



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin September 7, 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.

ICEH Highlights

New Practice Prevention Column: Obesogens

ICEH has published a new column on obesogens, chemicals that are associated with obesity. Sarah Howard, moderator of CHE's Working Group on Diabetes and Obesity Spectrum, was the principle author. [See the column](#).

New Members

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

- Jorine Campopiano, MESM, Los Angeles, California
- Sekai Chideya, MD, MPH, Atlanta, Georgia
- Amanda Evans, MSPH, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Tim Heffron, PhD, Burlingame, California
- Dora Inclan, MA, Laredo, Texas
- Jaime Kelley, MS, Kirkwood, Missouri
- Johannah Sentenn, Brea, California
- Ayaz Shah, MPhil, Shikarpur, Pakistan

Announcements

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

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

[Active Aging Week 2011.](#)

Now in its ninth year, Active Aging Week, September 25 - October 1, promotes the benefits of active, healthy lifestyles for adults over 50.

[Call for applicants: National Community Partner Forum, Realizing the Promise of Community-Engaged Health Disparities Research.](#)

Applications are due October 3rd to attend the December 6-7th forum in Boston.

[EPA announces schedule for dioxin assessment.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it plans to complete the non-cancer portion of EPA's Reanalysis of Key Issues Related to Dioxin Toxicity and Response to NAS Comments, and post the final non-cancer assessment to the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) by the end of January 2012.

[See a related article: [Dioxins: More delays for EPA assessment of the chemical's most hazardous form](#)]

[Call for comments: New ideas for NIH Common Fund Programs.](#)

The National Institutes of Health invites the public to post comments and discuss posts

to help refine broad conceptual topics into programs that more closely address Common Fund criteria. Please submit your comments by Wednesday September 14th.

[Call for proposals: Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change.](#)

This FOA encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change. Letters of intent are due April 24, 2012.

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

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) seeks an executive director. The application closing date is October 15, 2011.

[Job opening: Bethesda, Maryland.](#)

NIEHS is accepting applications through Sept. 30 from senior investigators qualified for a tenured appointment as director of its Clinical Research Program, a senior leadership position within the NIEHS Office of the Scientific Director.

[Job opening: Webster, Texas.](#)

The City of Webster's Community Development Department is accepting applications for the position of Environmental Health Inspector. The purpose of this position is to protect the health and safety of the citizens. The position requires a bachelor's degree in a related field and three years of relevant experience.

[Job opening: Boise, Idaho.](#)

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is currently seeking an Environmental Public Health Risk Assessor for the Bureau of Community and Environmental Health. Applications are due by September 10, 2011.

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) Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting

Thursday September 8, 2011

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Seattle, Washington

130 Nickerson Street, Suite 100

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington Children's Environmental Health Working Group

The Children's Environmental Health working group of CHE-WA meets monthly, and you are invited to attend in September and hear a "boots on the ground" report from a local business. With representatives from local, county, state and national agencies, business, citizens and NGOs, our meeting offers ample time to share information about your own projects and hear what others around the region are doing. Our topic in September is the personal care product review recently conducted by PCC Natural Markets. Roxanne Green, Health & Beauty coordinator at PCC and president of the Natural Products Association Northwest, will discuss the history, process and successes of this groundbreaking effort. An option is available to attend by phone.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Public Health International Conference 2011

Thursday and Friday, September 8 - 9, 2011

London, United Kingdom

at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road

Sponsor: *Public Health Journal*

Taking as its theme health and well being, the conference will explore the relationships between health, well being and the factors which influence them in a global environment.

Price: see the [Booking form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Claire Robins, crobins@rsph.org.uk

3) School IPM: Making It Work

Friday September 9, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture, NHS Hall, 3501 NE 41st Street

Sponsor: The Washington School IPM Coalition

Presenters will be Carrie Foss of the WSU Urban IPM Program and Gregg Smith of the Salt Lake City School District. Please RSVP to Carrie Foss.

Price: free

Contact: Carrie Foss, cfoss@wsu.edu

4) How to Bring About Large-scale Behavior Change

One remaining part, Saturday September 10, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Seattle Public Library main branch, Wright-Ketcham meeting room

Sponsor: Sustainable Seattle

One of the most confounding challenges facing the sustainability movement is how to bring about a massive shift in human behavior. This master class series explores a variety of powerful insights from cognitive science for developing successful social change strategies. You'll learn how meaning arises in the workings of the human brain, why emotions are absolutely vital for engaging people in a process of persistent change, and what the root causes are that have driven societal institutions to the edge of ecological collapse. Participants will explore the evolutionary origins of morality and discover the psychological foundations of identity that merge values, ideology, and institutions into the powerful stories we collectively live in the modern world.

