



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin May 5, 2010

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

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

ICEH Highlights

New 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.

New Members

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

- Maralyn Chase, MA, Shoreline, Washington
- Barbara Frota, San Luis Obispo, California
- Stacey Funt, MD, Huntington, New York
- Dorothy Lee, Athens, Greece
- Timothy McAuley, PhD, Malden, Massachusetts
- Rosa Rodriguez, Miami, Florida
- Zbigniew Rudkowski, MD, Sosnowiec, Poland
- Lina Silimkhan, Union, New Jersey
- Yael Stein, MD, Jerusalem, Israel
- Irene Thomopoulos, Old Westbury, New York

Announcements

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

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

[New report: Assessment of EM Exposure of Energy-Saving Bulbs & Possible Mitigation Strategies](#)

The Swiss government has released a new report on compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). At the international level, safety guidelines for EM exposure of workers/general public and controlled/uncontrolled environments have been issued by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

[CDC Transportation Recommendations.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified transportation policies that can have profound positive impact on health.

[EPA launches new web tools to inform the public about clean water enforcement.](#)

The new web page provides interactive information from EPA's 2008 Annual Noncompliance Report, which pertains to about 40,000 permitted Clean Water Act dischargers across the country.

[EPA launches online map tracking enforcement actions in Chesapeake Bay watershed.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched an online map that shows the locations of federal air and water enforcement actions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The map is part of EPA's increased focus on enforcement of federal pollution laws in the Chesapeake Bay region.

[EPA opens access to chemical information.](#)

EPA is releasing a database, called ToxRefDB, which allows scientists and the interested public to search and download thousands of toxicity testing results on hundreds of chemicals.

[Call for comments: EPA to cut mercury, other toxic emissions from boilers, solid waste incinerators.](#)

EPA will hold a public hearing on these rules soon after they are published in the Federal Register and will take comment on these proposed rules for 45 days after publication.

[Call for comments: A Nanotechnology Policy Framework.](#)

The Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment has developed a draft set of policy recommendations to address potential health risk from nanomaterials and nanotechnology for the state of California. There will be a public meeting to discuss the draft document and receive feedback from the Science Advisory Panel and the general public. All public comments must be received by May 5, 2010.

[EPA seeks public comment on aircraft lead emissions data.](#)

The advanced notice of proposed rulemaking being announced today describes the data that are currently available and being collected that would help evaluate health impacts from piston-engine aircraft emissions. This action describes considerations regarding emission engine standards and requests comment on approaches for transitioning the piston-engine fleet to unleaded gas.

[Call for proposals: Urban Watershed Capacity-Building Grant.](#)

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants that address the following two project components: (1) establish and manage a competitive urban watershed subaward program to support urban watershed capacity-building projects for activities that lead to environmental, public health, and related socioeconomic benefits to the surrounding communities and their residents; and (2) provide urban watershed technical services. Proposals are due May 19th.

[Job opening: Atlanta, Georgia.](#)

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Division of Laboratory Sciences (DLS), Office of the Director, is seeking exceptional candidates for the position of Director, Division of Laboratory Sciences who will be responsible for developing, planning, organizing, managing, and directing complex, comprehensive and successful laboratory science programs. Applications are due by Thursday May 13, 2010.

[Job opening: Pontiac, Michigan.](#)

Oakland County Health & Human Services has an opening for a public health sanitarian supervisor to plan, organize, supervise and evaluate the more complex and specialized Environmental Health Services programs relating to water quality, shelter and land protection as well as the on going activities of the general Environmental Health Services field staff. Applications will be accepted until Monday, May 3, 2010.

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

Environmental Defense Fund is looking to hire a full-time Scientist to work on high-priority environmental issues that affect human health. The position requires a graduate degree, preferably at the doctoral level, in chemistry, toxicology, epidemiology, risk assessment, or similar environmental health field.

[Job opening: Arlington, Virginia.](#)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has an opening for an intern for this summer to assist the director of Environmental Health with activities for

federally funded environmental health projects. The Intern will focus his or her work on the built environment and smart growth. A bachelor's degree is required.

