



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin October 20, 2010

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

LDDI Coordinator Spotlited

LDDI National Coordinator Erika Hagensen is featured in the [Partner Spotlight](#) on CHE's website. In it, Erika answers questions about her work, her interest in environmental health and her inspiration.

AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative Aging, Environmental Health, and IDD Teleconference Series

This fall, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and CHE's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative, along with our distinguished panels of guest speakers, bring you a groundbreaking series of teleconference calls on aging, environmental health and intellectual and developmental disability. The first two calls were a huge success, and you can access recordings and materials on AAIDD's [Teleconference webpage](#). Remaining calls:

"Psychosocial Environment" with Danny George and Peter Whitehouse

Tuesday October 26th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

In this presentation we will explore the intergenerational approach to creating psychosocial learning environments and communities. Human beings, both in our evolution as hunter-gatherers and then in agrarian societies, have existed in communities composed of adults, children, and elders. Not surprisingly, a growing body of research demonstrates the biopsychosocial benefits of intergenerational engagement for persons in their late life stages. However, urbanization and changing demographics in modern societies have served not only to intensify the environmental threats to healthy aging, but have also disrupted possibilities for human connection across the generations. We will review the relationship between psychosocial environments and brain health, but also focus on deeper and broader aspects of brain health including the strong and sustaining sense of purpose and usefulness that human beings manifest in community. We then turn our attention to current international efforts to develop intergenerational programs that support brain health and healthy aging, spotlighting our experiences at The Intergenerational School (TIS), a 10-year old public school in Cleveland, Ohio that provides a shared learning environment for children, young adults, middle-aged adults, and elders. [Register for this call.](#)

"Chemical Environment" with Maye Thompson and Marybeth Palmigiano

Tuesday November 2nd, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Modifiable lifetime environmental factors that influence healthy aging include exposure to toxic chemicals. The US imports or produces approximately 42 billion pounds of chemicals daily. Synthetic chemicals contaminate every ecosystem - air, water, soil and

food - in the world. Virtually all people and wildlife are regularly exposed to a complex mixture of industrial chemicals that did not exist before World War II. Studies of newborns' umbilical cord blood shows they have been exposed to industrial contaminants in the womb. Most industrial chemicals in the workplace and in consumer products have not undergone even basic toxicity screening. Only a few of 200 chemicals known to be neurotoxic to humans have been evaluated for their impacts on the developing brains of children or aging brains of adults. Data that do exist show that exposures to environmental chemicals can increase the risk of many diseases and conditions relevant to an aging population, including neurodegenerative disorders, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and diabetes. In this presentation we will review toxic chemicals and their effect on health throughout the lifespan with a particular emphasis on obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and neurodegeneration including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Additionally we will discuss current state and national efforts to reform chemical policy. [Register for this call.](#)

"Food Environment" with Michelle Gottlieb and Emma Sirois

Tuesday November 9th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Healthy food is a vital component of healthy aging across the lifespan. A growing body of evidence indicates that numerous nutritional factors influence the risk of disease including neurodegeneration. They include saturated and trans fats, omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, refined carbohydrates, antioxidants, and micronutrients. Specific dietary patterns can increase or decrease the risk of neurodegenerative diseases and diseases in the "Western disease cluster" of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome more generally. Trends in agriculture and food production over the past 50 to 100 years - including agriculture heavily dependent on fossil fuels, factory farming, and rapid growth in consumption of fast foods and highly processed foods - have created a nutritional profile that is high in calories, saturated fats, refined carbohydrates, and omega-6 fatty acids and low in omega-3 fatty acids and micronutrients. This dietary pattern stimulates an inflammatory response in many tissues and organs. In this presentation we will review food trends and patterns across time, the benefits of a Mediterranean-type diet, and the benefits of sustainably produced food to individual health as well as the greater community, farmworkers and food security. We will discuss the importance of healthy food in healthcare settings and more. [Register for this call.](#)

The series mirrors the contents of a thematic issue on healthy aging and the environment of the [Public Policy & Aging Report](#) of the Gerontological Society of America's policy institute, the National Academy on an Aging Society. An electronic version of the Summer 2010 issue of this publication will be made available at no cost to all webinar attendees.

Mental Health Working Group Meeting October 25th

This telephone meeting will convene Monday at 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time. If you are not a participant in the working group but would like to participate in this conversation, please contact [CHE](#).

NADD 27th Annual Conference & Exhibit Show for 2010

The conference theme is "Ascending the Summit: Mental Health in Autism & Other Developmental Disorders (ID/MH)." The conference will meet November 3-5, 2010, in Seattle, Washington. For more information, see event #6 below.

