



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin May 19, 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.

Early-bird registration until July 1st is only \$35. [Visit the website.](#)

Announcements

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

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

[Use the Community Conversation Toolkit to host a Community Conversation.](#)

Want a nation safe from harmful chemical exposures? Join the effort by hosting a community conversation -- ATSDR is seeking individuals interested in hosting a community conversation between May and June of 2010.

[Evidence growing of air pollution's link to heart disease, death.](#)

The scientific evidence linking air pollution to heart attacks, strokes and cardiovascular death has "substantially strengthened," and people, particularly those at high cardiovascular risk, should limit their exposure, according to an updated American Heart Association scientific statement.

[New report: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance.](#)

The majority of chemicals found in this report have never been assessed for safety by any publicly accountable agency, or by the cosmetics industry's self-policing review panels. Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

[See related articles: [Perfumes contain hidden harmful chemicals, environmental groups say](#) and [Scented products are so prevalent, potent they are a public health hazard](#)]

[EPA, Shanghai Launch AirNow International Shared technology will provide real-time air quality information in China](#)

"AirNow has been an extraordinary tool for helping the public understand air pollution in the United States," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "We're pleased to be working with Shanghai to use this technology to make real-time air quality data available in China."

[First Nations environmental health guide is now available.](#)

Canada's Ministry of Health announced the launch of the First Nations environmental

health guide *Your Health at Home* which provides useful information and practical tips for First Nations to keep their homes safer and healthier.

[Air Quality Awareness Week focuses on reducing exposure to ozone, particle pollution.](#)

EPA, state and local air agencies across the country are marking Air Quality Awareness Week by reminding Americans to stay "Air Aware" to reduce their exposure -- and their contribution -- to air pollution.

[See a related announcement: [EPA promotes Asthma Awareness Month](#)]

[Job opening: New York City.](#)

Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) has an opening for an Enhancing the Field Program Director. The program encompasses both the goal of increasing knowledge about environmental issues within broader philanthropy and serving to inform and encourage members on issues of inclusivity; diversity; and, green practices in the workplace and beyond. Applications are due June 1st.

[Job opening: San Francisco.](#)

The Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment is seeking a research assistant who will execute a study investigating the sources and levels of exposure to environmental chemicals in pregnant women and their infants. This position is 100% time for 6 months, although part-time for 6 months may be possible. The closing date is June 4, 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) Exposures Assessment and the Importance of Compound-Compound Interactions in Mixtures

Thursday May 20, 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, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health

The speaker will be Gunnar Boysen, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Congressional Staff Briefing: A Discussion on the President's Cancer Panel Report

Friday May 21, 2010

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Washington, DC

in B369 Rayburn House Office Building

Sponsor: The Breast Cancer Fund and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment in collaboration with US Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) & US Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL)

Speakers include 1) Nancy Buermeyer, senior policy strategist with the Breast Cancer Fund; Dick Clapp, DSc, epidemiologist and professor with Boston University School of Public Health; Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, science director of the Science and Environmental

Health Network (SEHN); and Sandra Steingraber, PhD, scientist and acclaimed author of *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment* and *Having Faith*.

Price: free

Contact: Vanessa Ramirez, 213-236-3751 or vramirez@rabengroup.com

3) First Annual National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition Meeting

Monday and Tuesday, May 24 - 25, 2010

3:00 p.m. on May 24th - 5:00 p.m. on the 25th

Washington, DC

Sponsor: National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

The meeting is open to all coalition members, and there is no fee to join. The meeting will include speakers, Hill visits, and Congressional briefings. The agenda is available on the website.

