



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin January 26, 2011

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning and developmental disabilities and environmental health. They are archived and searchable on LDDI's website: www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/learning/r/bulletins

LDDI Highlights

[Environmental Health Training for Moms.](#)

CHE, in partnership with MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe), is providing a training March 2 - 4, 2011, to teach mothers about environmental health science. The goal is to provide a basic scientific understanding so that mothers can be more confident and active as advocates for a healthier world. This training will address some basic things people can do in their everyday lives to avoid chemical exposure, but will primarily focus on evidence-based science in lay language that you can use for advocacy. Acceptance into the training is based, in part, on a commitment to apply what you learn to social change. The training is free, and travel scholarships may be available.

Announcements

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

[National Ground Water Awareness Week.](#)

Now well into its second decade, Ground Water Awareness Week spotlights one of the world's most important resources -- groundwater. March 6-12, 2011.

[Environmental Public Health Tracking 101.](#)

A new CDC online course, Environmental Public Health Tracking 101, provides an overview of the major components of environmental public health tracking.

[Certificate in Conservation and Environmental Sustainability.](#)

The Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University offers an evening program in which environmental issues are discussed, debated and examined, where participants develop an in-depth understanding of conservation science and practice through case studies and a focus on environmental policy, management and finance.

[New data: Schools ignore children's health: groups urge action by EPA with states.](#)

Advocates today released early results of a nationwide survey of school nurses and urged the EPA to complete congressionally mandated environmental health guidelines for the states to help address school conditions.

[EPA issues guidance for enhanced monitoring of hexavalent chromium in drinking water](#)

The recommendations are in response to emerging scientific evidence that chromium-6 could pose health concerns if consumed over long periods of time.

[See other announcements about water contamination: [EPA halts disposal of mining waste to Appalachian waters at proposed Spruce Mine and Facilities across the southeast ordered to stop discharging and comply with Clean Water Act](#)]

[Call for proposals: Community Action for a Renewed Environment \(CARE\).](#)

CARE is a unique community-based, community-driven, multimedia demonstration program designed to help communities understand and reduce risks due to toxic pollutants and environmental concerns from all sources. The closing date is March 22, 2011.

[Request for proposals: Building Capacity to Reduce Children's Environmental Exposures in Child-Occupied Settings](#)

Under this competition, EPA is accepting proposals from eligible applicants for projects that build capacity to address children's environmental health in underserved, disproportionately impacted low-income communities, including minority or Tribal communities.

[Job opening: South Royalton, Vermont.](#)

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) is pleased to invite eligible candidates to apply for a two-year Clinic Fellow position from June 1, 2011 through June 1, 2013. Applications must be submitted by February 25, 2011.

[Job opening: Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

The Center for Media and Democracy needs a talented writer/reporter/researcher to join their team, with a particular focus on cutting edge environmental, food and agricultural issues.

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

Healthy Building Network has an immediate opening for Data Systems Manager to lead the growth of the Pharos Project's Building Products Library. The application deadline is February 11, 2011.

[Job opening: Missoula, Montana.](#)

Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) seeks a contract fundraising generalist with an excellent track record and experience securing individual gifts and foundation grants for small nonprofits.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>. The calendar now lists deadlines for funding proposals and conference abstracts.

1) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series

Thursday February 3, 2011
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through

these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. The presenters and topics will be listed on the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

2) Environmental Health 2011

Sunday through Wednesday, February 6 - 9, 2011

Salvador, Brazil

Sponsor: Elsevier Science & Technology and the journal *Environmental Research*

This conference will provide an interdisciplinary platform to exchange knowledge and learn about the latest issues in environmental health. Topics include, but are not limited to, climate change and human health, early exposures, resource development, industrial ecology, systems biology, ecosystems economics, impacts of environmental policies on health, environment and health disparities and the burden of disease due to lead. The conference theme is "Resetting Our Priorities."

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

3) 3rd Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference

Friday February 11, 2011

Portland, Oregon

Sponsor: Oregon Environmental Council

The tracks for the 2011 Northwest Environmental Health Conference are 1) Emerging Science & Research: Presentations that address new and innovative research on environmental factors affecting human health; 2) Direct Practice & Real World Applications: Presentations that describe programs that engage, directly affect, and/or are led by members within a community or procedures and protocols that nurses, doctors, and other health care professionals are taking to integrate issues of health, environment and safety into facilities and practices and 3) Policy & Future Directions: Presentations that address federal, state, county, local or organizational policies and initiatives about environmental health issues and concerns. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$60 for professionals, \$75 for professionals with continuing education credits, or \$30 for students