Techniques will be provided to begin using this knowledge to communicate effectively, increase civic engagement, and design better structures for bringing about large-scale behavioral change. Participants can register for the entire series or individual sessions.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

5) National Environmental Public Health Tracking Conference

Monday through Thursday, September 12 - 15, 2011

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Ritz-Carlton

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The 2011 National Environmental Public Health Tracking Conference, Tracking in Action: Leading the Way to Better Environmental Public Health, will unite the environmental public health community and provide opportunities to discuss and highlight successes of environmental public health and the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, share innovative approaches and reflect on lessons learned along the way, discuss the future of environmental public health, and build partnerships and identify next steps for environmental public health tracking.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CDC, 800-232-4636 or cdcinfo@cdc.gov

6) International Society for Environmental Epidemiology 2011

Tuesday through Friday, September 13 - 16, 2011

Barcelona, Spain

at the Palau de Congressos de Barcelona, Fira de Barcelona, Av. Reina María Cristina

Sponsor: International Society for Environmental Epidemiology

For this conference we have specific themes: Sustainable transport and health: Impact of transport on health and approaches to reduce health impacts; Impact of climate change: from water scarcity to Saharan dust episodes; Early exposure-later life: in utero and early life exposures and effects in later life; and New methods and technologies. We hope that the conference will stimulate discussion and research in these particular areas.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

7) Epi Info™ 7 Webinar Demonstrations

two remaining dates on September 14 and 27, 2011

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Epi Info™ 7, scheduled for release in fall 2011, represents a complete technology overhaul of the Epi Info platform. The Epi Info™ development team invites interested public health professionals who work with epidemiological data to attend one of these upcoming LiveMeeting webinars.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sara Bedrosian, eri7@cdc.gov

8) EPA SMM Web Academy-Green Chemistry 101 in Schools

Thursday September 15, 2011

1:00 2:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

Green Chemistry, also known as sustainable chemistry, is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Green chemistry applies across the life cycle of a chemical product, including its design, manufacture and use. Hear from two leading experts as they discuss the principles of green chemistry and some of the challenges and applications to school chemical clean-outs and K-12 curricula development. Speakers will be Dwight Peavey, PhD, senior scientist from US EPA Region 1, and Kate Anderson, K-12 education director of Beyond Benign.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

9) Building Upon the Science: New Modalities in Supporting the Breastfeeding Dyad

Friday, September 16, 2011

7:50 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kenmore, Washington

at Bastyr University, 14500 Juanita Drive NE

Sponsor: La Leche League of Washington

This seminar covers the latest breastfeeding research and showcases two expert speakers in the fields of lactation and family health care. The information presented will enable health care providers to provide the education and support necessary to facilitate successful and fulfilling breastfeeding experiences for their clients. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: see the [Registration Form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

10) Ninth General Assembly of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

Saturday through Tuesday, September 17 - 20, 2011

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh India

at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre

Sponsor: International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) in conjunction with the LV Prasad Eye Institute

The theme for this assembly is "Eye Health-Everyone's Business." The IAPB General Assembly is a global event for discussion of public health topics related to blindness and visual impairment, highlighting progress in the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, IAPB's global joint initiative with the World Health Organization, for the elimination of blindness. As the theme points out, the 9GA will feature keynote lectures and speakers who will talk on strengthening health systems, thereby offering opportunities to highlight the linkages between VISION 2020's objectives and health care delivery.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: IAPB, 44 207 927 2973 or communications@iapb.org

11) 3rd Alberta-Zhejiang Life Sciences International Forum on Food Safety, Environmental Contamination and Human Health Risk Assessment and Management

Monday through Wednesday, September 19 - 21, 2011

Hangzhou, Zhejiang China

in the World Heritage Site

Sponsor: The Health Bureau of Zhejiang Province, the Science and Technology Department of Zhejiang Province in China and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health and Wellness in Canada

The vision of the forum is healthy people, safe environments, and prosperous economy. The forum provides an opportunity to learn about the fundamental concepts and practice of human health risk assessment and risk management. It will provide an opportunity for the participants to become familiar with the concepts of public health and safety protection, public health policy development and decision making processes, current regulatory frameworks for industrial development and principals of food safety.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dorothy Huang, 403-220-5511 or acft@ucalgary.ca

12) Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers Course

Tuesday September 20, 2011

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, through the National Center for Healthy Housing

National Center for Healthy Housing has created a course for community health workers (CHWs) to teach them how to provide healthy homes information to members of their communities. The Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers course is targeted to individuals who work as health advocates in their communities. This course trains CHWs to provide one-on-one and large-group education on healthy homes, provide general advice about specific healthy homes problems, and be able to recommend healthy homes approaches to be taken by families, landlords and other community members. Price: \$15, or \$25 if this and the "Launching a Healthy Homes Initiative

Course" (September 21st) are taken together

Contact: sanjose@uw.edu

13) TSCA Reform Webinar Series: Hazard, Use, and Exposure Data

Tuesday September 20, 2011

noon - 1:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Environmental Law Institute