Price: free, but preregistration is required

[Visit the website](#)

4) 2nd All Africa Environmental Health Congress

Monday through Thursday, May 24 - 27, 2010

Lilongwe, Malawi

at the Crossroads Hotel

Sponsor: International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) in collaboration with the Government of Malawi and the University of Malawi

The conference theme is "Environmental Health - Key to a Better Life for All", and the vision of this congress is the improvement of the standards of environmental health in Africa. Objectives are to 1) raise the profile of environmental health in Africa, 2) share best practices of environmental health services delivery in Africa, 3) enhance inter-country collaboration in environmental health practice, 4) address the training needs of environmental health, 4) promote the environmental health needs of children in Africa and 5) promote environmental health research.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 265 187 7592 or washted@poly.ac.mw

5) Elevating the Issue: The Emerging CDC National Action Plan on Infertility

Tuesday May 25, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Fertility

This call will highlight the emerging Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Action Plan on the Prevention, Detection and Management of Infertility. Speakers on this call will cover the background and impetus for this national action plan, what is currently happening among the working groups, and what the opportunities are for involvement by CHE colleagues in this important endeavor. Featured speakers include Maurizio Macaluso, MD, DrPH, chief of the Women's Health and Fertility Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Linda Giudice, MD, PhD, MSc, professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, The Robert B. Jaffe, MD, Endowed Professor in the Reproductive Sciences, director of the Center for Research on Origins and Biological Consequences of Human Infertility and director of UCSF Women's Reproductive Health Research Career Development Center, University of California, San Francisco; and Steven Schrader, PhD,

leader of the Reproductive Health Assessment Team, Biomonitoring and Health Assessment Branch, Division of Applied Research and Technology, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

6) Spring 2010 TRI Webinar: Using the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to Support Environmental Justice

Tuesday May 25, 2010

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

Sponsor: Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Using TRI to Support Environmental Justice. The purpose of the Webinar is to share experiences and lessons learned using TRI to address environmental justice concerns and expand TRI use among current and potential users who work on environmental justice issues. Speakers will include representatives from EPA headquarters and regions, nonprofit organizations and academia. All are welcome to participate.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer Major, jennifer.major@ross-assoc.com

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

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](#)

8) Introduction to Managing Environmental Data with Microsoft Access 2007

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 25 - 26, 2010

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

Greenwood Village, Colorado

at Wingate by Wyndham, Denver Tech Center, 8000 E Peakview Avenue

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. This class is recommended for anyone desiring concentrated exposure to Access training.

Price: \$495 or \$395 for Native American Tribes; nonprofits; government agencies; students; and NAEP, NEBC, CAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

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

9) National Environmental Partnership Summit

Tuesday through Thursday, May 25 - 27, 2010

Orlando, Florida

at the DoubleTree Resort Orlando

Sponsor: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, US Environmental Protection Agency

The summit will include a plenary session by Elizabeth Grossman and sessions on human health such as on the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

10) Lessons Learned from REACH - a European NGO Perspective

Wednesday May 26, 2010

11:00 a.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Sustainable Business Council

This call will include presentations and dialogue with our allies in Europe on lessons learned from the REACH campaigns. The REACH campaign was a concerted seven-plus years of organizing and work to change European chemicals policy, and we believe we can gain much good insight from our European colleagues. Ninja Reineke of the World Wildlife Fund and Nardono Nimpuno of ChemSec will give two 15-minute presentations of what worked well, what were specific challenges, and their insights into "what might we have done differently with 20:20 hindsight." We will have 30 minutes for questions and answers, facilitated by Bev Thorpe of Clean Production Action. Depending on the interest from callers and the questions that may not be covered in this initial call, we hope to schedule future follow-up calls. Note that we will try to record the call for those who cannot make the time.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

11) Senate and House TSCA Reform Bills: What Do They Say? Where Are they Going?

Wednesday June 2, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This webinar will discuss two long-awaited bills to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representatives Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) unveiled the Safe Chemical Act of 2010 earlier this spring. Despite earlier attempt to overhaul the way the country manages chemicals, this is the first time that both chemical industry lobbyists and public health advocates agree that we can't delay change any longer ? the scientific evidence is too overwhelming; the public outcry too loud. The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition supports the goals of the bill. As always, "the devil is in the details." Join the webinar to learn what the bills say, what the controversial issues are and what the prognosis for the future of toxic chemical policy reform. The webinar features Lindsay Dahl, deputy campaign director at Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, a groundbreaking coalition of diverse groups united by their common concern about toxic chemicals in our homes, places of work, and products we use every day. Members include nurses, parents, cancer specialists, disability advocates, conservationists and concerned citizens from across the nation.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