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) Getting Started in Green Cleaning: Reducing Asthma Triggers Where New York Children Learn

Wednesday May 5, 2010

1:00 p.m. Pacific / 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US EPA/2 for New York State Mid-Hudson-Capital District schools and communities and cosponsored by New York State Education Department, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), The Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) and New York State Association for Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds (SBGA)

Asthma is a chronic disease that can be triggered by environmental exposures and is the leading cause of school absences and occupational illness of custodians. Topics will include saving money, boosting attendance and achievement and reducing risks to health. Participants will learn how to find and use certified green cleaning products, improve indoor air quality and generate parent and community interest and support for school actions. Allan Wakefield will be the presenter.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Prescription for Radon: A Medical Forum

Friday 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

3) Cell Towers Near Schools

Friday May 7, 2010

8:00 a.m. Pacific / 11:00 a.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Trent University of Ontario, Canada

This TeleClass for parents, teachers, and school administrators will present how to prevent EMFs at school and at home. The presentation will feature a new study, "The BRAG™ Antenna Ranking of Schools" which graded schools and children's proximity to cell antennas in US state capitals and Washington, DC. Those who would like to participate are asked to RSVP via email as capacity is limited.

Price: free

Contact: Emily@ElectromagneticHealth.org

4) 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](#)

5) California Green Chemistry Workshop: Indicators of Ecotoxicity Hazards and Exposure Potential

Monday and Tuesday, May 10 - 11, 2010

Berkeley, California

at UC Berkeley, David Brower Center, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theatre, 2151 Allston Way

Sponsor: The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, UCLA Law and Environmental Health Sustainable Technology Policy Program, UC's Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry, UC Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, UC Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program

Green chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. A key component is product reformulation to replace hazardous chemicals with less hazardous ones. A major obstacle is the lack of data on exposure, environmental effects and human toxicity in determining the safety of a chemical. A 2009 Green Chemistry law (Senate Bill 509) requires Cal/EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to evaluate and specify the hazard traits, toxicological endpoints and other relevant data to be included in California's Toxics Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will be constructed by the Cal/EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control. Hazard traits for ecotoxicity and exposure potential will be included. This workshop explores indicators of ecotoxicity and exposure potential for use when evaluating chemicals. A March 2010 workshop explored indicators of human health hazard.

Price: free, but preregistration is required

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: elina.nasser@ucla.edu

6) 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

7) Wisconsin Women's Health Policy Summit

Wednesday May 12, 2010

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

Madison, Wisconsin

at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way

Sponsor: Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health and sponsors listed on the website

Every woman at every age and stage of her life has much at stake in the policy decisions being made in our state regarding access to quality health care. Join Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton, DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake, National Women's Law Center Representative Lisa Codispoti and Nationally Renowed Keynote Speaker Tamara Wrenn as they speak about the current state of women's health in Wisconsin and discuss how we can join together and use the Life Course Model to improve the status of every Wisconsin woman's health at every age and every stage of her life. e Summit will feature panel discussions surrounding diverse topics such as the power of collaboration, story sharing and personal advocacy, and unique health needs of different Wisconsin women. Attendees can also look forward to participating in the creation of a comprehensive Wisconsin Women's Health Policy Agenda focusing on a variety of issues from cancer to lesbian health, economic security to violence against women.

Price: \$35 or \$10 for students; scholarships are available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, 866-399-WAWH or info@wiawh.org

8) 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

9) 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

10) 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](#)

11) 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

12) The President's Cancer Panel Report: Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now

Tuesday May 18, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The President's Cancer Panel (the Panel), a three-person, federal advisory committee appointed by the President, was established in 1971 with the passage of the National Cancer Act. The Panel is charged with monitoring the development and execution of the activities of the National Cancer Program. Each year, the Panel holds at least four public meetings to solicit input from a variety of stakeholders and submits an annual report to the President of the United States with recommendations focused on improving the

