Friday through Monday, May 7 - 10, 2010

Mellieha, Majjistral Republic of Malta

at the Maritim Antonine Hotel & Spa

Sponsor: The Social Capital Foundation

This type of conference brings together scientists, policymakers, social workers and the widest possible public. The emphasis will be put on social capital in practice in terms of actual or potential applications of social capital research. The objective is to make progress on the understanding of these issues by shedding light on some current societal and economic developments, and to draft innovative, practical responses.

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

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

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

Monday and Tuesday, May 10 - 11, 2010

Berkeley, California

at UC Berkeley

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 second of two workshops, this will address indicators of exposure potential, ecotoxicity and other environmental effects.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

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

16) The Information Age and EMF/RF Illness: The Potential for EMF and Radiofrequency/Microwave Radiation Illnesses and How Smart Choices in New Technologies Can Reduce Potential Risks

Tuesday May 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. Pacific / noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

As wireless technologies expand exponentially the potential impact on health is of great concern. On this call we will explore what the consequences might be of global wireless technologies on various health endpoints - including cancer, Alzheimers and other neurodegenerative diseases - and how new science can impact institutional shifts in policy and precautionary measures. Featured speakers will include Cindy Sage, MA, co-coordinator of CHE-EMF; Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, professor in oncology and cancer epidemiology at the University Hospital in Orebro, Sweden; Sam Milham, MD, epidemiologist for Washington State Department of Health; and Michael Segell, senior editor of *Prevention* magazine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

17) Coal's Threats to Health in Alaska

Wednesday May 12, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

Coal exploration and proposed development throughout Alaska threaten human health with potential hazardous emissions. At every stage - mining, transportation, washing, combustion and disposal of post-combustion wastes - coal development is a threat to human and environmental health. Pollutants from coal adversely affect all major organ systems in the human body and contribute to four of the top five causes of death in the United States: heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory diseases. Join us for a discussion of the dangerous chemicals associated with coal development, how these chemicals may affect our health, the status of coal-related projects in Alaska, and potential impacts to communities statewide. Find out about community-based advocacy efforts to address coal development in Alaska and how you can help protect the health of Alaskans from coal.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics at 907-222-7714 or diana@akaction.org

18) Joining the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposure"

Wednesday May 12, 2010

3:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:00 p.m. Central / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The speaker will be Ben Gerhardstein, MPH, public health analyst and presidential management fellow at the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Heckl, 716-951-0971 or rheckl@glu.org

19) Parental Pesticide Exposure and Child Development in the Fresh-cut Flower Industry in Ecuador

Thursday May 13, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room HSB D-209

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

The speaker will be Jose Ricardo Suarez, MPH, MD, PhD(c), from the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

20) Central Chapter Annual Educational Conference

Thursday and Friday, May 13 - 14, 2010

Bloomington, Illinois

at the Parke Hotel & Conference Center, 1413 Leslie Drive

Sponsor: Illinois Environmental Health Association

Sessions will address food safety; inspections; EPA's new Renovation, Repair, Paint Rule; water quality; mosquito biology and fluoride.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: IEHA Office, 815-562-1040 or ieha2001@aol.com

21) Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) 18

Wednesday through Saturday, May 19 - 22, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

Sponsor: Congress for the New Urbanism

The conference theme is "New Urbanism: Rx for Healthy Places." Is New Urbanism the prescription for healthier communities? Increasing scientific evidence suggests that community design - land use, design character, transportation systems, sustainability and density - can promote physical activity and lifelong communities; lower the risk of traffic injuries, obesity, heart disease and hypertension; improve air quality, affordability, social equity, connectivity, mental health and long-term value; increase social connection, sense of community and healthy food access; and reduce crime, violence and contributions to climate change. Organized with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CNU 18 will present new research and innovative techniques for assessing the health impact of land-use, transportation-planning, and community-design decisions - from fine grained to mega-regional scales. Share the opportunities and challenges of designing and retrofitting communities that make it easier for people to live healthy lives.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: congress@cnu.org

News and Journal Articles

[Manganese and Parkinson's disease: A critical review and new findings.](#)

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

The overwhelming evidence shows that Mn-induced parkinsonism does not involve

degeneration of midbrain dopamine neurons and L-dopa is not an effective therapy. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See a related article: [Environmental factors and Parkinson's disease: a case-control study in Belgrade, Serbia](#)]

Weigh the points of view against the actual risks.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

What appears to be true on television may not always be so. Statistics are a tricky thing to discuss, and even more difficult to comprehend. Augusta Kennebec Journal, Maine

Sunbed tans are addictive warn researchers.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Around a third of people who use sunbeds may become addicted to the tanning effects, a study suggests. The US researchers said tackling these underlying problems may be the key to encouraging people to quit using sunbeds and cut their skin cancer risk. BBC.

