



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin April 6, 2011

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.

in ICEH Highlights

CHE Calls, April 15th, 18th and 20th

Upcoming calls include the role of chemical contributors to diabetes and obesity (April 15th), a request for input from NIEHS (April 18th) and a conversation with the author of *Legally Poisoned: How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants* (April 20th). Please see events #6, #7 and #8 below for details.

Practice Prevention Column Updates

Recent updates to CHE's Practice Prevention columns will bring new information to parents, caregivers, advocates and others concerned about children's health. New and updated columns and Spanish translations continue to be added to the [ICEH website](#).

Announcements

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

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

[Call for papers: Cumulative Health Risk Assessment.](#)

A special issue of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health will highlight the new approaches, models, and theories that either have been applied or are under development to assess cumulative health risks from exposure to diverse hazards in the environment. The deadline for manuscript submissions is October 31, 2011.

[New county health rankings available.](#)

The County Health Ranking website, of the Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) project, provides access to reports each state, ranking each county within the 50 states according to its health outcomes and the multiple health factors that determine a county's health.

[EPA seeks public comment on sediment cleanup options for Boeing Plant 2, one of Duwamish River corridor's most contaminated sites.](#)

The cleanup options offered would either remove (excavate) the sediments and then backfill with clean material, or place a thick cap to isolate the contamination. A public meeting & Open House will be held on April 27, 2011, at the South Park Community Center, 8319 8th Avenue South.

[New report: Global Trade Impacts: Addressing the Health, Social, and Environmental Consequences of Moving International Freight Through Our Communities.](#)

The purpose of this report is to: 1) provide an overview of the growth and scale of the

freight transportation industries and the U.S. shift from a production to a distribution economy, 2) document examples of organizing and policy approaches that have injected important considerations of health, labor, and community impacts into freight transportation policy and decision-making, and 3) identify new directions so that local and regional communities can better address what is happening in their backyards.

[Climate Leadership Academy: Promising Practices in Low-Carbon Transportation.](#)

This Climate Leadership Academy (CLA) workshop June 8-10, 2011, in Washington, DC, will help local officials and their key state and regional partners strengthen and accelerate efforts to reduce the carbon emissions of motorized transportation and boost their regions' economic competitiveness. The deadline for applications is April 8th.

[EPA solicits applications for RE-Powering America's Land.](#)

EPA is soliciting applications from states, tribes, regional governments, and communities that are interested in the development of renewable energy on current and formerly contaminated properties. Proposals are due to EPA by May 20th.

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) EPA Listening Session: Vapor Intrusion

Thursday April 7, 2011

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Edison, New Jersey

at US EPA Region 2 Edison, New Jersey Environmental Center, Building 205, 2890 Woodbridge Avenue

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA will host its fourth public listening session on whether to include vapor intrusion threats as a criterion for considering hazardous waste sites for the National Priorities List of Superfund sites. The session will also include a discussion of EPA's efforts to develop final technical guidance for handling vapor intrusion. Superfund is the EPA program to investigate and clean up the most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites in the country. Vapor intrusion is the movement of pollution in vapor form from contaminated groundwater or soil into air, which is of particular concern when the vapor seeps into homes. This type of contamination is not currently considered when ranking a site to see if it should be put on the list of Superfund sites. EPA is soliciting public input on considering vapor intrusion in this ranking process. The Agency will consider information gathered during the comment period, as well as input from its public listening sessions, before making a decision on whether to issue a proposed rulemaking to add vapor intrusion as a criterion to the system to rank sites for the Superfund program. EPA is also seeking input as it completes the development of the "Final Subsurface Vapor Intrusion Guidance." EPA released its "Draft Guidance for Evaluating the Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air Pathway from Groundwater and Soils" in 2002. EPA is incorporating new information that we have learned about vapor intrusion and plans to issue final guidance by November 30, 2012. A list of participants for the listening session must be provided to security at the Edison facility gate prior to the sessions, so participants MUST register for the session by 5:00pm Wednesday, April 6th. Register at www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/hrsaddition.htm.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Rx for Survival: Social Justice and Medical Advocacy

Friday through Sunday, April 8 - 10, 2011

Washington, DC
at George Washington University

Sponsor: Physicians for Social Responsibility's student-led division, SPSR

Rx for Survival 2011 seeks to create a unique forum that promotes social responsibility and smart policy from the medical perspective. It seeks to encourage participants to look beyond the traditional realms of their medical or public health professional careers by becoming change makers in both the medical and policy world.