National Cancer Program. The Panel's latest report, *Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk What We Can Do Now*, will be released to the public in early May. Join CHE on a national partnership call to hear from representatives of the President's Cancer Panel and learn more about the report's findings and key recommendations. We will also hear scientists' reactions to the report. Featured speakers will include Nancy Buermeyer, senior policy strategist with the Breast Cancer Fund; Abby B. Sandler, PhD, executive secretary of the President's Cancer Panel and chief of the Institute Review Office, National Cancer Institute; Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH, professor of environmental health at Boston University School of Public Health; and Julia G. Brody, PhD, executive director of Silent Spring Institute. The call will be moderated by Elise Miller, director of CHE.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

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

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](#)

14) EH@Home

May 19, 2010
Portland, Oregon
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

15) Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

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

16) 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](#)

17) 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](#)

18) 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

19) 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

20) 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

21) 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](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Locals work for healing and awareness of poisoning.](#)

Tuesday, May 04, 2010

Mercury contamination is not restricted just to fish. It is used in numerous products, including dental amalgams, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, certain vaccines and thermometers. Longmont Daily Times-Call, Colorado.

[Mississippi has most obese kids; Oregon the least.](#)

Tuesday, May 04, 2010

The states with bigger childhood obesity problems were -- no surprise -- also the states where kids spent more time watching TV and less time being physically active. Reuters Health.

[Skin cancers rising at an alarming rate.](#)

Tuesday, May 04, 2010

William James, president of the American Academy of Dermatology Association, said statistics show skin cancer now afflicts more Americans than all other cancers combined. Kansas City Star, Missouri.

[Pollution poses recreational hazards.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

Invisible pollutants in both rural and urban areas cause you to run slower, breathe harder and get a second-rate workout. Gannett News Service.

[See another article about a benefit of exercising outdoors: [In the green of health: Just 5 minutes of 'green exercise' optimal for good mental health](#)]

[Studies find remarkably high levels of flame retardants in California's children.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

Two new studies show remarkably high levels of PBDE flame retardants in the bodies of California children. Environmental Health News.

[See a related podcast: [Human Exposure to PBDEs, with Heather Stapleton](#) and a related article: [PBDE concentrations in women's serum and fecundability](#)]

[10 worst man-made environmental disasters.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

As environmental calamity for the Gulf Coast appears imminent, GlobalPost looks at 10 other man-made environmental disasters -- both forgotten and infamous -- that could have been prevented. GlobalPost.

[E-waste processing poisons health, environment.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

Migrant workers come from across China to burn, smash and strip old television sets, computers, mobile phones and copy machines for their valuable metals and computer chips for one dollar an hour, 10 hours a day. The price they may pay is their health, say Chinese researchers. Inter Press Service.

[See related articles: [India's wastelands endanger 5 million poor](#) and [Imported scrap metal raises health worries](#)]

[Study: Pregnant women should get more vitamin D](#)

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Pregnant women could -- and probably should -- consume 10 times more vitamin D than experts currently recommend, according to a new study. Health.com.

[To sludge or not to sludge?](#)

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Farmers, governments and environmentalists have different takes on using sewage byproducts as fertilizer Burlington Times-News, North Carolina.

Lessons in toxic overload.

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Buildings being constructed under the federal government's schools stimulus program are riddled with safety hazards, from slippery tiles and toxic carpets to poisonous fumes from unflued heaters. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

DNA referees.

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Scientists are just beginning to understand the effect lifestyle choices and other environmental factors have on altering gene behavior, a rapidly emerging field called epigenetics. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See a related article: [Can you master your own epigenetics?](#)]

Deepwater Horizon oil spill could affect health.

Saturday, May 01, 2010

According to NOAA, there may be risks for people working as oil spill responders, observers, and in wildlife rehabilitation due to inhalation of fumes. Oysters, shrimp, and crab do not readily clear PAHs and are more likely to accumulate these potentially toxic substances after oil exposure, NOAA states.

[See a related announcement: [EPA establishes web site on BP oil spill / EPA launches site to inform the public about health, environmental impacts of spill](#), an opposing article: [Oil spill has little impact on human health](#) and other articles about sites contaminated by industry: [Human rights in cancer alley](#); [In Bokoshe, ash stirs health debate](#); [A small town's battle with dioxin pollution](#); [Ponds near wells were used as disposal sites for heavy metals from solar manufacturing](#); [EPA to consider cleanup options for Iron King Mine and smelter sites soon](#); [Polluted water spraying is safe](#); [Sinclair flare up](#); [Employees launched health complaints](#); [China's famed Pearl River under denim threat](#); [Challenges in reducing pollution from ships](#); [Study links stream pollution to higher cancer rates](#) and [Study reveals kidney cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma also linked to Pompton Lakes neighborhood](#)]

Wal-Mart to limit toxic cadmium in kids' products.