Announcements

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

[Portland receives \\$100K EPA grant to improve environmental health for citizens.](#)

With the help of a \$100,000 grant from EPA, the City of Portland will address local environmental issues, including to implement EPA strategies for reducing exposures to local toxic pollutants.

[Duwamish Waterway cleanup options released for public review.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology today released a draft study of cleanup alternatives for the 5-mile-long Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup site. The agencies are seeking public input on a wide range of cleanup options to reduce toxic pollutants in the waterway.

['Pollution Diet' meetings set for Pennsylvania.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency will hold four public meetings in Pennsylvania next week to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) -- a strict "pollution diet" to restore local waters and the Chesapeake Bay.

[Chlorpyrifos data now available on TEDX's Critical Windows of Development.](#)

Chlorpyrifos now joins bisphenol A, phthalates, and dioxin in the timeline, which reveals effects of chlorpyrifos on the central nervous system, thyroid, heart, liver and more, in laboratory animals experiencing prenatal and early postnatal exposure.

[EPA administrator signs memorandum of understanding with China on environmental protection.](#)

Under the MOU, EPA will continue to collaborate with China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) on the prevention and management of air pollution, water pollution, pollution from persistent organic pollutants and other toxics, hazardous and solid waste, and the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental law.

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

The Washington Department of Ecology in Thurston County has an opening for a community outreach and environmental education specialist 3. Applications are due by October 21, 2010.

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) International Actions to Eliminate the World's Most Dangerous Chemicals: Recommendations of International Panel of Experts on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Wednesday October 27, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska and Alaska Community Action

An international panel of experts met in Geneva, Switzerland October 11 - 15, 2010, to review chemicals being considered for a worldwide ban under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The 31 members of the POPs Review Committee (POPRC) will be considering whether endosulfan (an insecticide used in agriculture and already banned in 60 countries), short-chained chlorinated paraffins (used primarily in metalworking, but also as flame retardants, plasticizers and additives in paints) and hexabromocyclododecane (used as a flame retardant in insulation board for construction, electrical and electronic equipment, upholstery fabric, draperies and car interiors) should be banned under the Convention. All three of these dangerous chemicals can be found in the Arctic due to long range transport by wind and ocean currents. International observers representing nongovernmental organizations from around the world are attending the meeting to advocate for meaningful international action to eliminate the production and use of these harmful chemicals. Join us for a discussion with international observers Karl Tupper of Pesticide Action Network North America, Pamela K. Miller of Alaska Community Action on Toxics, and Eva Krueemmel (invited) of Inuit Circumpolar Council to hear the outcomes of the meeting and to find out how you can help ensure that these chemicals are eliminated from worldwide production and use.

Price: free

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or diana@akaction.org

2) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) & Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Wednesday October 27, 2010

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. Stuart Batterman, PhD, will present "BFR emission rates from sources in the Great Lakes basin" and Michelle Homan, PhD, will present "Evaluation of the extent and transport of PAHs in Lake Erie basin."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

3) Phone Seminar - Arlene Blum, Executive Director, Green Science Policy Institute

Wednesday October 27, 2010

3:00 p.m. Eastern / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The Green Science Policy Institute provides unbiased scientific data to government, industry and nongovernmental organizations to facilitate more informed decision making about chemicals used in consumer products. They are currently focusing on reducing the use of organohalogen flame retardants due to their adverse impacts on human and environmental health and the Institute's extensive experience in this area. Dr. Blum is a biophysical chemist, visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Department of Chemistry, and author of *Annapurna: A Woman's Place* and *Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life*. Blum's research contributed to the regulation of two cancer-causing flame retardants used in children's sleepwear in the 1970s and prevented unnecessary flammability standards that would have led to the use of hundreds of millions of pounds of persistent toxic chemicals each year. Dr. Blum was selected by the National Women's History Project as one of 100 "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet," received the Society of Women Geographers' Gold Medal and a top Purpose Prize from Civic Ventures.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities

Wednesday October 27, 2010

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

New Bedford, Massachusetts

at Sgt. William H. Carney Memorial Academy, 247 Elm Street

Sponsor: Technologies of the Future

This talk is part of the series of three talks to help increase interest in and raise public awareness of environmental issues facing the city. The guest speaker will be Dr. David Turcotte, senior program manager and research professor at the Center for Family Work and Community at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: John G. Andrade at 508-993-8500 or obvdc@yahoo.com

5) The Intimate Ecology of Motherhood with Dr. Sandra Steingraber

Thursday October 28, 2010

7:30 p.m.