Price: \$30 for students or \$90 for health professionals and the general public
[Visit the website](#)

3) National Healthy Schools Day

Monday April 11, 2011

Sponsor: Healthy Schools Network and many others listed on the website

National Healthy Schools Day is a day for everyone to celebrate and promote healthy and green indoor school environments for all children and staff. For more than five years parents, personnel, advocates, and agencies have held National Healthy Schools Day activities nationwide to highlight the importance of clean indoor air in schools. Whether you are at the beginning stages of investigating issues or have an established IAQ program, we invite you to create an activity that educates others and celebrates your successes.

Price: free
[Visit the website](#)

4) Cell Phone Safety

Tuesday April 12, 2011

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

New York, New York

at NYU Langone Medical Center, Smilow 1st Floor Seminar Room, 550 First Avenue

Sponsor: Environmental Health Trust

Dr. Devra Davis will expand upon the findings in her latest book, *Disconnect: The Truth about Cell Phone Radiation, What the Industry Has Done to Hide It, and How to Protect Your Family*, in which she argues that the most popular gadget of our age has now been shown to damage DNA, break down the brain's defenses, and reduce sperm count while increasing memory loss, the risk of Alzheimer's disease, and even cancer. As this eye-opening call to action shows, we can make safer cell phones now. This event is open to the public.

Price: free
[Visit the website](#)

5) 3rd Paris Appeal International Congress

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12 - 13, 2011

Paris, France

at UNESCO, 125 avenue de Suffren

Sponsor: Organized by the Association for Research and Treatments Against Cancer (ARTAC), in partnership with HEAL and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, under the technical support of the World Health Organization

The Paris Appeal, an international declaration on the sanitary dangers of chemical pollution, has now been signed by thousands of scientists, several Nobel Prizes in Medicine, the medical governing bodies of the 25 EU member states at the time, which

amounts to over 2 million European doctors, by close to 1,500 non-governmental organizations and approximately 350,000 European citizens. In 2006, the second Congress of the Paris Appeal brought together about a thousand doctors, scientists, environmentalists and representatives of the civil society. The ARTAC presented a Memorandum stating 164 practical measures drawn up by 68 international specialists in an attempt to curb chemical pollution in our environment and the numerous chronic diseases and affections that result from it. The third Congress of the Paris Appeal will focus on children's health in relation with the environment. This Congress will bring together several of the best international specialists and will review the latest scientific breakthroughs in that field. Not only will the whole set of chemical pollutants involved be tackled, but also sanitary effects of electromagnetic fields. This Congress will focus more specifically on transgenerational risks caused by in utero contamination of the embryo and fetus, which results in the onset of diseases and affections not only in children, but also in adults. Thus, it will deal with factors contributing to current public health scourges that we now need to halt and that may get worse tomorrow if no laws are enforced to cut back on pollution in our environment.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Genon Jensen, 0032 2 234 3641 or genon@env-health.org

6) Diabetes and Obesity: Evaluating the Science on Chemical Contributors

Friday April 15, 2011

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Emerging scientific studies suggest environmental chemicals may be contributing factors to the epidemics of diabetes and obesity. The National Toxicology Program (NTP) headquartered at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) sponsored a workshop in January 2011 to evaluate the science associating exposure to certain chemicals or chemical classes with the development of diabetes and/or obesity in humans. In a variety of targeted plenary and workgroup sessions, participants evaluated the strength/weaknesses, consistency, and biological plausibility of findings reported in humans and experimental animals for certain environmental chemicals. On this national conference call open to all who are interested, CHE is very pleased to have three leaders in this growing field of interest who were also instrumental in the shaping the scope of the NTP workshop: Kristina Thayer, PhD, director of the Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction; Bruce Blumberg, PhD, professor in the Department of Developmental and Cell Biology and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California, Irvine; and Jerry Heindel, PhD, program administrator and acting branch chief in the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training. They will present a summary of the conference findings, highlight current research indicating possible links between some chemicals and diabetes and obesity, and discuss future plans to address research gaps, including ongoing evaluation of relevant pathways and biological assays for the Toxicology Testing in the 21st Center high throughput screening initiative ("Tox21").