Friday, April 30, 2010

The world's largest retailer revealed Monday that it has started to crack down on the use of the toxic metal cadmium in children's jewelry and other kids' products. Associated Press.

No going to school in 'pollution' protest.

Friday, April 30, 2010

The Voluntary Committee for the Environment has reaffirmed its plan to hold a strike under the slogan "No Education Without Health", by boycotting classes in Ali Sabah Al-Salem (Umm Al-Haiman) from May 2-3 in protest against the worsening environmental condition in the area. Arab Times, Kuwait.

[See a related article: [Kuwait students shun school to protest oil pollution](#)]

Twins study points to environmental cause for MS.

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Genetics can't seem to explain why one twin would have multiple sclerosis while an identical twin doesn't, a new study finds. That leaves scientists still stumped as to what causes multiple sclerosis (MS), although it's clearer than ever that environmental factors play a major role.

iPad could cause insomnia, researchers say.

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Any artificial light source at night, whether it be from a television or a bedside lamp, can mess with the body's melatonin production, Yan-Go said, which rises when darkness falls, then tapers off toward morning as part of a natural cycle called the Circadian rhythm. MSNBC.

Resetting clock may prevent breast cancer.

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Investigators have discovered that a form of a dietary trace element known as selenium can help reset a cell's "biological clock" when it is disrupted by a chemical cancer-causing agent (carcinogen). Laboratory Equipment.

[Asbestos deaths across the region reach record high.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Asbestos is the biggest single work-related cause of death in the UK. The number of workers from the North East of England and Cumbria who die from asbestos related illnesses has reached the highest levels on record. BBC.

[See related articles: [Canada still exporting asbestos: Union](#) and [Quebec town seeks to expand asbestos mining](#)]

[Behavior problems associated with exposure to phthalates before birth.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

A new study has found an association between children's potential for developing disruptive behavior disorders and exposure before birth to the types of phthalates found in fragrances, shampoos, lotions and cosmetics. Environmental Health News.

[Report: Most Americans still live in unclean air.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Six in 10 Americans -- about 175 million people -- are living in places where air pollution often reaches dangerous levels, despite progress in reducing particle pollution, the American Lung Association said in a report released Wednesday. Associated Press.

[See related articles about air quality concerns: [Canadian companies near Great Lakes putting more toxins in air than U.S.: report](#); [Lawmakers give tire burning the environmental green light](#); [Health study: Agency urges waiting parents to turn off engines](#); [Ozone and primary pollutants from traffic increase asthma-related emergency department visits in children](#); [Parent stress, air pollution up kids' asthma risk](#); [Oxidative damage to DNA and lipids as biomarkers of exposure to air pollution](#) and [Triggering of transmural infarctions, but not non-transmural infarctions, by ambient fine particles](#)]

[Does breastfeeding protect against asthma?](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Sticking to a strict diet of mom's milk during the first 4 months of life may reduce a child's risk of developing asthma by their eighth birthday, according to a new study. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about the interaction of a mother's behavior and the health of her child: [Mothers' obesity tied to newborn heart defects](#), [Rats on junk food pass cancer down the generations](#) and [Sun-shy mothers may raise MS risk in babies: study](#)]

[AACE: Agent Orange ups some thyroid risks.](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Vietnam veterans who came in contact with Agent Orange are more likely to develop Graves' disease than those who avoided exposure, researchers said here. Med Page Today.

[Epidemiologic evidence on the health effects of perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\).](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Epidemiologic evidence remains limited and to date there are insufficient data to draw firm conclusions regarding the role of PFOA for any of the diseases of concern. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Poor diet, smoking, drinking, sloth can age you 12 years.](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Four common bad habits combined -- smoking, drinking too much, inactivity and poor diet -- can age you by 12 years, sobering new research suggests. The findings are from a study that tracked nearly 5,000 British adults for 20 years. Associated Press.