12) 2010 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Sunday through Wednesday, June 6 - 9, 2010
Albuquerque, New Mexico
at the Albuquerque Convention Center

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

The conference education program is posted on the website. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson has been invited as the keynote speaker.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NEHA, 303-691-9490 or staff@neha.org

13) 2010 National Tribal Science Forum

Sunday through Thursday, June 6 - 10, 2010
Traverse City, Michigan
at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Sponsor: National EPA Tribal Science Council

The forum theme "Mother Earth: Indigenous Knowledge and Science to Promote Positive Change" will be explored in the following tracks: air, water, earth, community health and cross-theme issues.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

14) Our Environment, Our Health: A Nurse's Call to Action

Monday and Tuesday, June 7 - 8, 2010
Baltimore, Maryland
at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, 655 W. Lombard Street

Sponsor: Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

This is the first national conference for nurses addressing the relationship between human health and the environment. Learn about the growing movement that is being created by nurses as they "green" their health care institutions, engage in scientific inquiry, integrate environmental health practices into nursing assessments and interventions, and create and support policies that protect human health and the environment. Come hear about and share in the expanding roles that nurses are taking in the exciting and critical field of environmental health. Continuing Nursing Education credits are available.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, anhe@son.umaryland.edu

15) ATSDR Basic Course for Health Assessment and Consultation

Monday through Friday, June 7 - 11, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia
at CDC/ATSDR, Chamblee Building 106, Room 1B, 4770 Buford Highway NE

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances

and Disease Registry

This course focuses on the process of assessing public health implications of exposures to contaminants being released from hazardous waste sites and identifying public health actions. This assessment process applies to all the different products (public health assessments, health consultations, health advisories, etc.) that we produce. The course will provide an overview on all four factors of CERCLA/SARA (104(i)(6)(F)) that form the basis of public health assessments produced by and for ATSDR. Registration deadline is Tuesday, June 1, 2009. Continuing education for this activity is pending.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sandra López-Carreras, 770-488-0663 or SLopez@cdc.gov

16) 2010 Seminar Series: A Conversation about Our Food and Eating

Wednesday June 9, 2010

Reception 5:30 - 6:30; Program 6:30 - 8:30; Post Seminar Networking 8:30 - 9:00

Seattle, Washington

Downstairs at Town Hall, Eighth and Seneca

Sponsor: Sustainable Path Foundation

Choosing and eating food is a significant personal activity that is common to all of us. The various ways that food is produced, distributed, regulated, marketed and consumed have profound cultural, environmental, economic, political, health and social implications. Is it enough to "vote with your fork"? What would a sustainable food system look like? Join us as Mary Embleton, executive director of Cascade Harvest Coalition, and Britt Yamamoto, a member of the core faculty at the Center for Creative Change at Antioch University, discuss the many dimensions of food and eating.

Price: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-443-8464 or info@sustainablepath.org

17) Health and Happiness Festival Conference on Obesity The Silent Killer

Saturday and Sunday, June 12 - 13, 2010

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

at the JW Marriott KL

Sponsor: Acutance, Health Sense

The conference will provide you with a comprehensive picture of obesity from the perspectives of nutrition, the environment, ethnicity, evolution, genetics, surgery and more. Our invited speakers are obesity specialists who will demonstrate the value of their in-depth knowledge, clinical experiences and evidence-based research. Furthermore, they will provide clear, practical information that will increase your understanding of the obesity condition, as well as offer guidance

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

18) Canadian Public Health Association Centenary Conference

Sunday through Wednesday, June 13 - 16, 2010

Toronto, Ontario Canada

Sponsor: Canadian Public Health Association

The conference theme is "Public Health in Canada: Shaping the Future Together." Public health practitioners from across the country and around the world will meet to celebrate a century of achievements and to shape the future of public health. Conference key priority areas include 1) environmental health and built environments; 2) mental health and mental illness; 3) universal policies, health equity and the social determinants of health; 4) knowledge exchange and risk communications; and 5) health through the lifecourse, among others.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: conference@cpha.ca

News and Journal Articles

[Toxicology smackdown: The Paracelsian paradigm versus hormesis.](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Edward Calabrese...and others then began to look at what happened at many low-dose levels and found that it often matches not with the dose-equals-poison theory, but with a 19th century theory formally known as hormesis. CBC News.