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

7) NIEHS: Visionary Ideas Wanted

Monday April 18, 2011

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) has invited the public to submit visionary ideas regarding environmental health research by April 30th as part of NIEHS's strategic planning process. Though a number of colleagues already plan to

submit suggestions from their respective institutions and organizations, CHE is hosting this call to underscore the need for more research using systems-based approaches in order to better elucidate multiple and cumulative impacts on health as well as potential public health interventions. On the call, we will have several invited researchers briefly describe their recommended priorities for NIEHS. In addition, we invite other participants to highlight ideas either verbally or in writing on [CHE's blog](#) either during or prior to the call. Please note we are inviting senior NIEHS staff involved in the strategic planning process to listen in on the call. The call will be recorded.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

8) CHE Café Call: A Conversation with Carl Cranor, Author of "Legally Poisoned: How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants"

Wednesday April 20, 2011

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Carl Cranor, PhD, author of the recently published book *Legally Poisoned: How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants*, is the Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Riverside. Based on his broad understanding about the harm toxic chemicals can cause to human and ecosystem health, Dr. Cranor has analyzed the current legal structures designed to prevent such harm and has found them ineffective and often by design, inadequate to the public health challenge at hand. In addition to his most recent book, he has written numerous other books and articles. In these, Dr. Cranor offers suggestions about what kinds of legal initiatives might work, making the case that individual actions will not be sufficient to prevent harm and that only pragmatic, thorough and far-reaching reforms will give us world reasonably safe from toxic chemical harm. Dr. Cranor will discuss some of his ideas on a CHE Café call hosted by CHE staffer Sharyle Patton.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE info@healthandenvironment.org

9) NYU Forum on Theatre for Public Health

Thursday through Saturday, April 21 - 23, 2011

New York, New York

Sponsor: Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, & Human Development, New York University

The goal of this forum is to facilitate a dialogue on the intersections between drama and public health education. The forum will also investigate the perceived boundaries and barriers for artists and educators when delving into health education, as well as those for health professionals when utilizing drama in their work. By public health, we refer to the interdisciplinary field which focuses on protecting, promoting, and improving health and well-being of populations, especially vulnerable ones. The social justice foundation of public health leads the field to consider social, economic, political, and medical care conditions when addressing health issues.

Price: \$20 - \$100; see the website for details

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dr. Nancy Smithner, theatreforpublichealth@gmail.com

10) EH@Home Workshop

Wednesday April 27, 2011

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

Corvallis, Oregon
at LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University, 875 SW 26th Street, Construction
and Engineering Hall

Sponsor: Oregon State University Environmental Health Sciences Center

EH@Home is a professional development workshop from the Oregon State University Environmental Health Sciences Center. EH@Home will focus on common environmental health concerns found in residential settings. Anyone who works in the residential setting or communicates with the public, older adults, families or parents is welcome to attend. OSU Faculty will present the latest research findings on key environmental health issues. Workshop participants will be able to recognize common problems, identify risk reduction strategies, and know when to use specialists for further assistance. Lunch will be provided along with a certificate of attendance.

Price: unknown; preregistration is required

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Naomi Hirsch, 541-737-8105 or naomi.hirsch@oregonstate.edu

11) 2011 Northeast Water Science Forum

Wednesday through Friday, April 27 - 29, 2011

Portland, Maine

at the Holiday Inn by the Bay

Sponsor: New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

NEIWPC is currently organizing a conference with a theme of "Science to Inform Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Product Management" to provide a forum for sharing the latest in high-quality, timely, and relevant scientific information and research on pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP) in the water environment in order to help Northeast states make informed decisions regarding their policy and management. The Northeast states have identified contaminants of emerging concern, specifically PPCPs, as a cross-programmatic research priority touching on issues of occurrence, fate, human and ecological health effects, and wastewater and drinking water treatment. PPCPs comprise a vast group of compounds manufactured in large quantities that are frequently used by humans (and domesticated animals) worldwide. The 2011 Northeast Water Science Forum looks to advance the interpretation and application of the science into policy and regulations, risk assessments, green chemistry movements, as well as identifying future research needs.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jaclyn Harrison, 978-349-2507 or jharrison@neiwpc.org

12) Introduction to Managing Environmental Data with Microsoft Access 2007

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 - 4, 2011

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

Bellevue, Washington

at the Bellevue Hilton

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Participants will gain basic to intermediate skills in using Microsoft Access 2007 to build relational databases for managing and mining their environmental data. This comprehensive class uses extensive hands-on exercises for in-depth use of tables, queries, forms, reports, and macro objects in Access 2007. These Access database subjects use real-world environmental examples with actual field data. No experience with MS Access 2007 is required; however, basic understanding of Microsoft Office software and basic computer skills are required. Continuing Education Units are available.