[Talc link to raised womb cancer risk: Once a week use increases the threat by 24 per cent.](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Using talcum powder just once a week to keep fresh can raise the risk of womb cancer

by up to 24 per cent, a study has claimed. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

Cellphone risks and radiation: Is your life on the line?

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

After parsing the NIH database of brain-tumor incidence in the United States, Davis discovered an "increasing incidence of brain tumors in the United States in people under age 30," she wrote in an e-mail. Men's Health.

[See related articles: [MPs hear conflicting evidence on cellphone safety](#), [Could cell phone radiation protect memory?](#) and [Study launched on health impact from mobile phones](#)]

Qualitative environmental health research: An analysis of the literature 1991-2008.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

This analysis demonstrates the potential of qualitative data to improve understanding of complex exposure pathways, including the influence of social factors on environmental health, and health outcomes. Environmental Health Perspectives.

New Yorkers given the skinny on animal fat.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

The presence of persistent organic pollutants, according to Cancer Action NY Director Donald Hassig, is yet another reason to avoid eating animal fat. Albany Legislative Gazette, New York.

[See related articles about food concerns: [Processed meat linked to higher ovarian cancer risk](#), [California free to ban downer cows in food supply -- for now](#), [The University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study: A follow-up investigation of a case with high serum concentration of 2,3,4,7,8-pentachlorodibenzofuran](#); [Are genetically modified foods harmful?](#), [Cancer detected in many school children](#), [Raw milk: Personal decision or public danger?](#), [No silver lining in restaurant sushi's mercury levels](#), [EFSA sees risks to children from lead in food](#), [Lingering legacies for Earth Day 2010: U.S. food still tainted with old chemicals](#), [State budget cuts may prevent fish testing](#), [Study on lake sparks debate on eating fish](#), [Study: Too much sugar increases heart risks](#), [Regulations issued to tighten supervision of food additives](#) and [Additives: It's time to look on the bright side](#)]

Vaccinations: A hot debate still burning.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

There's a delicate question that no scientific study can answer. It involves whether parents' rights to make choices about their children trump the needs of the community. New York Times.

The use of expert elicitation in environmental health impact assessment: a seven-step procedure.

Monday, April 26, 2010

We present a practical yet flexible seven step procedure towards organising expert elicitation in the context of environmental health impact assessment, based on existing protocols. Environmental Health.

Out for the count: Why levels of sperm in men are falling.

Monday, April 26, 2010

Levels of 'viable' sperm in human males are falling -- and scientists believe they now understand the cause. Infertility can begin in the womb. London Independent, United Kingdom.

Study warns of climate health threats.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Climate change poses a growing threat to health, from heart disease to heatstroke and from illness carried by water to bug-borne sickness. Associated Press.

[See the report: [A Human Health Perspective on Climate Change](#) and related articles: [Can global warming give you kidney stones?](#) and [Globalisation helps spread 'exotic' diseases](#)]

There's no 'Plan B' for nuclear waste, so it stays local.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that spent fuel stored at New Jersey's four nuclear power plants will remain dangerous to humans for at least 10,000 years. But the problem of storing spent fuel continues to plague lawmakers. Atlantic City Press, New Jersey.

[See related articles: [Ukraine marks Chernobyl disaster while still struggling with legacy](#), [Plan for nuclear waste dump faces backlash](#), [New study to assess whether there is higher cancer risk for residents near nuclear plants](#) and [Mixed messages on nuclear power?](#)]

Study finds pharmaceuticals in wastewater widespread.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

In the most comprehensive study of a variety of chemical compounds coming from municipal sewage plants, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency confirmed widespread, but low concentrations of water contamination from human medications and antibiotics. Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota.

[See a related article: [Drugs in the environment: Do pharmaceutical take-back programs make a difference?](#) and other articles about water quality concerns: [Shampoo, cosmetics may form cancer-causing substance in water supplies](#); [Metro storm-water ponds are chemical soups](#) and [Dangerous levels of arsenic found in drinking water](#)]

EPA reviews arsenic toxicity.