This panel will explore reform of TSCA requirements and procedures for developing and reporting data on chemical hazards, use and exposure. Topics will include the scope of EPA authority to require information and data, including on new chemicals such as nanomaterials; testing, including mutual acceptance of data and emerging methodologies; and the role of downstream users of chemicals. To reserve, email by Friday, September 16th. This webinar is open to the public, but callers must rsvp by Friday September 16th, including the caller's name and email address.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: mcmurrin@eli.org

14) Screening for Developmental Neurotoxicity: An In Vitro Approach using High Content Imaging

Tuesday September 20, 2011

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Dr. William Mundy will explain EPA's exciting efforts to speed up testing of possible developmental neurotoxins in a webinar open to the public. EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory scientists are protecting human health through cost-effective methods to test and rank chemicals for their potential to cause developmental neurotoxicity. These new approaches, designed to be rapid and less costly than current rodent models, include high throughput in vitro assays and medium throughput zebrafish embryonic development assays. Historically, scientists studied laboratory animals as surrogates for humans, which was expensive and time-consuming. To date, only a small number of the thousands of chemicals currently in commerce have been assessed for their potential toxicity. Very few chemicals have been tested for effects on the developing nervous system. New testing methods can quickly screen chemicals for effects on the nervous system. EPA is developing in vitro

cultures of rodent and human neurons that recapitulate cell proliferation differentiation, growth, and synapse formation, providing faster, less expensive ways of learning how to improve human health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Joyce Martin, JD, JMartin@aaidd.org

15) Principles of Small and Large Dose Toxicology

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 20 - 21, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

Issaquah, Washington

at the Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Science Center

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course identifies the potential health hazards of toxic chemicals and methods for preventing exposure. Hazards and risks of exposure are evaluated and put into perspective by exploring chemicals encountered in everyday life. You will learn the basic principles of toxicology, tools for assessing the toxicology of chemicals, effects of chemicals on the body, and why some people are more sensitive to chemicals than others. Focus will be given to state-of-the-art research, risk assessment and risk communication. Case studies will be included with ample time for discussion and answers to questions.

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

[Visit the website](#)

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

16) Launching a Healthy Homes Initiative Course

Wednesday September 21, 2011

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, through the National Center for Healthy Housing

This course brings together health and housing professionals from state and local agencies as well as other health and housing organizations. The goal of the training is to identify policies and practices to establish robust programs to make homes healthier. Participants will work with a case study developed for the training to analyze threats to resident health and identify opportunities to reduce those threats through improved and coordinated housing and health services. The course integrates engaging presentations with real world problem-solving exercises to create an engaging and informative session.

Price: \$15, or \$25 if this and the "Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers Course" (September 20th) are taken together

Contact: sanjose@uw.edu

17) Childhood & Adolescent Obesity: A Whole-System, Strategic Approach

Friday September 23, 2011

London, United, ICEH Kingdom

Sponsor: Leeds Metropolitan University and Carnegie Weight Management

This one-day conference will explore the need for a strategic approach to tackling childhood obesity and examine what a good strategy looks like. With the help of a lineup national experts in the field of childhood obesity, we will look at the elements

that are involved in designing a 'best practice' strategy and the practical challenges of how to focus strategic action to produce desired outcomes in a time of great economic pressure.

Price: \$634.06 (USD) including tax for physicians/industries or \$419.96 for allied health/nurses/students until August 15th

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

18) Healthy People, Global Goods -Goods Movement: Public Health Implications for the Mid Atlantic

Friday September 23, 2011

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at the University of Pennsylvania

Sponsor: Clean Air Council

The business of moving consumer goods via trucks, trains and ships is one with a considerable health and environmental impact. Voluntary and mandatory air quality measures have been implemented at goods movement facilities in some parts of the country. While some goods movement facilities in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic have recently implemented some air pollution mitigation strategies, they still lag far behind their West Coast and European counterparts in terms of implementing cost-effective solutions. Moreover, there is a lack of awareness in this region of what goods movement is and how it impacts health and quality of life. Conference topics include the latest research on the connection between goods movement and public health, goods movement industry trends in the Northeast and their implication for nearby low-income neighborhoods, collaboration and capacity-building to develop cost-effective solutions to reduce air pollution from goods movement, and public policy and its implications for goods movement and public health.

Price: \$50

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Kate Zaidan, 215-567-4004, ext. 110 or k zaidan@cleanair.org

19) Green Sprouts Festival

Sunday September 25, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at Peninsula Park

Sponsor: ReDirect Guide

This is a fun, festive and educational one-day event for the whole family that celebrates and promotes the nurturing of life through nature. From pregnancy to childhood, parents can learn about and explore eco-friendly, community-involved, natural, and healthy options to raising their families.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 503-231-4848 or greensprouts@redirectguide.com

20) Promoting Healthy Communities: Developing and Exploring Linkages between Public Health Indicators, Exposure, and Hazard Data