Price: \$545 or \$445 for employees of Native American tribes, nonprofits, and government agencies; students; and NAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Asbestos trends worldwide, with Richard Lemen.](#)

Sunday, April 03, 2011

U.S. imports of crude chrysotile asbestos fibers rose by 235% between 2009 and 2010, and use is also on the rise in many industrializing, developing countries. Richard Lemen tells host Ashley Ahearn what's driving this growth and how asbestos is currently used worldwide. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article about asbestos: [The air at many Quebec worksites contains high levels of asbestos: study](#)]

[Mercury pollution damages environment, public health.](#)

Sunday, April 03, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that mercury pollution is so widespread that one in six women of childbearing age already has enough mercury in her blood to put her baby at risk, should she become pregnant. Joplin Globe, Missouri.

[See other articles about mercury: [Sierra Club offers free mercury tests in Montclair](#); [Study finds no association between mercury exposure and risk of cardiovascular disease](#); [Mercury in new light bulbs not being recycled, escaping to environment](#); [CFL bulbs: The U.S. EPA guidelines and the debate over mercury](#) and [Va plant's toxic mercury releases to be studied.](#)]

[Something in the air.](#)

Sunday, April 03, 2011

Historically, the tree season has started in March, picked up steam in April, and ended in June. Now the timetable appears to be moving up, and a secondary tree season is showing up in the fall. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Altering the male-female birth ratio.](#)

Saturday, April 02, 2011

One cannot rule out the possibility that the thousands of chemicals we have introduced into the environment during the last few decades are involved in the lower rate of male births. Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

[Denture adhesives can cause zinc overdose.](#)

Saturday, April 02, 2011

The simple act of trying to keep dentures in place can trigger serious health problems, including neurological damage, a new study by University of Maryland researchers warns. Baltimore Sun, Maryland.

[Can mom's medicine hurt the baby?](#)

Saturday, April 02, 2011

Doctors must carefully weigh the benefits of a medication to both mother and baby against the often uncertain risk that it might interfere with fetal development. Many of the most serious medication risks occur when a baby's vital organs are forming in the first trimester, often before a woman knows she's pregnant. Wall Street Journal.

[See other articles about pharmaceuticals: [Resistance to antibiotics: The spread of superbugs](#) and [Possible link between prenatal Tylenol use and asthma](#)]

[NIH investigators find link between DNA damage and immune response.](#)

Friday, April 01, 2011

Researchers offer the first evidence that DNA damage can lead to the regulation of inflammatory responses, the body's reaction to injury. The proteins involved in the regulation help protect the body from infection. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[New director at EPA plans shakeup of laggard chemical-risk system.](#)

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Cogliano has plans for revamping IRIS, including streamlining its process for assessing chemicals and making plans to analyze substances that might present future health risks. New York Times.

[Evidence ties smoking to throat, stomach cancer.](#)

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Smokers face an increased risk of certain types of throat and stomach cancers, even years after they quit, according to a new study, which combines the results of 33 past studies. In some of the studies, the risk of esophagus cancer remained high even when people had quit smoking three decades earlier. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about tobacco use: [Cancer risk no higher with menthol cigarettes, says study](#); [The case against menthols](#); [China renews push to ban smoking in indoor public places starting May 1, more venues listed](#); [FDA says tobacco law doesn't apply to two smokeless lozenges](#); [Parent's cigarette in car puts a child at risk for an hour](#) and [Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke among South Korean adults: a cross-sectional study of the 2005 Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#)]

[Study: packaged food raises levels of bisphenol A.](#)

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Forgoing packaged foods such as canned soups and vegetables could dramatically lower levels of a hormone-disrupting chemical, bisphenol A, that has been linked to myriad health problems, including birth defects, autism and reproductive issues, according to a study released today. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[See other articles about contaminated food: [Tokyo tap water unfit for infants: radiation warning on 11 vegetables](#); [FDA halts imports of dairy, produce from Japan](#); [Japan finds more foods tainted by radioactive material](#) and [Toxins in baby food might affect hormones: study](#)]

[Low-level environmental lead exposure in childhood and adult intellectual function: a follow-up study.](#)

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Our study suggests that lead exposure in childhood predicts intellectual functioning in young adulthood. Our results also suggest that school-age lead exposure may represent a period of increased susceptibility. Environmental Health.