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Federal environmental officials appear on the verge of changing threshold levels at which arsenic, a known carcinogen, is unsafe. Lewes Cape Gazette, Delaware.

No link between infertility, rare infant cancer.

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Children conceived with the help of infertility treatment are no more likely than those conceived naturally to develop infant leukemia, according to the largest study to date to investigate the relationship. Reuters Health.

Autism debate focuses on question of epidemic.

Saturday, April 24, 2010

In the politically-tinted scientific world, there is what might be called a spectrum of causality, a sweep of beliefs about autism yielding two opposing viewpoints - those who believe the globe is engulfed in an autism pandemic constituting a major public health crisis, and those scientists who say it is all a myth. Minocqua Lakeland Times, Wisconsin.

Strong associations between low-dose organochlorine pesticides and type 2 diabetes in Korea.

Friday, April 23, 2010

In this exploratory study with small sample, low-dose background exposure to OC pesticides was strongly associated with prevalent type 2 diabetes in Koreans even though absolute concentrations of OC pesticides were no higher than in other populations. Environment International.

[See a related article: [Organochlorine pesticides are called 'persistent' for a reason](#) and others about potential approval for methyl iodide in California: [Controversial fumigant advances](#) and DDT: [New book urges reversal of DDT ban to fight malaria](#)]

Fungal disease spreads through Pacific Northwest.

Friday, April 23, 2010

A rare and dangerous fungal infection named *Cryptococcus gattii* has been quietly spreading from British Columbia southward to the U.S. Pacific Northwest. And it's changing as it goes. Morning Edition, NPR.

New EPA rule could curb lead poisoning in children.

Friday, April 23, 2010

A new Environmental Protection Agency rule could cut down the number of lead poisoning cases in Baltimore's children. Annapolis WJZ TV, Maryland.

El Toxic Hell Toro Part Two: A death sentence for marines and school kids?

Friday, April 23, 2010

A number of Marines are now sick and dying from their contact with toxins at MCAS El Toro, such as TCE (trichloroethylene) a chemical used to clean jet fighters; but Marines aren't the only victims. School children, whose small bodies are less resistant to contamination with deadly pollutants, may have even less of a chance of weathering this storm in otherwise sunny Orange County. Salem News, Oregon.

[Too costly to enforce PCB laws, so EPA may change them.](#)

Friday, April 23, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency might scrap a 30-year-old safety standard because it's likely too expensive to enforce in schools, the News has learned. New York Daily News, New York. [See a related article: [Non-dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls and risk of endometriosis](#)]

[Toxicology: The big test for bisphenol A.](#)

Thursday, April 22, 2010

After years of wrangling over BPA's chemical's toxicity, researchers are charting a new way forwards. Nature investigates how the debate has reshaped environmental-health studies. Nature.

[See related articles: [Bisphenol A remains off toxic list as Ottawa reviews mystery complainant's objection](#) and [Food safety bill's ban on BPA resisted](#)]

[Smokers show lower risk of pregnancy complication.](#)

Thursday, April 22, 2010

A new study adds to evidence that women who smoke during pregnancy have a lower risk of a complication called preeclampsia -- in findings that may help shed light on how the condition arises. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about tobacco use: [Effects of smokeless tobacco products overblown: Businesses, patrons happy to say goodbye to smoking](#) and [Indonesia: Efforts to rein in rampant smoking](#)]

[Legislature tackles new laws to reduce toxic materials.](#)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

For the Washington Legislature this session, taking care of business included asking business to take care of the environment. Seattle Times.

[See related articles from New York: [Bill would require state to map cancer clusters](#) and [NY Senate bans applying pesticides to school playing fields](#)]

[Demasculinisation and other side effects.](#)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Concrete jungles are not the only part of our environment that is man made. There are also thousands of man-made chemicals and this chemical environment is a vast, unchecked experiment on human health. Cosmos Magazine, Australia.

[See related articles: ['Toxic stew' of chemicals causing male fish to carry eggs in testes](#), [Chemicals regulator dysfunctional: WWF](#) and [Petition urges Congress to regulate hormone-disrupting chemical](#)]

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
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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