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: nwehc@oeconline.org

4) 2011 Disability Policy Seminar

Monday through Wednesday, February 14 - 16, 2011

Washington, DC

at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street, NW

Sponsor: The Arc of the United States, United Cerebral Palsy, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

The Disability Policy Seminar partners are planning another informative event focusing on

major federal issues that affect the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Price: see the [Registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Annie Acosta, acosta@thedpc.org

5) Advancing the Next Generation of Risk Assessment (NexGen)

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 15 - 16, 2011

Washington, DC

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

In collaboration with federal and state agencies, the US Environmental Protection Agency is beginning a process to better use molecular biology to understand risks posed by environmental exposures. This transformation is driven by several recent and important reports from the National Research Council, and volumes of new test data emerging from the Tox21 and European REACH programs. A new collaborative effort - Advancing the Next Generation of Risk Assessment (NexGen) - will make this transformation a reality over the next decade. NexGen collaborators include the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences/National Toxicology Program, National Human Genome Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and State of California's Environmental Protection Agency. To engage stakeholders in the early stages of the NexGen program, EPA is sponsoring this public conference. This conference presents an opportunity to learn about the exciting new developments in risk assessment, and to provide your comments and suggestions for stakeholder awareness and involvement. You must register online prior to the workshop. No walk-in registration is available

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 703-225-2910 or [EPA NexGen Workshop@icfi.com](mailto:EPA_NexGen_Workshop@icfi.com)

6) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series

Wednesday February 23, 2011

10:00 a.m. - noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

Over the last six years, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC), under funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and in cooperation with the eight Great Lakes states, has awarded research grants dealing with atmospheric toxic pollutants affecting the Great Lakes and their tributary watersheds. Thirty-five research grants have been awarded since 2004 addressing a diverse array of research concerning atmospheric pollutant loadings and movement within the basin and the associated impacts of numerous persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals on wildlife and human health. A substantial amount of new scientific knowledge has been attained through these research activities. The GLAD webinar series is intended to provide a forum for GLAD Principal Investigators (PIs) to disseminate information on their respective research activities, including specific findings, recommended follow-up actions, and potential public policy actions to foster elimination of PBT threats to the region. The presenters and topics will be listed on the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

7) LDA 48th Annual International Conference

Wednesday through Saturday, February 23 - 26, 2011

Jacksonville, Florida

at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

Sponsor: Learning Disabilities Association of America

The program will feature top experts in the fields of education, special education, psychology and policy who will be sharing up-to-date information on timely topics. Thursday's Keynote address will be "The Exquisite Vulnerability of the Developing Human Brain to Toxic Chemicals in the Environment", presented by Philip Landrigan, MD, Msc.

Price: see the [preconference book](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: LDA, 412-341-1515 or [online](#)

News and Journal Articles

[25 free online medical databases to learn about any disease.](#)

Monday, January 24, 2011

If you are looking for reference to diseases, here are 25 free online medical databases. Medicalchemistry.

[Home health inspection: Vital signs](#)

Sunday, January 23, 2011

A home inspection is a place to start, but there are growing concerns about environmental factors -- like radon, mold and lead paint -- beyond the scope of most inspectors. Zanesville Times Recorder, Ohio.

[See other articles about indoor air quality: [Sick Building Syndrome: The killer within](#); [Metra says it will install better air filters on trains](#); [Winter brings fiery killer into Afghan homes](#) and [Invisible and deadly threat may be seeping into your home](#)]

[Personal-care products targeted.](#)

Sunday, January 23, 2011

The David Suzuki Foundation has asked the federal government to explain why certain chemicals that it says are dangerous are allowed in personal-care products like shampoo, lotion, deodorant and makeup. CBC Canada.

[Law requires easy recycling of 'e-waste.'](#)

Sunday, January 23, 2011

A Pennsylvania law that takes effect today is expected to spawn many more drop-off sites for electronic waste-dubbed "e-waste"-and make sure that TV and computer makers who sell those devices in the state adopt plans to recycle as much as they sell. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Pennsylvania.

[See a related article: [Tennessee lacks laws governing toxic waste](#)]

[Dry cleaners line up for green upgrade.](#)

Friday, January 21, 2011

Nearly 300 New Jersey dry cleaners have applied for grant money to upgrade their equipment and reduce the emissions of the carcinogenic solvent perchloroethylene into the air. Bergen County Record, New Jersey.

[Knowns and unknowns on burden of disease due to chemicals: a systematic review.](#)

Friday, January 21, 2011

In total, 4.9 million deaths (8.3% of total) and 86 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) (5.7% of total) were attributable to environmental exposure and management of selected chemicals in 2004. Environmental Health.