Monday and Tuesday, September 26 - 27, 2011

Washington, DC

at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street, NW

Sponsor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The US Environmental Protection Agency's National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) is sponsoring a meeting on environmental health outcome indicators addressing new and improved environmental public health indicators; linkages between environmental hazards, human exposures and health outcomes; and public health indicators as interventions for public health tracking and risk management. Presenters will include research grant recipients from EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, scientists and researchers from EPA and other federal agencies. The meeting is open to the public, however, early registration is encouraged due to limited space.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Nica Louie, 703-347-8125 or louie.nica@epa.gov

21) Healthy Communities: The Intersection of Community Development and Health

Wednesday September 28, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m., with registration and breakfast at 7:30

Houston, Texas

at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch, 1801 Allen Parkway

Sponsor: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Amid the reforms of the American health care system, a movement to improve health on the community level has been gaining traction. This movement promotes not only access to health care but access to healthier environments and nutritious food. Discover how the community development and health sectors are working together to reduce persistent health inequalities and create healthier communities for all.

Price: \$45

[Visit the website](#)

22) New Frontiers in Environmental Health

Thursday September 29, 2011

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Room T-435

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

Howie Frumkin, MD, DrPH, dean of the UW School of Public Health, will speak as part of the ENV H 580 Environmental Health Seminar. This lecture is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: DEOHS, 206-543-6991 or ehadmin@u.washington.edu

23) The International Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities

Monday through Wednesday, October 3 - 5, 2011

Vancouver, Canada

at Simon Fraser University in Gastown and the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at 580 W. Hastings Street

Sponsor: Walk21

The conference's metropolitan focus involves municipalities in the region, health authorities, Translink, the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, as well as the regional government. Metro Vancouver has teamed together to create an innovative conference focusing on the best practices for urban design, transportation mobility, and health promotion to provide the best places to walk to and through.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: vancouver2011@walk21.com

24) Water and Health: Where Science Meets Policy

Monday through Friday, October 3 - 7, 2011

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

Sponsor: University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment, University of North Carolina Water Institute

Individuals and experts will convene from academia, industry, NGOs, government and foundations to deal with critical concerns relevant to both the developing and developed worlds. Attendees of this year's conference have the opportunity to hear four keynote presentations from renowned experts spanning human rights, water resources, policy, practice, and financing.

Price: early-bird rate is \$395 until August 1, 2011; student rate is \$225

[Visit the website](#)

25) International Symposium on Health Benefits of Foods: From Emerging Science to Innovative Products

Wednesday through Friday, October 5 - 7, 2011

Prague, Czech Republic

at the Hilton Prague Hotel

Sponsor: International Life Sciences Institute

This symposium is the third in the series of ILSI Europe Functional Foods symposia. The previous events were organised in Paris 2001 and Malta 2007, where more than 300 experts took part in discussion on international developments on science and health claims. The overall objective of this event is to review and debate recent advances in substantiation of health benefits of foods, covering establishment but also the communication of innovative nutrition science.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alessandro Chiodini, MSc, 32 2 771 00 14 or ffsympo@ilsieurope.be

News and Journal Articles

[Researcher links economic recession with growing minority health disparities.](#)

Tuesday, September 06, 2011

Health disparities research is a multifaceted area of study, consisting of several key components including basic, clinical, social, and behavioral research, each one conducted with the primary goal of further understanding why health differences exist between various populations. NIEHS Environmental Factor.

[See a related article: [Socioeconomic status and race/ethnicity independently predict health decline among older diabetics](#) and others about environmental justice: [Burning issues: EPA justice conference brings attention to Detroit](#) and [Where you reside can give strong clues on life expectancy](#)]

[NIEHS investigator links UV exposure and aging to cataracts and macular degeneration.](#)

Tuesday, September 06, 2011

In the end, Roberts and her colleagues admit that, while various diseases such as cataracts and macular degeneration may ultimately be inevitable with age, steps can be taken to minimize their effects, if not avoid them altogether. NIEHS Environmental Factor.

[Assessing risk posed by chemicals in mixtures.](#)

Tuesday, September 06, 2011

Rather than anticipating the risk to health and the environment posed by a specific waste outflow, the problem has become one of understanding and managing the risk that multiple, everyday exposures may pose to health. Health & Environment.

[See another article about real and perceived risk: [What you don't know can kill you](#) and one about chemical regulation based on risk: [EU prepares to re-open REACH 'can of worms.'](#)]

[Maternal prenatal urinary phthalate metabolite concentrations and child mental, psychomotor and behavioral development at age three years.](#)

Tuesday, September 06, 2011

Certain prenatal phthalate exposures may decrease child mental and motor development and increase internalizing behaviors. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See other articles about phthalates: [Common plasticizer alters an important memory system in male rat brains](#) and [Moms' plasticizer exposure troubling for baby boys](#)]

[The timing and tempo of puberty affect behavior.](#)

Monday, September 05, 2011

A new study suggests that behavior and mood problems can be predicted by how early or late puberty starts and how fast or slow it progresses, and that this may be governed by different endocrine processes and may influence behavior in different ways. Los Angeles Times, California.