[Groups warn parents vs toxic school supplies.](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

As parents start shopping for school supplies, a waste and pollution watchdog has called on concerned government authorities to conduct a random testing of school supplies for chemicals which may be harmful to their children. BusinessMirror, Philippines.

[Can dirt do a little good?](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Are we too clean, with our preoccupation for hand-sanitizers, disinfectants and anti-microbial products? Wall Street Journal.

[Few people know their name, but these chemicals have become EPA priority.](#)

Monday, May 17, 2010

An obscure family of chemicals [short-chain chlorinated paraffins] -- important to the metalworking industry but virtually unknown to the public -- is suddenly the subject of scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Health News.

[Study links mobile phone use to brain tumours.](#)

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A major international study has found a link between mobile phone use and certain brain tumours. Leading scientists have called for restrictions on children's access to mobiles. Edinburgh Scotsman, United Kingdom.

[See an opposing article based on the same report: [Mobile phone study finds no solid link to brain tumours](#), an analysis: [Cell phone cancer study shows problems with method](#), and another article about concerns over cell phone infrastructure: [Framingham town meeting approves six-month halt on cell towers](#)]

[Research links pesticides with ADHD in children.](#)

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A new analysis of U.S. health data links children's attention-deficit disorder with exposure to common pesticides used on fruits and vegetables. Associated Press.

[See related articles about pesticide concerns: [Agencies pledge to curb child farmworker abuse](#), [Preservatives under fire](#), [Childhood exposures to pesticides may contribute to obesity and diabetes in adults](#), [Choosing fair trade can change the world](#), [Judge hears evidence as Dole Food Co. seeks to overturn pesticide verdict](#), [Local fish ban gets murky](#), [Lawn chemicals a growing concern in state](#), [The environmental cost of keeping golf courses green](#) and [Keeping your lawn from bugging you](#)]

[Obesity, a chemical reaction?](#)

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A new study found overweight young girls had significantly higher levels of phthalates, a

chemical found in plastics. Los Angeles Times.

[See related articles about concerns with plastics: [The perils of household plastics](#), [Another plastics ingredient raises safety concerns](#) and [Regulators fear ban on BPA in bottles would make matters worse](#) and others specifically about BPA: [Exposure to bisphenol A may alter hormone levels in men](#), [BPA exposure in the womb alters key mammary gland proteins \[in rats\] at puberty](#) and [Fungi take a bite out of BPA](#)]

Faster, stronger, deadlier: the MRSA superbug.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus -- or MRSA for short -- is the subject of journalist Maryn McKenna's new book *Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA*. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Hospitalizations of children with drug-resistant staph infections increases tenfold](#) and another about growing antibiotic resistance in hospitals: [Growing dangers of infections](#)]

Nitrate contamination spreading in California communities.

Saturday, May 15, 2010

The water supply of more than 2 million Californians has been exposed to harmful levels of nitrates over the past 15 years -- a time marked by lax regulatory efforts to contain the colorless and odorless contaminant, a California Watch investigation has found. Visalia Times-Delta, California.

[See related articles about water quality concerns: [Nitrates in our drinking water, part 3 -- Cleaning up the past](#); [Wastes "injected" underground, intoxicating subterranean water: Report](#); [State: Dish chemical exposure no worse than U.S.](#); [Silent Spring water tests reveal contamination](#) and [Most Minnesota fish sampled don't carry Scotchguard chemical](#)]

Scientist taught world to get the lead out.

Friday, May 14, 2010

During his time in El Paso, Landrigan found his calling. He is now director of the Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. He's also a principal investigator with the National Children's Study, a 21-year, federal project just getting under way designed to give the most detailed picture to date on how the environment affects health. CNN.