Well-done meat doubles bladder cancer risk.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Eating lots of meat, especially if it is overcooked, increases the risk of bladder cancer, say experts. Frying, grilling and barbecuing until meat is charred can form cancer-causing chemicals, research shows. BBC.

[See other articles about a connection between diet and cancer: [Fruits and veggies help just a little in decreasing cancer risk](#) and [Dangerous waters -- Warning: Fishing can be hazardous](#) and between diet and other diseases: [Alzheimer's risk cut by a third eating veggies, fish, poultry](#), ['High GI' carbohydrates increase women's heart risk](#) and [CDC: E. coli illnesses on decline, but other foodborne infections increasing](#)]

Prenatal PCB exposure linked to children's ADHD symptoms.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

A study of children born near a PCB-contaminated harbor in Massachusetts finds that prenatal exposure to banned persistent organic pollutants -- specifically PCBs and DDT -- may be linked to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Environmental Health News.

BPA battle makes way to Senate.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has introduced legislation to ban the chemical BPA from being used in food and drink containers and has signaled that she plans to offer a similar amendment when the food safety bill is debated on the Senate floor. Politico.

[See related articles: [Experts split on 'toxic' plastic ban](#), [BPA raises uterine gene activity in mice exposed before birth](#) and [BPA makes mice anxious, forgetful](#)]

Children may develop asthma from breathing traffic-related air pollution.

Monday, April 19, 2010

Some children who breathe air pollution from cars and trucks may develop asthma and its related symptoms, finds a unique long-term study that followed the children for eight years. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about air quality and health: [Study: Asthma more likely in kids in schools near roadways](#), [Study on climate change law cites 5 local refineries for negative health effects](#), [Prenatal exposure to airborne polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and children's intelligence at age 5 in a prospective cohort study in Poland](#), [Traffic's soot elevates blood pressure](#), [Ports propose plans to cut diesel emissions by 85 percent in next decade](#), [Researchers name top 100 corporate air polluters](#), [Edinburgh tram project 'drags down air quality'](#) and [An estimate of the global burden of anthropogenic ozone and fine particulate matter on premature human mortality using atmospheric modeling](#)]

Drinking water safe, but threats remain.

Sunday, April 18, 2010

In the 40 years since the first Earth Day, the Dayton area has made great strides in containing and even reversing environmental degradation due to toxic industrial chemicals. But as another Earth Day approaches on Thursday, the impact of pollution is still evident. Dayton Daily News, Ohio.

[See related articles about water quality issues: [Agricultural runoff has harsh impact on environment](#); [Growing concern in the water](#); [As pharmaceutical use soars, drugs taint water and wildlife](#) and [Are water filters worth it?](#)]

[Experts differ on health risk of volcanic ash.](#)

Saturday, April 17, 2010

WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein said the microscopic ash is potentially dangerous for people when it starts to reach the Earth because inhaled particles can enter the lungs and cause respiratory problems. Seattle Times.

['The Story of Stuff' by Annie Leonard.](#)

Saturday, April 17, 2010

In "The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff Is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health -- and a Vision for Change," Leonard connects the dots between the trash we accumulate from the "stuff" we accumulate and its direct impact on the global environment. Good Morning America.

[See related event #9 above.]

[Compensation victory: Children born with defects win 11-year battle over clean-up of steelworks in toxic town in Corby.](#)

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Children born with birth defects after their mothers were exposed to toxic waste were awarded a multi-million-pound payout yesterday. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[Arsenic increases breast cancer growth.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

Levels of arsenic that are observed in many people around the world alter cell signals and damage DNA in early stage breast cancer cells, according to new research. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about breast cancer risk: [Supplements might reduce breast cancer risk](#), [Is cancer risk higher for skinny girls?](#) and [Veterans' input needed on environmental breast cancer study](#)]

[Environment big factor in health, death -- report.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

Environmental risks contribute greatly to the high rise of deteriorating health and even death in humans. Poor sanitation and hygiene and water and air pollution, a new report stated, are the major environment factors that pose a health risk to communities. Nairobi Daily Nation, Kenya

[Assembly bill keeps farmworkers' health a priority.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

Assembly Bill 1963, also known as the Farmworker Health Act, is gaining traction on the state assembly floor as a key piece of legislation that could better regulate pesticide safety by mandating reporting of blood tests for workers exposed to certain dangerous chemicals. Ventura County Reporter, California.