[What does climate change have to do with human health? with John Balbus.](#)

Thursday, September 01, 2011

Climate change is a problem for human health, too, as John Balbus discusses with host Ashley Ahearn. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See other articles about climate: [Warm, wet -- and warring?; Future climate change may increase asthma attacks in children; The impact of heat islands on mortality in Paris during the August 2003 heat wave; Climate change impacts indoor environment and Scorecard rates emission reductions of hybrid vehicles](#)]

[Prenatal exposure to BPA and sexually selected traits in male mice.](#)

Thursday, September 01, 2011

The study assessed whether dietary exposure to BPA in pregnant and nursing deer mice affected spatial navigational abilities in offspring that were exposed to the chemical only through their mother. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article about BPA: [A BPA-free county?](#)]

[Transportation noise and blood pressure in a population-based sample of adults.](#)

Thursday, September 01, 2011

Traffic noise was associated with higher blood pressure only in diabetics, possibly due to low exposure levels. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Just relax! Mom's stress is linked to baby's health.](#)

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Higher amounts of everyday stress during pregnancy can increase the risk of many early childhood diseases and health problems, finds one of the largest studies to date on the link between prenatal environment and health after birth. Environmental Health News.

[See another article about emotions and health: [Study: a happy marriage can boost health and survivability](#)]

[As waters recede, threat of mold rises.](#)

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

As power slowly gets restored to residents after Tropical Storm Irene hit on Sunday, thousands must now deal with flooded basements, bedrooms, and living rooms - and possibly mold. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

High risk of cancers from farm living.

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Growing up on a livestock farm seems to be linked to an increased risk of developing blood cancers as an adult, new research suggests. Dublin Irish Independent, Ireland.

[See other articles about cancer: [New study shows zinc suppresses pancreatic cancer cells](#); [Environmental chemical pollutants -- do they increase risk for breast cancer?](#); [Breast cancer rate climbs up](#); [Hormone pills on list of carcinogens](#); [Study suggests nutritional supplements could one day prevent skin cancer](#); [Breast cancer risk drops when diet includes walnuts](#), [Marshall researchers find](#) and [Study finds higher rate of cancer in 9/11 firefighters](#) (and an opposing interpretation of that study: [WTC studies find no big jump in cancer, deaths](#))]

Utah gives hookah the hook.

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Starting in mid-September, Utah bars and clubs cannot allow patrons to smoke most hookah products indoors. The Utah Department of Health announced Monday that it has amended the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act to ban hookah products that contain tobacco. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

[See other articles about tobacco and smoking: [Exclusive: Smoked out: tobacco giant's war on science](#); [Indonesia fails to convince WTO on U.S. clove-cigarette ban](#); [No progress on nitrosamine levels in U.S. cigarettes](#) and [Decrease in smoking reduces death rates within months](#)]

Role of mercury toxicity in hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and stroke.

Sunday, August 28, 2011

Mercury toxicity should be evaluated in any patient with hypertension, coronary heart disease, cerebral vascular disease, cerebrovascular accident, or other vascular disease. Journal of Clinical Hypertension (Greenwich, Connecticut).

[See other articles about heavy metals: [Metal sources and exposures in the homes of young children living near a mining-impacted Superfund site](#); [Biomarkers of methyl mercury exposure immunotoxicity among fish consumers in Amazonian Brazil](#); [Associations of Toenail arsenic, cadmium, mercury, manganese and lead with blood pressure in the Normative Aging Study](#); [Identification of sources of lead exposure in French children by lead isotope analysis: A cross-sectional study](#); [Associations of early childhood manganese and lead co-exposure with neurodevelopment](#); [Legislature approves tougher penalties for lead in jewelry](#); [Chinese natural health product recalled due to excess mercury: Health Canada](#); [Smelter agrees to cut lead emissions](#); [The association between urinary kidney injury molecule 1 and urinary cadmium in elderly during long-term, low-dose cadmium exposure: a pilot study](#) and [UC grantees' lab-on-a-chip detects toxic heavy metals in humans](#)]

Kids' lack of free play harmful: journal.

Sunday, August 28, 2011

Hovering helicopter parents who restrict their kids' unstructured play may actually harm, rather than help, children according to the latest issue of the American Journal of Play, a scholarly journal which has gathered a distinguished group of experts to probe the near-extinction of free play and its effects on children and society. Health, Medical, and Science Updates.

[See another article about children and lifestyle: ['Most' American children not getting enough vitamin D](#)]

Drug studies in journals intentionally designed to mislead, confuse: UCLA.

Sunday, August 28, 2011

The researchers suggest that commercial sponsors of research may promote the use of outcomes that are most likely to indicate favorable results for their products, Hochman said. Health, Medical, and Science Updates.

The color of controversy.

Sunday, August 28, 2011

The link between food dyes and child hyperactivity is getting renewed attention.

Depending on your point of view, a recent official food advisory panel either affirmed that food dyes were safe, questioned whether they were safe enough or offered a conclusion that somehow merged the two. Science News.