[See other articles about lead: [Regular breakfast and blood lead levels among preschool children](#) and [Baltimore housing authority says it won't pay millions in lead poisoning judgments](#)]

[Getting older.](#)

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Does gardening contribute to quality of life and increased wellness for older adults? Researchers from the Texas A&M and Texas State Universities asked these questions in a survey of people aged 50 and older. Environmental News Network.

[Artificial food dyes scrutinized by FDA.](#)

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

A Food and Drug Administration panel plans to meet this week to consider the potential link between hyperactivity in children and artificial dyes found in common foods such as candy, waffles and salad dressing. Wall Street Journal.

[See related articles: [Food dyes favor fades as possible links to hyperactivity emerge](#); [FDA panel rejects need for warnings on food coloring](#); [FDA advisors recommend more study of food dyes](#) and [Colorless food? We blanch](#)]

[Scientist gives advice on how to avoid mobile phone health dangers.](#)

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Just how unhealthy is it to use a mobile phone? A leading scientist looks at the research and has some tips on how to avoid the risks. Australia ABC News, Australia.

[Group to tell Senate panel about 42 disease clusters in 13 states.](#)

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

An environmental group will tell a Senate panel Tuesday that it has identified 42 suspected clusters of cancer, birth defects and other illnesses in 13 states. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See a related article from Australia: [North coast babies linked to birth defect 'cluster'](#)]

[Cancer society worried as Calgary revives use of herbicides to fight weeds.](#)

Monday, March 28, 2011

A jump in herbicide use in the City of Calgary is worrying some on the city council. The Canadian Cancer Society says the potential health risks are too high to justify using chemicals to control invasive plant species. Calgary Herald, Alberta.

[See other articles about pesticides: [Tick study seeks participants, but insecticide sparks opposition](#) and [A battle to reverse California's methyl iodide approval](#)]

[Breast cancer rates jump in China.](#)

Monday, March 28, 2011

An increasing taste for Western-style junk food and unhealthy lifestyles have caused the rate of breast cancer among urban Chinese women to jump sharply over the past decade, a state-run newspaper said Tuesday. Associated Press.

[See other articles about cancer: [Melanoma rates higher in wealthy white women](#) and [Frequent CT scanning for testicular cancer surveillance associated with secondary malignancies](#)]

[Sitting atop huge gas reserve, Maryland debates fracking.](#)

Monday, March 28, 2011

In a vote that reflects growing national concern over hydraulic fracturing, state lawmakers on Wednesday passed a bill that would place a moratorium on drilling until the Maryland Department of the Environment completes a study to determine whether it endangers drinking water and public health. Washington Post.

[See other articles about fracking: [N.J. proposal would outlaw 'fracking' process for natural gas drilling near Delaware River](#) and [Delaware River Basin gas drilling through 'fracking' process draws criticism](#)]

[Are plastics polluting your home?](#)

Sunday, March 27, 2011

It's virtually impossible to go through a day without coming into contact with plastic. Take a second to think about everything plastic you touch each day. It could be your toothbrush, remote control, food containers, toys, pens, debit card, cell phone, and laptop. Olympia Olympian, Washington.

[Alzheimer's could be prevented and treated with asthma drug: American Journal of Pathology.](#)

Friday, March 25, 2011

A drug used to treat asthma has been shown to help reduce the formation of amyloid beta, a peptide in the brain that is implicated in the development of Alzheimer's disease, according to researchers at Temple University's School of Medicine. Health, Medical, and Science Updates.

[See another article about Alzheimer's disease: [Researchers link herpes to Alzheimer's disease](#)]

[Brain-wasting prions found in fertility hormone.](#)

Friday, March 25, 2011

Certain fertility hormones could theoretically put women at risk of developing brain-wasting Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The fatal disease is spread by prions, infectious and misfolded proteins that also cause BSE, commonly known as mad cow disease in cattle. CBC Canada.

[Radioactive substances and their impact on health.](#)

Friday, March 25, 2011

Exposure to large amounts of radioactivity can cause nausea, vomiting, hair loss, diarrhea, hemorrhage, destruction of the intestinal lining, central nervous system damage, and death. It also causes DNA damage and raises the risk of cancer, particularly in young children and fetuses. Reuters.