[New research theorizes link between autism and toxic chemicals.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

During the last decade the reported cases of autism and other illnesses related to brain development have dramatically increased not just in the U.S. but around the world. Some scientists believe the increase is linked to toxic chemicals in the environment. Voice of America.

[Early arrivals.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

The rate of preterm births globally is 9.6 percent. In West Philadelphia, the preterm birth rate is 15.6 percent. Factors range from violence and stress to a lack of medical access and transportation. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Flouridation may not do much for cavities.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

A new study examining the controversial issue of water fluoridation shows the process makes little difference on dental health, suggesting the risks may outweigh the benefits. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[Camp Lejeune toxic water legacy.](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

Camp Lejeune's contaminated wells are now closed, but the adverse health effects have affected an estimated 500,000. Veterans and dependents continue to experience serious health effects from exposure to organic solvents like trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and benzene. Salem News, Oregon.

[See related articles: [Camp Lejeune water contamination timeline](#) and [Lejeune ignored water warnings](#)]

[Lautenberg bill seeks to overhaul U.S. chemical laws.](#)

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) will introduce legislation Thursday to remake the nation's chemical laws by requiring manufacturers to prove the safety of chemicals before they enter the marketplace. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [States support reform of federal toxic law](#)]

[Excessive cleanliness may boost allergies.](#)

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Put away the hand sanitizer. It's not necessarily the grime, dust bunnies, cat dander or pollen causing those miserable springtime allergies. The culprit actually may be too much cleanliness. Washington Times, District of Columbia.

[See a related article: [Children 'should be exposed to dust to build immunity to asthma'](#) and one with an opposing message: [Shoes off, please! More homes aim for clean floors indoors](#)]

[A niche for infectious disease in environmental health: Rethinking the toxicological paradigm.](#)

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Funding and program mandates for environmental health studies should be expanded to include pathogens in order to capture the true scope of overlapping risks.

[See a related article: [Hospital infection rates continue alarming rise](#)]

[Mercury linked to immune changes seen in autoimmune disease.](#)

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

A study in people adds to the growing evidence and concern that mercury can alter the immune system in ways that may promote autoimmune diseases such as arthritis and lupus. Environmental Health News.

[Smoke from Kansas prompts health warning in Lancaster County.](#)

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Dozens of large fires started by farmers and ranchers to provide fresh grass for cattle created a smoke plume that stretched from eastern Kansas across the southern Great Lakes states and all the way to the Atlantic Coast off Long Island, N.Y. Lincoln Journal Star, Nebraska.

[See a related article about the hazards of burning trash: [DEFRA report finds garden bonfire boom spreads deadly chemicals](#)]

[Do your part: Is your home making you sick?](#)

Monday, April 12, 2010

You may be surprised to find out that the air we breathe inside our homes every day can be several times more polluted than the air outside. It makes sense when we take stock of the many chemicals we bring into our homes. Sacramento Bee, California.

[See related articles about indoor air quality: [Be careful, formaldehyde is everywhere](#), [Are flame retardants putting us at risk?](#), [Air quality tested in 600 UAE homes](#) and [School heaters pose health risk for children](#)]

[The Vietnam War's sad legacy.](#)

Monday, April 12, 2010

Millions of Vietnamese still bear the brunt of the horrid scars of the war for generations due to the use of toxic chemicals as a "weapon of mass destruction." Kuala Lumpur Malay Mail, Malaysia.

[See another article about health effects of armed conflict: [Review confirms PTSD, other syndromes in Gulf vets](#)]

Smoking campaign targets women as deaths increase.

Monday, April 12, 2010

High smoking rates among women in the 1970s and '80s are taking their toll, with lung cancer claiming more lives than ever before. Australian Associated Press.

[See related articles: [Smoking may increase risk of multiple sclerosis: Study](#); [Second-hand smoke ups risk of sinus, nasal problems](#); [Mothers-to-be who smoke 'can harm son's fertility,' say scientists](#); [Public housing goes smoke free](#) and [Smokeless tobacco use rising among teens](#)]

Green chemistry is becoming a red-hot field.

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Green chemistry is red hot these days, as it should be. What is it? Simply stated, it is "the invention, design and application of chemical products and processes to reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances." Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

Most Barnett Shale facilities release emissions.