[See other articles about diet and health: [Future heart health 'shaped by diet'](#); [Ingredients of shady origins, posing as supplements](#); [Comparison of fatty acid, cholesterol, and vitamin A and E composition in eggs from hens housed in conventional cage and range production facilities](#); [Chocolate consumption and cardiometabolic disorders: systematic review and meta-analysis](#); [Vitamin C may help children with asthma](#); [Viruses in the human gut show dynamic response to diet](#); [Dietary intervention and DEHP reduction](#); [Dietary intervention and DEHP reduction: Rudel et al. respond](#); [Keep your food safe, be savvy to keep contaminants at bay](#); [Vitamin A pills 'could save thousands of children'](#) and [Listeria outbreak kills two in Colorado](#)]

Moms' smoking linked to psychiatric meds in kids.

Saturday, August 27, 2011

Kids whose moms smoked while pregnant were more likely to end up on medications such as antidepressants, stimulants and drugs for addiction in a new study from Finland that hints at maternal smoking's effect on a baby's developing brain. Reuters.

[See another article about mental health: [Father time: children with older dads at greater risk for mental illness](#)]

Families wanted for study of arsenic.

Saturday, August 27, 2011

University of New Hampshire and Columbia University researchers are looking for families in Elliot and South Berwick to participate in a study examining a potential link between arsenic exposure in children and development of cognitive skills.

Seacoastonline.com.

[See other articles about arsenic: [Exposure to arsenic in drinking water is associated with increased prevalence of diabetes: a cross-sectional study in the Zimapan and Lagunera Regions in Mexico](#); [Sales halted after arsenic found in chicken drug](#) and [Toxic Taps Part 2: Study eyes arsenic-IQ link in local kids](#)]

Air pollution exposure during pregnancy, ultrasound measures of fetal growth, and adverse birth outcomes: a prospective cohort study.

Saturday, August 27, 2011

Results suggest that maternal air pollution exposure is inversely associated with fetal growth during the second and third trimester and with weight at birth. PM10 exposure was positively associated with preterm birth and small size for gestational age at birth. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See other articles about air pollution: [Ambient concentrations and personal exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons \(PAH\) in an urban community with mixed sources of air pollution](#); [Variability of environmental exposure to fine particles, black smoke, and trace elements among a Swedish population](#); [Spatial and seasonal distribution of aerosol chemical components in New York City: \(1\) Incineration, coal combustion, and biomass burning](#); [Coal plant rules set off battle](#); [Spatial and seasonal distribution of aerosol chemical components in New York City: \(2\) Road dust and other tracers of traffic-generated air pollution](#); [Effects of thoracic and fine PM and their components on heart rate and pulmonary function in COPD patients](#); [Prenatal exposure to residential air pollution and infant mental development: modulation by antioxidants and detoxification factors](#); [WikiLeaks reveals China's failure to measure dangerous pollution](#); [Pending regulations to reduce coal pollution](#); [Plants brace for new rules](#); [Indians' lungs unhealthiest, study reveals](#); [Ozone can trigger asthma: Study](#); [Statement by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson on the ozone national ambient air quality standards](#); [Texas regulators hail clean-air surrender](#); [Air-quality researchers tackle health implications of ultra-fine particles](#); [Air pollution more harmful to poor: makes them vulnerable](#); [Long-term exposure to traffic-related air pollution and Type 2 diabetes prevalence in a cross-sectional screening-study in the Netherlands](#); [American Lung Association to file suit against EPA: environmental, health groups feel double-crossed](#) and [Mass. steps up efforts to cut school bus pollution](#)]

[Obesity to worsen, weigh heavily on healthcare costs.](#)

Friday, August 26, 2011

Obesity is most widespread in Britain and the United States among the world's leading economies and if present trends continue, about half of both men and women in the United States will be obese by 2030, health experts warned on Friday. Reuters.

[See other articles about obesity: [Genetics' new frontier: A mother's diet and weight during pregnancy affect baby's genes](#); [Is Audrey Hepburn the key to stopping the obesity epidemic?](#) and [Obese kids have more asthma flare-ups](#)]

[Vaccine-safety report should reassure doctors and parents, experts say.](#)

Friday, August 26, 2011

Vaccines rarely cause serious side effects, health officials say. When problems do arise, they most often occur in people with preexisting immune system disorders. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See related articles: [Vaccine cleared again as autism culprit](#) and [Despite concerns, more U.S. children receiving vaccinations](#)]

[Quinn signs law inspired by Antioch High students.](#)

Friday, August 26, 2011

Gov. Pat Quinn signed a new state law Wednesday creating a prescription drug collection and disposal program utilizing local law enforcement agencies across Illinois as a drop-off site for the incineration of unused drugs. Lake County News-Sun, Illinois.

[Municipal bylaw to reduce cosmetic/non-essential pesticide use on household lawns -- a policy implementation evaluation.](#)

Friday, August 26, 2011

Bylaws or ordinances implemented through education and enforcement are a viable policy option for reducing urban cosmetic pesticide use. Environmental Health.