San Francisco, California

at the Jewish Community Center San Francisco, 3200 California Street

Sponsor: EcoBirth

In her electrifying book, *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, Sandra Steingraber, award-winning writer, mother, and biologist, explores the intimate ecology of motherhood. Both a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation of fetal toxicology, *Having Faith* reveals the extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each stage of infant development. In the eyes of an ecologist, the mother's body is the first environment for life. An enthusiastic and sought-after public speaker, Steingraber has keynoted conferences on human health and the environment. She is recognized for her ability to serve as a two-way translator between scientists and the common culture. Steingraber will be joined with a panel of local experts from the environmental, birthing and academic communities.

Price: \$18

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 415-292-1200 or info@jccsf.org

6) NADD 27th Annual Conference & Exhibit Show for 2010

Wednesday through Friday, November 3 - 5, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Sponsor: National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

Presentation categories include 1) Presentation/Skill Building Workshop, 2) Research Symposium and 3) Poster Session. Presentations are invited in a variety of topics, including environmental health.

Price: see the [Brochure](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Ed Seliger, eseliger@thenadd.org

7) Stakeholder Meeting Concerning EPA's Long-Term Revisions to the Regulation of Lead and Copper in Drinking Water

Thursday November 4, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and virtual

at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has convened a regulatory workgroup to

evaluate potential long-term revisions to EPA's regulations for the control of lead and copper in drinking water. This set of regulations is known as the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). EPA is holding a stakeholder meeting to provide information to the public and an opportunity for the public to provide input on potential revisions to the LCR under consideration by the Agency. Discussion topics may include but are not limited to lead service-line replacement, actions that could be taken at schools and monitoring procedures and sample site selection. Teleconferencing will be available for individuals unable to attend the meeting in person.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jerry Ellis, 202-564-2766 or ellis.jerry@epa.gov

8) Pesticides and Child Health: A Review of the Evidence

Thursday November 4, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Room T-625

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

The speaker will be Catherine Karr, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

9) International Congress on Environmental Health

Thursday through Saturday, November 4 - 6, 2010

Coimbra, Portugal

at the College of Health Technologies of Coimbra

Sponsor: Department of Environmental Health, College of Health Technologies of Coimbra, College of Health Technologies of Lisbon, College of Health Technologies of Oporto, College of Health of Beja

The International Congress on Environmental Health offers an opportunity for all those involved in environmental health to present their work, share expertise and promote partnerships at a nationwide context, thus providing a current snapshot of this interdisciplinary field.

Price: see the [Registration information page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

10) 138th Annual APHA Meeting & Exposition

Saturday through Wednesday, November 6 - 10, 2010

Denver, Colorado

at the Colorado Convention Center

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

The conference theme is "Social Justice: A Public Health Imperative." The social circumstances in which we are born, live, and work, play a greater role in longevity and overall health in the United States than genes, health insurance and access to health services. Annual Meeting sessions will explore why certain populations bear a disproportionate burden of disease and mortality and what the public health community can do to better address the causes of these inequities.

Price: see the [Registration Fees page](#)
[Visit the website](#)

Contact: APHA, 202-777-APHA

11) CHE Partnertship Call: Fracking: Implications for Human and Environmental Health

Tuesday November 9, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

After decades of declining US natural-gas production, a new and powerful drilling technique that fractures rock with high-pressure fluid is opening up vast shale-gas deposits in Texas, Colorado and now many parts of the Northeast. Hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" injects tons of toxic chemicals into the ground in order to break up shale beds rich in natural gas. Researchers, health and environment experts, and community groups have expressed strong concerns about these chemicals' contributing significantly to air and water pollution. The shale gas reserves, however, are seen by a number of companies, states and landowners as an enticing economic opportunity that could reap billions while lowering residential heating bills. The Environmental Protection Agency began public hearings last March to investigate the issue, and a number of citizen protests have recently been held in regions where fracking is already being undertaken or proposed. This CHE Partner call will feature four leading researchers in different fields of expertise to discuss the potential human and environmental health implications of fracking.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, 360-331-7904 or info@healthandenvironment.org

12) CHE Science Café Call: Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States: A Conversation with Author Steve Lerner

Monday November 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Low-income Americans and people of color who live immediately adjacent to heavy industry and military bases are subjected to higher levels of pollution than more affluent citizens and suffer disproportionately severe health effects. Through studies of twelve communities across the US, *Sacrifice Zones* (MIT Press / September 2010), a new book by Steve Lerner, describes the plague of environmentally induced diseases endured by people who live nearby heavy industry and shows how these communities are rising up to take action against the polluters. The book is based on hundreds of interviews of residents of communities on the fenceline with heavy industry. Lerner lets the victims of environmental injustice speak in their own words and describe in detail what they experience and how they are organizing to improve their quality of life and protect themselves.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

13) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Integrated Monitoring

Wednesday November 17, 2010

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. James Pagano, PhD, will present "PBT Monitoring in Lake Ontario Basin" and Thomas Holsen, PhD, will present "Development and evaluation of passive samplers for PBT monitoring."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

14) Health Effects of Chemicals on Humans

Wednesday November 17, 2010

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

New Bedford, Massachusetts

at Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School, 286 South Second Street

Sponsor: Technologies of the Future

This talk is part of the series of three talks to help increase interest in and raise public awareness of environmental issues facing the city. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Mitchell, specializing in epidemiology, public and environmental health and president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: John G. Andrade at 508-993-8500 or obvdc@yahoo.com

15) CHE-WA meeting: Environmental Health in the Media: Developing Effective Messages and Getting Better Coverage of Your Issues

Thursday November 18, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

in the conference room at the American Lung Association of Washington, 2625 Third Avenue

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington

Come meet with media expert Sian Wu of Seattle's Resource Media to hear her talk about their work to increase the profile of key environmental health campaigns. Bring questions about how to better communicate your own environmental health work to the public and decisionmakers. Please also bring good ideas and any new tools/innovations you are using to communicate across internet social networks or in-community outreach. We'll leave plenty of open time for group discussion and to generate practical ideas to better communicate the links between human health and the environment across our region and nationally. This meeting is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

[Feds should ban 'dirty dozen' chemicals: report.](#)

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Looking primped and polished can be hazardous to your health, according to a new report by the David Suzuki Foundation that's calling on the government to do more to keep a "dirty dozen" toxic chemicals out of personal care products sold in Canada. Postmedia News.

[See other articles about chemical exposures: [Trying to understand our chemical exposure](#) and [Deadly chemical reactions](#)]

[Living with fear: A chip fab's health scare.](#)

Monday, October 18, 2010

The semiconductor industry often bills itself as one of the cleanest manufacturing sectors in the world. But the fears of residents in a small village in New Mexico offer a cautionary tale about how living in the shadow of a chip fab can put a real health scare into a community. Albany Times Union, New York.

[Three decades of environmental activism.](#)

Monday, October 18, 2010

Three decades ago, Diane Takvorian branched out from her work helping the poor into the then-nascent environmental movement. Since then, her work has prompted landmark reforms, from shutting down a chrome-plating business next to Barrio Logan homes to banning lead-laced candy statewide. San Diego Union-Tribune, California.

[Special report: The problem with phthalates.](#)

Monday, October 18, 2010

A report published last week by a consortium of 140 environment groups shows that potentially risky chemicals are present in dozens of everyday plastic items for sale by European retailers -- from shoes to erasers, from pencil cases to sex toys. Reuters.

[See other articles about phthalates: [Flooring, wallpaper emit toxic chemicals, group says in urging regulation](#); [Cosmetics carry cancer agent](#) and [Phthalate exposure through medication](#)]

[EPA faulted for not disclosing coal ash's recycling risks.](#)

Saturday, October 16, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general reported this week that the EPA had improperly used an official website to promote ways of recycling the waste that's left over when power plants burn coal, commonly known as coal ash. McClatchy Newspapers.

[Right food effectively protects against risk for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cognitive decline, study finds.](#)

Saturday, October 16, 2010

For the first time, researchers in Sweden have found out what effect multiple, rather than just single, foods with anti-inflammatory effects have on healthy individuals. Science Daily.

[Walking may preserve brain size and memory in later life.](#)

Friday, October 15, 2010

A new US study found that walking six to nine miles a week may preserve brain size and consequently stop memory deteriorating in later life. Medical News Today.

[Debunking the detection limit myth.](#)

Friday, October 15, 2010

Critics of environmental regulations often argue that as analytical methods become more precise, policymakers push for tougher regulations. A new report concludes that this criticism, known as the "vanishing zero effect," is a myth-at least when it comes to U.S. drinking water regulations. Chemical & Engineering News.

[Synthetic chemicals pose growing threat to global water supply.](#)

Friday, October 15, 2010

Synthetic chemicals that damage the human reproductive system are creeping into the

world's water supply. Scientists say the chemicals, once waterborne, can quickly spread throughout the globe. Deutsche Welle, Germany.