[See other articles about radiation risks: [Hanford nuclear waste still poses serious risks](#); [Nuclear safer than coal, Chinese atomic official says](#); [Increased emissions bring on cancer](#); [At U.S. nuclear sites, preparing for the unlikely](#); [US experts: significant water contamination in Japan](#); [Radiation from airport scanners very low: study](#); [Japan nuclear crisis may have a silver lining for radiation health research](#); [Plug pulled on smart meter plan](#); [Focus turns to mental health of quake-tsunami survivors](#); [CT scan surge for kids' emergencies raises concern](#) and [Measuring radioactive elements and their effects on human cells](#)]

'Junk food' moms have 'junk food' babies.

Thursday, March 24, 2011

A new research report published online in The FASEB Journal suggests that pregnant mothers who eat high sugar and high fat diets have babies who are likely to become junk food junkies themselves. ScienceDaily.

[See other articles about diet and health: [Metabolic abnormalities in obese teens may relate to poor diets](#); [High consumption of omega-3s reduces obesity-related disease risk: Eskimo study](#); [Walnuts are top nut for heart-healthy antioxidants](#); [Dark chocolate's good and good for you, a study finds](#); [America's gettin' diabetes on Dunkin' \(and Starbucks\): Coffee doubles blood glucose spike after high-fat meal: Journal of Nutrition](#); [Study finds routine periodic fasting is good for your health, and your heart](#) and [Pre-conception and early pregnancy iron deficiency harms brain](#) and others about obesity: [Obesity messes with the brain](#) and [Mother's obesity may lead to infertility in the next generation](#)]

CPSC warns: As button battery use increases, so do battery-related injuries and deaths.

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Young children and senior adults are unintentionally swallowing the button batteries and in some cases, the consequences are immediate and devastating.

Integrated exposure assessment of sewage workers to genotoxicants: A urinary biomarker approach and oxidative stress evaluation.

Thursday, March 24, 2011

The integrated and non specific urinary biomarkers of exposure showed that sewage workers experience exposure to mixtures of genotoxicants in the workplace. Environmental Health.

[See another article about occupational exposures: [Working with mustard gas linked to lung cancer](#)]

More than 25 million Latinos live in polluted areas.

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Two-thirds of Latinos in the United States live in areas that do not comply with federal standards for air quality and Hispanics are three times more likely than whites to die from asthma, the Center for American Progress says in a report released Wednesday. Fox News.

[See related articles: [EPA releases U.S. - Mexico border environmental and health report](#); [Ranking shows wealthier counties are healthier in Kentucky, Indiana](#) and [America's most distressed areas threatened by emerging infections of poverty](#)]

EPA updates web tool providing clean water violation trends and state enforcement response.

Thursday, March 24, 2011

The web-based, interactive map includes "state dashboards" that provide detailed information for each state, including information on facilities that are violating the Clean Water Act and the actions states are taking to enforce the law and protect people's health.

[See other articles about water quality: [From art to intervention: Chicago native making](#)

[water filters in Dominican Republic, Haiti that were inspired in art class; Radioactivity and chemicals in our drinking water?; Using candles to clean up groundwater; Talk of the day -- Groundwater contamination causes concern; Millions spent to keep water supply clean; Water utilities failed to alert public to presence of likely carcinogen \[hexavalent chromium\], group says; EPA asks National Guard to pay \\$5.9M for groundwater cleanup and A new perchlorate-level predicament\]](#)

Diesel device hit for pollution rise.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

A government program to equip diesel vehicles with an emission reduction device may have actually contributed to a surge in air pollution, a Chinese University study has found. Hong Kong Standard, China.

[See other articles about air quality: [Parking permit surcharge to force diesel cars off the roads](#); [Biomass fight a matter of trust](#); [Atmosphere of concern](#); [Safeguards in place for when air quality diminishes](#); [Scientists monitor toxic air-borne chemicals](#); [A switch to 'green' buses for Pace?](#); [Find the polluters in your city](#); [Court OKs air-pollution restrictions for ships](#); [How to determine life expectancy change of air pollution mortality: a time series study](#); [EPA accepts N.J.'s petition to cut pollution at coal-powered generating station on Delaware River](#); [Air pollution is another potentially deadly threat for U.S. soldiers in Iraq](#); [Freeway air pollution: appeals court upholds monitoring rules](#); [EPA streamlines regulations for car and truck fuel conversion systems/New options encourage innovation, maintain air quality protections](#); [Increased traffic exposure and negative birth outcomes: a prospective cohort in Australia](#); [Feds OK pollution complaint against Pa. power plant](#); [Dioxin levels dropped 70% during Beijing Olympics](#); [Soot filters snarl Valley school bus upkeep](#) and [City plagued with respiratory illness](#)]