[See other articles about exposures and health: [EPA to investigate human health issues](#); [Coexposure to mercury increases immunotoxicity of trichloroethylene](#); [Too much fluoride damages kids' teeth, study shows](#) and [Health concerns raised over nanoparticles](#)]

[National Academy of Sciences to review studies on contamination.](#)

Thursday, January 20, 2011

The National Academy of Sciences will review several reports that suggest environmental contamination at the Army post is not linked to local health problems, Fort Detrick officials announced Wednesday. Frederick News-Post, Maryland.

[See other articles about water quality: [Despite the hassle, residents need to routinely test well water](#) and [As Pennsylvania implements new wastewater rules, some state waterways still face problems](#)]

[Obama orders review of environmental, health and safety regulations.](#)

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Barack Obama ordered a broad review of environmental, health and safety regulations today to try to pre-empt Republican charges that he is leading an anti-business administration. London Guardian, UK.

[See a related article: [Obama may find useless regulations are scarcer than thought](#)]

[Phys ed: Brains and brawn.](#)

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Both endurance and weight training seemed to make the rats smarter. New York Times.

[EPA plans to revisit a touchy topic -- the value of saved lives.](#)

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

At issue is the "value of a statistical life," an accounting technique used across the government to weigh the benefits of life-saving regulations. Whether officials are looking at limits on air pollution, mine safety rules or stricter food inspections, the number that is chosen can influence whether an agency decides that the deaths avoided are worth the cost to businesses, consumers or taxpayers. Greenwire.

[Ottawa to curb chemical additive in toys.](#)

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

The federal government will ban a toxic chemical additive used to make plastic and vinyl soft and flexible in toys and other products for kids and babies. The new regulations will reduce the amount of six different phthalates, which animal studies have shown to cause reproductive and developmental harm. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[See another article about phthalates: [A widely used phthalate not so different from banned cousins, rat study finds](#)]

[Environmental illness on the rise.](#)

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

The facility takes a two-pronged approach to environmental illness. Research into environmental illnesses and patient treatment both take place under the same roof at the Capital Health facility. Halifax News Net.

[Weight loss may send pollutants into bloodstream.](#)

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Weight loss may have an unwanted side effect, according to a new study in the journal Nature: It may send a flood of environmental pollutants into the bloodstream. MSNBC.

[Arsenic sinks to new depths.](#)

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

More than a century of groundwater over-exploitation in Vietnam has drawn the water table down and, with it, arsenic. It may only be a matter of time before the toxic element also permeates deep aquifers in other Asian countries that follow the same practice, such as those around the Bengal Basin. Nature.

[See another article about arsenic: [100m people face health hazards](#)]

[Smoking causes gene damage in minutes.](#)

Sunday, January 16, 2011

Those first few puffs on a cigarette can within minutes cause genetic damage linked to cancer, US scientists said in a study released Saturday. The study is the first on humans to track how substances in tobacco cause DNA damage. Agence France-Presse.

[See other articles about smoking: [Can cigarette ads really lure kids to smoke?](#); [Don't smoke and drive -- it's as toxic as a pub fug for your children, insist doctors](#) and [Kansas smoke free law improving air quality](#)]

Inside the vaccine-autism scare.

Sunday, January 16, 2011

A few years ago, while reporting a story on attention deficit disorder, I asked an affluent young mother why she was spending thousands of dollars on a dubious therapy, rather than on treatment proven to be effective. Washington Post.

Debate about mercury fillings continues.

Sunday, January 16, 2011

Chronic exposure to mercury caused the "hatters" to become confused and demented, that is, to go "mad." Fort Wayne Business Weekly, Indiana.

New doubts cast on safety of common driveway sealant.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

If a company dumped the black goop behind a factory, it would violate all sorts of environmental laws and face an expensive hazardous-waste cleanup. But playgrounds, parking lots and driveways in many communities are coated every spring and summer with coal tar, a toxic byproduct of steelmaking that contains high levels of chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

Appeal filed to halt power plant in western Kansas.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

A court appeal filed Friday challenged the construction of a coal-fired power plant in western Kansas, claiming it would pump dangerous pollutants into the air. Kansas City Star, Missouri.