[See other articles about lead: [Toss out kids' jewelry if you suspect it contains lead](#), [cadmium: Health Canada](#); [Lead in your dishes](#); [Blood lead levels tied to ALS risk](#); [Get the lead out](#) and [High lead levels hurt learning for DPS kids](#)]

Some good environmental news: Hole in ozone over the Antarctic has stabilized.

Friday, May 14, 2010

The hole in the ozone over the Antarctic has stabilized, and it could disappear for good later this century if we continue to refrain from using chlorofluorocarbons and related compounds. Minneapolis MinnPost, Minnesota.

[See a related article: [The chance discovery that averted ecological disaster](#)]

Protection with a price.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Sunscreen can help prevent those painful episodes of childhood sunburn, a risk factor for skin cancer later in life. But there's growing concern that some of the chemicals in the products are endocrine disruptors and may pose risks to children. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

A burning issue: Gasping for breath - Fires are like a smoke bomb for vulnerable people.

Friday, May 14, 2010

For some residents, especially those with respiratory problems, each breath can be an effort, especially when the air they breathe is polluted by car and truck exhaust or smoke from local wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Oroville Mercury-Register, California.

[See related articles: [A Burning Issue: Scientists take a hard look at wood-stove emissions](#), [A burning issue: Three case studies...](#) and [Prairie burns a shared concern](#) and

[others about health effects of air pollution: *Destination brain, Lung cancer in Chinese women: Evidence for an interaction between tobacco smoking and exposure to inhalants in the indoor environment, Impact of environmental chemicals on lung development, Traffic-related particulate matter and acute respiratory symptoms among New York City area adolescents, Kid health fears could fuel pollution exodus and Indoor air kills 2.2 million young Chinese: report*](#)]

[Too many vitamin tablets could be bad for your health.](#)

Thursday, May 13, 2010

New research shows that far from protecting us, antioxidant supplements, such as vitamins C and E, may actually increase the chance of developing cancer. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[FDA needs new tools to check food, drugs - US experts.](#)

Thursday, May 13, 2010

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is stuck using crude tools to measure the benefits of food, drugs and supplements and needs a whole new set of standards, a panel of experts said on Wednesday. Reuters.

[See other stories about food and health: [Doubt is cast on many reports of food allergies](#), [US schools add fresh food without busting budgets](#), [Butter-flavor substitutes also raise alarms](#) and [Coffee and sodas not tied to colon cancer](#)]

[Program to combat asthma would lean on landlords.](#)

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

For decades, public health experts have tried to contain an asthma epidemic that afflicts many New Yorkers living in the city's poorest neighborhoods. But now, the city hopes to curtail the spread of lung disease by forcing landlords to clean up. New York Times.

[See another article about neighborhood influence on asthma: [Neighborhood violence may raise kids' asthma risk](#) and another about environmental impacts on asthma: [Fatty foods bad for asthmatics, block effects of inhalers: study](#)]

['They're killing us anyway.'](#)

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Citing health complaints they link to alleged pollution by Ecoltec, a toxic waste processing plant run by a Swiss company, the people of Apaxco [Mexico] and neighbouring communities are trying to permanently close down the plant. Inter Press Service.

[See other articles about use, releases and regulation of toxics: [Reforming toxic chemical regulation](#); [Trafigura faces £105m legal bill over dumping of toxic waste](#); [Virginia must regulate toxic chemicals](#) and [Recycled computers, televisions still ending up in dumps](#)]

[Evaluation of spatial relationships between health and the environment: The Rapid Inquiry Facility.](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

The RIF offers a tool that allows epidemiologists to quickly carry out ecological environmental epidemiological analysis such as risk assessment or disease mapping.

[Legislation aimed at Tulane's environmental law clinic could hobble other clinics statewide.](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Law clinics at universities across Louisiana fear a state senator's proposal could force them to close, leaving their impoverished clients without free legal services. Associated Press.