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Plumes of toxic, smog-causing chemicals from Barnett Shale natural-gas operations are so common that inspectors find them nearly every time they look, a Dallas Morning News examination of government records shows. Dallas Morning News, Texas.

[See related articles about contaminated areas in Washington state: [The most contaminated site in the Western Hemisphere: WA's Hanford Nuclear Site](#), New Jersey: [Cancer Alley no more? Incidence declining in most of N.J.](#), Alaska: [How much is too much arsenic in the well?](#), Ohio: [Gahanna toxic site closer to cleanup](#), California: [Feds find problems at Central Calif. toxic dump](#), Arizona: [Iron King Mine: EPA finds elevated levels of toxins on sites](#) and Peru: [Peru town copes with being devoured by mine](#)]

Association between residences in U.S. northern latitudes and rheumatoid arthritis: A spatial analysis of the Nurses' Health Study.

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Spatial analyses suggest women living in higher latitudes may be at greater risk for rheumatoid arthritis. Further, rheumatoid arthritis risk may be greater for locations occurring earlier in residential histories. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Concerns grow over chemical used in toiletries, toys.

Saturday, April 10, 2010

New research on a chemical [triclosan] found in everyday consumer products ranging from soaps to toothpaste to toys raises concerns about its possible health effects.

Canwest News Service.

[See related articles: [FAQ: Triclosan and your health](#), [FDA, EPA to review safety of antibacterial ingredient, triclosan](#) and [Our antibacterial overload](#)]

Dioxin exposure linked to infertility, difficulty conceiving.

Friday, April 09, 2010

In the first study to examine the relationship between dioxin and likelihood of conception, researchers report that higher dioxin levels are associated with difficulty in conceiving and higher rates of infertility. Environmental Health News.

Curious about harmful effects of cell phones.

Friday, April 09, 2010

Almost all of us own cell phones, and a lot of people seem to have them glued to their ears. That's why there's a continuing concern about the tiny amount of radiation that cell phones emit. Boston WBZ TV, Massachusetts.

Obesity is now more deadly than smoking.

Friday, April 09, 2010

Obesity has overtaken smoking as the leading cause of premature death and illness in Australia, as experts say the federal government is woefully unprepared for a tsunami of weight-related health problems. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[See related articles: ['Fatness' gene may thin your brain](#) and [Paradox in India as mass obesity joins malnutrition as a killer](#)]

Rule on lead safety set to take effect.

Friday, April 09, 2010

After almost two decades of delays, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that it was on track to implement a regulation requiring the construction industry to help prevent cases of lead poisoning among children. New York Times.

[See related articles: [High lead content in paints](#) and [Blood lead levels tied to timing of puberty in boys](#)]

Huge rise in MRSA linked with childhood antibiotics.

Thursday, April 08, 2010

A dramatic rise in the prescription of antibiotics for childhood skin infections has been linked with a surge in GP consultations and hospital admissions for serious MRSA infections. Pulse Today.

Scans giving off unnecessary radiation.

Thursday, April 08, 2010

CT scans carried out in Australia generate up to a third more radiation than is needed to yield a clear diagnostic image, exposing patients to an increased risk of cancer. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[See related articles: [FDA turns attention to radiation therapy devices](#) and [Caution: Radiation -- Weighing the risks of over-screening](#)]

China warns jewelry makers against using cadmium.

Thursday, April 08, 2010

Product safety officials in China are investigating jewelry makers and warning them against using cadmium after high levels of the cancer-causing metal were found in Chinese-made children's trinkets sold in the United States. Associated Press.

Report: EPA office not protecting kids fully.

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

The EPA's Office of Inspector General issued the report Tuesday. It says the EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education hasn't set up a strategic plan, identified goals or listed major accomplishments over the last six years. San Jose Mercury News, California.

[See related articles: [Kids still exposed to toxins, pediatrician says](#) and [Babies tainted by many toxins, report says](#)]

Without planning, urban areas wallow in filth and disease.

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

Rapidly-growing mass slums where poor sanitation, dust, lack of proper ventilation, overcrowding and uncollected garbage all pollute and choke the living environment, make urban centres a death trap for dwellers. Kampala Daily Monitor, Uganda.

[See a related article: [Urban health challenges in Nepal](#)]

Food can chemicals 'could be linked to early puberty in girls.'

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

Chemicals [phenols, phthalates and phytoestrogens] found in food cans, nail varnish and shampoos could be triggering early puberty in girls, putting them at greater risk of cancer and diabetes. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Dietary intake is associated with phthalate body burden in a nationally representative sample](#)]

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

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

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

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

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

Nancy Snow
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