[See related articles from Georgia: [Courts rescind permits for coal-burning plant](#) and North Carolina: [Permits renewed for Duke power plants](#) and other articles about outdoor air quality: [Permit investigation triggers criticism of DEQ](#); [EPA approves nation's most comprehensive tribal air quality plan](#); [The love affair with the fireplace cools](#); ['Major review' of air-pollution rules to be launched next year](#); [West Africa's toxic problem](#); [Assembly committee rescinds tough anti-smog regulation](#); [Home fires: The world's most lethal pollution](#); [Inland region: Fireplace rule gets dress rehearsal](#) and [Diesel era ends for MTA buses](#)]

Environmental Public Health Week takes place Jan. 17-23.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Environmental Public Health Week, Jan. 17 to 23, recognizes the hard work of certified public health inspectors and environmental health officers across Canada, and the importance of environmental health programs to our health care system.

Bruce Herbert: Getting McDonald's to the table.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Bruce spoke with KUOW's Megan Sukys about how he got McDonald's to the table to review the level of pesticides in their potatoes. KUOW Presents.

[See another article related to pesticides: [Voice from beyond grave warns French farmers of pesticide danger](#)]

Aging: Mediterranean diet as brain food.

Friday, January 14, 2011

The Mediterranean diet -- heavy on vegetables, fish and olive oil, with moderate amounts of wine -- may be associated with slower rates of mental decline in the elderly. New York Times.

[See other articles about nutrition and health: [No Twinkies? Vending machines go organic](#); [USDA calls for dramatic change in school lunches](#); [Dietary restriction early in pregnancy has negative impact on fetal brain development](#) and [New nutrition labels](#)

[coming to the front of food packages\]](#)

[EPA: Study by dump shows chemicals at safe level.](#)

Friday, January 14, 2011

The U.S. E.P.A. said Thursday a new study by the largest toxic waste dump in the West showed its level of cancer-causing chemicals was too low to harm the health of a nearby community where an unusually high number of babies have been born with serious birth defects. Associated Press.

[Toxics found in pregnant U.S. women in UCSF study.](#)

Friday, January 14, 2011

Multiple chemicals, including some banned since the 1970s and others used in items such as nonstick cookware, furniture, processed foods and beauty products, were found in the blood and urine of pregnant U.S. women, according to a UCSF study being released today. San Francisco Chronicle.

[See other articles about parental exposures: [Parental occupational exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals and male genital malformations: A study in the Danish National Birth Cohort study](#) and [Environmental contaminants in breast milk decrease over lactation time](#)]

[Study finds no health risks from SmartMeters.](#)

Thursday, January 13, 2011

An independent report released Tuesday on the health effects of SmartMeters found that the wireless devices, when properly installed and maintained, "result in much smaller levels of radio frequency exposure than many common household electronic devices, particularly cell phones and microwave ovens." San Jose Mercury News, California.

[See other articles about radiation: [Radiation on planes poses little risk to most](#); [Environmental Health Trust calls for warning labels on new cell phones](#); [Calling attention to cell-phone safety](#) and [Cognitive performance measures in bioelectromagnetic research -- critical evaluation and recommendations](#)]

[Future moms can participate in children's health study.](#)

Thursday, January 13, 2011

Over the next two decades, local children will be monitored for health issues in a study seeking to unlock mysteries of childhood disease, according to a doctor at Case Western Reserve University who is overseeing the local effort. Elyria Chronicle-Telegram, Ohio.

[See a related article: [Ramsey County tapped for massive children's health study](#)]

[Group accuses Safeway of selling bags with lead.](#)

Thursday, January 13, 2011

An environmental group based in Oakland says reusable bags sold at Safeway contain lead amounts 15 times above federal limits. ABC News.

[See another article about lead hazards: [County gets \\$2 million to test children for presence of lead paint](#)]

[Salmon farms contaminate wild fish.](#)

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Salmon farms may be contaminating local wild fish but how much depends on the species, finds a new study that raises another concern about the environmental impacts of salmon farming. Environmental Health News.

[See other articles about food contamination: [Dioxin scare: EU threatens to regulate feed industry](#); [Call for tougher food safety rules](#); [s Hidden dangers in the box that held your food](#); [Skinny pigs, poison pork: China battles farm drugs](#) and [B.C. aphrodisiac \[farmed oysters\] contains cadmium](#)]

[Stress, pollution and poverty: a vicious cycle?](#)

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

The EPA has awarded \$7 million in grants to researchers to study the cumulative health impact of pollutants like mercury and lead and social factors like stress and poor nutrition in several low-income communities. New York Times.

[See related articles: [The west side \[of Salt Lake City\]: Where an ill wind blows; Economic insecurity & stress in a capitalist society contribute to epidemic obesity problems; For Milwaukee's children, an early grave](#) and ['Green zones' proposed for pollution-burdened spots in Los Angeles](#)]

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 general children's environmental health: http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins
- 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 LDDI 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 Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)