[Should nanomaterials be regulated?](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Nanomaterials are being used these days in a wide variety of consumer items, from cosmetics to flat-screen TVs to baseball bats, and are the focus of a three-day national conference at Notre Dame University. South Bend Tribune, Indiana.

[Counties want to incinerate old, unused medicines.](#)

Monday, May 10, 2010

For years, unused pharmaceuticals were flushed down toilets or tossed in the garbage without a second thought. Now, environmental concerns have a growing number of communities looking at alternatives. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota.

Natural way to control arsenic.

Monday, May 10, 2010

Researchers have found a completely natural solution for people living in region with widespread arsenic contamination of ground water. New Delhi Hindustan Times, India.

[See other articles about arsenic: [Residents not 'overexposed' to arsenic](#), [No association between arsenic exposure from drinking and diabetes mellitus: A cross-sectional study in Bangladesh](#) and [Playground arsenic dose relatively low](#)]

The infertility timebomb: Are men facing rapid extinction?

Monday, May 10, 2010

One in five men could suffer from fertility problems. And scientists have warned that it's just going to get worse. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See articles about impaired fertility in women: [Air pollution 'can stop woman getting pregnant through IVF'](#) and [Organochlorine pesticides and endometriosis](#)]

Exercise can forestall osteoporosis.

Sunday, May 09, 2010

The stage for osteoporosis is set well before menopause -- but exercise can help rewrite the script, according to Medical College of Georgia researchers. Science Daily.

[See an article about caution regarding exercise: [Pollution poses recreational hazards](#)]

Making choices for the kids' sake.

Sunday, May 09, 2010

The environment is playing a big role these days in the decisions parents make about what they bring into their homes. Victoria Times Colonist, British Columbia.

Stress early in pregnancy increases risks to babies.

Sunday, May 09, 2010

Stressful situations in early pregnancy can lead to the birth of babies who are underweight or born too early, new research from China shows. Timing of the stress, the researchers found, was the key. Reuters Health.

[See related articles about preterm births: [Pre-term births fall in US, government finds](#) and [Puerto Rico's rising preterm birth rate](#)]

Study confirms link between environmental exposure and allergy.

Saturday, May 08, 2010

New findings by NIEHS-funded researchers at the University of Cincinnati (UC) indicate that environmental exposures and prolonged breast-feeding are critical determinants of childhood allergic rhinitis. Environmental Factor.

Oil spill may endanger human health, officials say.

Friday, May 07, 2010

With a huge and unpredictable oil slick drifting in the Gulf of Mexico, state and federal authorities are preparing to deal with a variety of hazards to human health if and when the full brunt of the toxic mess washes ashore. Associated Press.

[See related articles: [Health questions answered about Gulf Coast oil spill](#) and [Quest for oil leaves trail of damage across the globe](#)]

President's Cancer Panel: Environmentally caused cancers are 'grossly underestimated' and 'needlessly devastate American lives.'

Thursday, May 06, 2010

The President's Cancer Panel on Thursday reported that "the true burden of environmentally induced cancers has been grossly underestimated" and strongly urged action to reduce people's widespread exposure to carcinogens. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles: [U.S. panel criticized as overstating cancer risks](#); [Cancer, cancer everywhere](#); [Environmental health risks: Not just cancer](#) and [Report to president links cancer, Lejeune contamination](#)]

[Low dose of some persistent organic pollutants predicts type 2 diabetes: A nested case-control study.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Several POPs at low doses similar to current exposure levels may increase the risk of diabetes, possibly through endocrine disruption. Certain POPs may play a role in the current epidemic of diabetes, which has been attributed to obesity. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Asian countries embrace nuclear energy.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

While the Western countries that first embraced nuclear energy are now hand-ringing over the issue because of safety worries, Asia is planning massive development of the controversial fuel source. Irrawaddy, Burma.

[Report warns of global warming costs.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

The health risks of global climate change read like a chapter out of the Book of Revelation: plagues from mosquitoes and other insects; floods and droughts that cause sickness and mental anguish; food-borne scourges and malnutrition. Charlotte Observer, North Carolina.