Lead, other chemicals taint some urban gardens.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

With remnants of once-legal lead paint, leaded gasoline and other pollutants from the nation's industrial past tainting land in U.S. cities, soil researchers warn that the growing number of urban farmers and community gardeners need to test their dirt and take steps to make sure it's safe. Associated Press.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [Tests identify problem playgrounds: city shuts down three](#); [Massey wins lawsuit over coal dust at W.Va. school](#); [Gold mines, a city's pride, leave toxic legacy](#); [Parks begin lead remediation efforts today](#); [Jury: plant contaminated air, water with chromium](#); [PCBs cleanup cuts fish toxins](#); [Has emissions cap and trade created toxic hotspots? A new study says no](#); [Heavy metals pollution battle targets batteries](#) and [China vows to clean up rural environment](#)]

C8 exposure linked to onset of menopause.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Women exposed to higher levels of the toxic chemical C8 were more likely to have experienced menopause, according to a new West Virginia University study that offers some of the strongest evidence to date that such chemicals disrupt the human body's natural hormone system. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

Gulf environmental health advocate wins human rights award.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

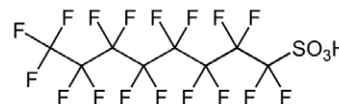
Wilma Subra, an environmental chemist whose work has helped illuminate the ongoing health impacts of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, will be the recipient of a human rights award from Global Exchange, an organization that promotes social, economic and environmental justice around the world. Facing South.

Lessons Learned

Non-Stick and Non-Healthy, Iron Is Best by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Perfluorinated chemicals include perfluorooctanesulfonic acid

(PFOS) a perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), also known as C8 and perfluorooctanoate. These chemicals are actually very interesting and useful chemicals, but they have a few problems. Chemist Roy J. Plunkett (June 26, 1910 - May 12, 1994) accidentally discovered Teflon (polytetrafluoroethylene) on April 6, 1938. He was a research chemist by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company at their Jackson Laboratory in Deepwater, New Jersey. By chance he found tetrafluoroethylene in a container had polymerized into Polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon), a waxy solid with amazing properties such as resistance to corrosion, low surface friction, and high heat resistance. The product, trademarked as Teflon in 1945, was first used by the military in artillery shell fuses and in the production of nuclear material for the Manhattan Project. After World War II, DuPont found a wide range of uses for Teflon including as electrical cable insulation, soil and stain repellent for fabrics, and coating for nonstick cookware. DuPont, which founded Kinetic Chemicals in partnership with General Motors, was producing almost two million pounds (900 tons) of Teflon per year in Parkersburg, West Virginia, by 1948.



Roy J.
Plunkett

In 1968, organofluorine content was detected in the blood of consumers, and in 1976 it was suggested to be PFOA or a related compound such as PFOS. In 1997, 3M detected perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in blood from global blood banks. In 1999, the US Environmental Protection Agency began investigating perfluorinated compounds after receiving data on the global distribution and toxicity of PFOS, the key ingredient in Scotchgard. For these reasons, and US EPA pressure, the primary American producer of PFOS, 3M, announced in May 2000 the phaseout of the production of PFOS, PFOA, and PFOS-related products. Advances in analytical chemistry demonstrate the routine detection of low- and sub-ppb (parts per billion) levels of PFOS in food, wildlife and humans. In animal studies, PFOS is linked to cancer, physical development delays, endocrine disruption and neonatal mortality. Female mice with blood levels of PFOS within ranges found in wildlife and humans demonstrated higher mortality when infected with influenza A, indicating immune-system effects. PFOS reduces the birth size of animals, raising concerns for humans.

Taking a precautionary approach, it is better to put that Teflon pan aside and take up the old-fashioned iron frying pan. To ensure our children reach and maintain their full potential it is best to limit their exposure to perfluorinated compounds such as Teflon and Scotch guard.



Roy J. Plunkett at Toxipedia: <http://toxipedia.org/x/oJZb>

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) at

Toxipedia: toxipedia.org/display/toxipedia/Perfluorooctanesulfonic+acid

Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](mailto:Steve.Gilbert@iceh.org).

Past Lessons Learned: <http://toxipedia.org/x/O6Jb>

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- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
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Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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