[See other articles about pesticides: [EPA reaches Title VI civil rights agreement with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation](#); [A prospective study of organochlorines in adipose tissue and risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma](#); [California defied own scientists with pesticide approval](#); [Complaints about crop dusters rising in Indiana](#); [Prostate cancer and ambient pesticide exposure in agriculturally intensive areas in California](#); [Association of hexachlorobenzene \(HCB\), dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane \(DDT\), and dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane \(DDE\) with in vitro fertilization \(IVF\) outcomes](#); [Methyl iodide controversy heats up along with field fumigation: Pajaro Valley growers avoiding new pesticide](#); [USC study tackles pesticide-prostate cancer link](#) and [Methyl iodide's toxic saga continues](#)]

[SEC bears down on fracking.](#)

Friday, August 26, 2011

The Securities and Exchange Commission is asking oil and gas companies to provide it with detailed information--including chemicals used and efforts to minimize environmental impact--about their use of a controversial drilling process used to crack open natural gas trapped in rocks. Wall Street Journal.

[See another article about fossil fuel extraction: [New EPA regulations aim to cut oil, natural gas emissions](#)]

[Call for comments: EPA estimates on toxicity of Libby Asbestos available for public comment and independent scientist review.](#)

Friday, August 26, 2011

Today's Federal Register notice calls for a 60-day public comment period from August 25 to October 24, 2011. A public listening session also is planned on Oct. 6, 2011.

[See articles about other contaminated sites: [Toxic dump near Kettleman City agrees to pay penalties](#); [Impact of Gulf spill's underwater dispersants is examined](#); [EPA seeks public comment on the proposed plan for the SAPP Battery Superfund site in Cottondale, Fla.](#); [EPA to hold public meeting for the Continental Cleaners Site in Miami, FL](#); [EPA finds unsafe levels of toxic vapors in homes](#); [Cleanup jobs & health concerns after oil spill](#); [Superfund site cleanup breaks ground](#); [Pollution scandal brings halt to projects](#); [Gulf oil spill cleanup workers' health claims drawing scrutiny from Kenneth Feinberg](#); [The](#)

[poisoning of the Nanpan River basin; Workers from Ground Zero face multitude of illnesses; EPA forces environmental cleanup at 55 tribal schools in Arizona and Navajo woman helps prompt uranium mine cleanup\]](#)

600,000 are drinking water with deadly chemicals.

Thursday, August 25, 2011

More than half a million people are drinking tap water which contains higher-than-permitted levels of potentially cancer-causing chemicals. Dublin Irish Independent, Ireland.

[See other articles about water quality: [Should Chicagoans filter their drinking water?](#); [Researchers study micropollutants in wastewater](#); [No local fervor for fluoride in water](#); [Ark. panel allows mining firm more water discharge](#); [Death by fashion: is your wardrobe poisoning the world's water supply?](#); [Wells, septic systems and food safety are concerns after Irene](#); [Water scientists issue warning on coal seam gas](#); [Contaminated soil in Seminole Co. spreading toward lake](#); [Factories release toxic waste in drains](#); [United Nations takes issue with water quality in Central Valley](#) and [Toxic Taps Part 2: Study eyes arsenic-IQ link in local kids](#); [A matter of risk: radiation, drinking water and deception](#) and [Private well? Experts urge testing for toxics\]](#)

Canadian Medical Association slams feds' 'shameful' asbestos stance.

Thursday, August 25, 2011

Delegates to the Canadian Medical Association's general assembly voted nearly unanimously in support of a motion Wednesday opposing the federal government for contesting the international designation of chrysotile asbestos as a hazardous substance. Postmedia News.

[See other articles about asbestos: [High court revokes lower court decision on asbestos exposure](#); [NIH-funded researchers discover genetic link to mesothelioma](#); [DIY linked to mesothelioma rise in women](#) and [Cancer surge in WA home renovators\]](#)

The new epicenter of China's discontent.

Thursday, August 25, 2011

Anger over pollution is not new in China. As many as 90,000 "mass incidents" in China were sparked by environmental concerns last year, researchers say. Yet unlike many factories targeted by farmers who've watched crops fail or seen relatives fall ill, the chemical plant near Dalian was not linked to egregious past health hazards. Rather, the fear was for the future. Foreign Policy.

[See another article about pollution in China: [Apple attacked over pollution in China\]](#)

Exercise can substitute effectively as second 'medication' for people with depression.

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Exercise can be as effective as a second medication for as many as half of depressed patients whose condition have not been cured by a single antidepressant medication. ScienceNewsline.

[See other articles about exercise: [Inactivity linked to risk factors for Type 2 diabetes](#) and [Cycling to work can add five years to your life... but only if you pedal hard \(and avoid crashing\)\]](#)

Maquiladora factories manufacture toxic pollutants.

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Since the 1960s, maquiladoras or export assembly plants have been the cornerstone of Mexico's strategy to attract foreign direct investment and boost exports. But the environmental and social costs have been high. Inter Press Service.