[See a related article: [Global warming is the biggest threat to human health](#) and an announcement from the US EPA: [EPA sets thresholds for greenhouse gas permitting requirements/Small businesses and farms will be shielded](#) plus an article about mosquito control: [People can reduce risk of a mosquito bonanza](#)]

[Vaccine may trigger early start of infant epilepsy.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Childhood vaccines may trigger early onset of a severe form of infant epilepsy, but researchers say the disorder is ultimately caused by defective genes and lifesaving vaccines should not be withheld from these children. Reuters Health.

[See another article about vaccine controversy: [Despite test results, FDA urges vaccine use](#)]

[Alcohol in pregnancy may boost child's leukemia risk.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Women who drink alcohol while pregnant raise the risk that their child will develop a rare type of blood cancer called acute myeloid leukemia, or AML, a new study suggests. Reuters.

[Two-year study finds no brain benefit for fish oil.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Fish oil may be good for your heart, but it doesn't seem to help preserve your smarts, a new two-year study shows. Reuters.

[See another article about environmental influences on heart health: [Deli meats increase risk of heart disease](#) and [Effects of weight on kids' heart rate vary by income](#)]

[EPA proposes new rules on coal ash.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Coal ash -- like the millions of tons Duke Energy disposes of each year -- could be classified as hazardous waste under rules the Environmental Protection Agency proposed Tuesday. Charlotte Observer, North Carolina.

[See related articles: [Details emerge on EPA plans for Alabama's toxic coal ash ponds](#) and [Loophole in coal ash rules could impact Iowa](#)]

[Stomach-cancer rate rises in young adults.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

The type of stomach cancer the study focused on has been linked with diets high in salt and salt-preserved foods, and low in fruits and vegetables. Associated Press.

[Read other articles about the incidence of cancer: [Skin cancer may be an epidemic: doctors warn that sunscreen use is spotty](#), [A review of pesticide exposure and cancer incidence in the Agricultural Health Study cohort](#), [Map tracks incidences of cancer](#)]

[throughout New York state and Dump site linked to quadrupled cancer rate\]](#)

Cancer risks prompt doctors to try to lower imaging scan radiation.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Doctors are exploring ways to reduce the amount of radiation exposure from medical imaging tests in light of renewed concerns about the cancer risk, according to research presented at a radiology conference this week. USA Today.

[See an article about concern over another source of radiation: [Scientists question safety of new airport scanners](#)]

Does working nights cause breast cancer?

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, and so far only one country (Denmark) has awarded compensation to shift workers who develop the disease. If more were to follow suit, it could have far-reaching economic consequences. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about breast cancer: [Link between farming and breast cancer in women studied](#), [New concerns about radiation and breast cancer raised in study](#) and [Growth hormone causes breast cancer, says study](#)]

Exposure to smoke in the womb may lead to psychiatric problems, study shows.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

It's well known that smoking while pregnant isn't good for the baby, but new research shows it could also lead to psychological problems for that baby later in life. Vancouver Sun, British Columbia.

[See related articles about parental smoking: [Smoking moms tied to lasting kids' sleep woes](#) and [Smoking while driving with kids could lead to fine](#)]

Mercury high in South Georgia fish.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

The University of Georgia studied more than 60 fish for mercury; tests on those fish show that people are getting more mercury than recommended if they eat the fish more than once a week in some cases, more than once a month in others. Georgia Public Broadcasting, Georgia.

[See related articles about mercury pollution: [Mercury high in Japanese town that hunts dolphins](#) and [Bill will curb mercury pollution](#)]

FDA ties Tylenol recall to contamination.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Raw materials that were to be used to make several lots of the Tylenol products for children and infants that were recalled over the weekend were contaminated, the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday. Wall Street Journal.

[See a related article: [Fear of metal in children's medication prompted recall: company official](#) and more about other recalls: [FDA says lay off asthma supplement - too much lead](#) and [More kids' jewelry recalls in works](#) and from Guam: [23 medicines on recall list off shelves](#)]

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- 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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Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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