[See a related article: [Black sand in the desert\]](#)

Surgeons may be adapting to 'safe' X-ray doses.

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Russo says the results provide the first evidence that "safe" radiation levels can induce profound biochemical and cellular changes -- but it is unclear whether those changes are damaging or beneficial. New Scientist.

[See other articles about radiation: [Japan nuke plant radiation leak exceeds Hiroshima](#); [Japan cuts radiation exposure limits for children](#); [New life in an atomic wasteland](#) and [U.S. still monitoring residual radioactivity on Bikini Atoll isle](#)]

[Scented laundry products emit hazardous chemicals through dryer vents.](#)

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Findings, published online this week in the journal Air Quality, Atmosphere and Health, show that air vented from machines using the top-selling scented liquid laundry detergent and scented dryer sheet contains hazardous chemicals, including two that are classified as carcinogens. EurekAlert!

[See other articles about hazardous consumer products: [Haircare company recalls toxic straightening product](#); [Only 10pc leather products get PCSIR certification](#); [Flame retardants tied to lower birth weights](#); [Inkling of concern: chemicals in tattoo inks face scrutiny](#); [A crawling issue: head lice treatments worse than the pest itself?](#) and [Study: perc remains in dry-cleaned clothes](#)]

[Baylor scientists develop new approaches to predict the environmental safety of chemicals.](#)

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

In the Baylor study, researchers suggest using data from other chemicals, such as what concentrations can cause toxicity in aquatic organisms to predict the toxicity of another chemical that scientists expect causes toxicity in the same way. Baylor News.

[See other articles about research methodology: [European birth cohorts for environmental health research](#) and [Conducting research with tribal communities: sovereignty, ethics and data-sharing issues](#)]

[Conceptual model for assessment of inhalation exposure to manufactured nanoparticles.](#)

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

As workplace air measurements of manufactured nanoparticles are relatively expensive to conduct, models can be helpful for a first tier assessment of exposure. A conceptual model was developed to give a framework for such models. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.

[See other articles about nanoparticles: [Potential for exposure to engineered nanoparticles from nanotechnology-based consumer spray products](#) and [Nickel nanoparticles may contribute to lung cancer](#)]

[Doctors join fight against livestock antibiotics](#)

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

While industry leaders and their PR representatives deny any connection between the use of livestock antibiotics and the outbreaks of resistant strains, a growing number of doctors are taking exception. Environmental News Network.

[See a related article: [Antibiotic use has grown along with obesity. Coincidence?](#)]

Lessons Learned

Beyond Risk Assessment to Precautionary Assessment by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

"We should remember that risk assessment data can be like the captured spy: If you torture it long enough, it will tell you anything you want to know."

- William Ruckelshaus (1st administrator of US EPA) 1984

Risk assessment is an expression of our values and ethical decision making. Classical risk assessment was defined in a 1983 report by the National Research Council as including four basic elements: hazard identification, dose-response assessment, exposure assessment, and, finally, risk characterization. Initial efforts were focused on defining a numeric probability for developing cancer, which evolved into quantitative risk assessment. This approach became highly technical and dominated by experts in risk

assessment. While the initial goals of risk assessment were laudable, it has degenerated into defining how much hazard is tolerable or is necessary in any given situation.

The goal of precautionary assessment (PA) is to move beyond risk assessment and allow communities and individual to incorporate their knowledge, values and ethics into a more comprehensive evaluation of a hazardous condition. The PA combines the philosophy and ethics of the precautionary principle with the standard scientific evaluation of the hazards. Precautionary assessment contains three basic elements: a) community and social issues, b) exposure, and c) hazard and toxicity. Each element is broken down into a series of questions that are scored numerically and summed to produce a summary score for each element. The PA is designed to help place the knowledge available within the context of the community. In contrast to the traditional risk assessment, the PA is a more comprehensive approach to evaluating the human and environmental health risks. Overall, the PA is a more reasonable, rational, and responsible approach to evaluating risk of chemicals.



Precautionary assessment moves beyond classical risk assessment and is in keeping with the concept of epiprecaution. Much of our basic ethical construct and risk assessment has been based around "do no harm" or "minimize harm." But is this simple approach good enough? Recent advances in epigenetics and our understanding of how DNA expression can be modified indicate that subtle changes are possible beyond changing the DNA sequence. We must move beyond just "doing no harm" to "doing good." Precautionary assessment is a tool to implement the ethics of epiprecaution. We have an ethical responsibility and the biological rationale to demand that our children have an environment in which they can reach and maintain their full potential, not just free of exposure to chemicals but an environment that is supportive and nurturing.

Precautionary assessment - Toxipedia: <http://toxipedia.org/x/YjM>

Ethics of Epiprecaution - Toxipedia: <http://toxipedia.org/x/BgFt>

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](#).

Past Lessons Learned: <http://toxipedia.org/x/06Jb>

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 Hepp
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)