[See other articles about water contamination: [The assessment of population exposure to chlorination by-products: a study on the influence of the water distribution system](#); [Estimation of incidence and social cost of colon cancer due to nitrate in drinking water in the EU: a tentative cost-benefit assessment](#); [Nitrates in drinking water and methemoglobin levels in pregnancy: a longitudinal study](#); [State water quality board wants to cut back on inspections](#) and [Coal ash in water worries officials](#)]

Green movement prying loose details about cleansers.

Friday, October 15, 2010

And now, amid pressure from environmental, health and consumer groups, makers of household cleaning agents are beginning to reveal more about the chemicals in their products, in some cases hoping to head off requirements for greater disclosure. MSNBC.

[See a related article: [Coming clean about household cleaners](#)]

Warning over 'harmful' food supplement.

Friday, October 15, 2010

FIFE'S environmental health officers are warning the public not to take the food supplement Miracle Mineral Solution as it could cause severe sickness and dehydration. Dunferline Press.

[See another article about a suspected dangerous treatment: [FDA warns about \[chelator\] treatments for autism, heart disease](#)]

'Smart' meters 'are not a threat.'

Thursday, October 14, 2010

The "smart" electricity meters that are being installed by Central Maine Power Co. don't pose a health threat because they operate within a similar frequency and power range as the wireless routers that people use for home computers, according to initial findings by Maine's public health director. Portland Press-Herald, Maine.

[See related articles: [Wireless worrisome: professor](#); [Critics voice concerns about new electrical meters](#) and [16:9 The bigger picture](#)]

Canada declares BPA, a chemical in plastics, to be toxic.

Thursday, October 14, 2010

The government of Canada formally declared bisphenol A -- a chemical widely used to create clear, hard plastics, as well as food can liners -- to be a toxic substance on Wednesday. BPA has been shown to disrupt the hormone systems of animals and is under review in the U.S. and Europe. New York Times.

[See other articles about BPA: [Recipe for high BPA exposure: Canned vegetables, cigarettes and a cashier job](#); [BEP delays vote on proposed BPA ban extension](#); [Plastic chemical may heighten breast cancer risk](#); [Variability and predictors of urinary bisphenol A concentrations during pregnancy](#) and [Bisphenol A exposure in Mexico City and risk of prematurity: a pilot nested case control study](#)]

Formaldehyde levels disputed in Brazilian Blowout warning.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Health Canada's recent warning that hair stylists should stop offering the 90-minute Brazilian Blowout treatment, claiming the product contains 12 per cent formaldehyde, confirmed what veteran hair stylists feared almost from the moment the treatments took off in Canada almost two years ago. Toronto Star, Ontario.

Australia joins other countries in banning endosulfan.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

A federal government agency has banned pesticides that use the toxic chemical endosulfan, reversing earlier rulings that said it was safe if used correctly. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[See other articles about pesticides: [EPA plans national bed bug summit](#) and [Locust plague pesticide \[fenitrothion and fipronil\] 'risky to humans'](#)]

Poverty forces Roma people to scavenge toxic e-waste.

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Roma communities in France, currently the subject of a controversial crackdown by the Sarkozy administration, are being forced to scavenge growing volumes of potentially dangerous e-waste in a bid to escape poverty, an Ecologist investigation has revealed. Ecologist.

Canada's oily sands yield energy and protests.

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Enormous quantities of fresh water and natural gas are required to process the bitumen from the Canadian oil sands. Extraction has felled large tracts of boreal forest and created huge toxic tailing ponds. Crude from oil sands releases 10 to 30 percent more greenhouse gases than conventional crude. New York Times.

A toxic legacy: Eastern Europe dotted with disasters in waiting.

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Abandoned mines in Romania leech heavy-metal contaminated waters into rivers. A Hungarian chemical plant produces more than 100 000 tons of environmental toxins a year. Soil in eastern Slovakia is contaminated with cancer-producing PCBs. Associated Press.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [Rialto: Superfund cleanup plan issued](#); [North Jersey Superfund cleanups plagued by errors, cutbacks](#); [Superfund sites grow as money dwindles](#); [Toxic danger: hazardous materials dumped in the United States](#); [Hungary toxic sludge spill an 'ecological catastrophe' says government](#); [Pollution by chemical substances declines in 2009](#); [Toxic sludge spill could happen elsewhere, campaigners warn](#); [Russian company-town choking on environmental hazards](#); [Once-toxic stretch of Elizabeth River teeming again](#); [DEC aims to clean up solvents](#); [Crisis with chromium is public health hazard](#); [Expert: Waste flowed to McCullom Lake](#); [Five thousand roses to clean soil in polluted Macedonian city](#); [Kalamazoo River monitoring expected through at least 2015: Ecosystem recovering has long way to go after oil spill](#); [Warning of disaster at toxic waste dump](#); [EPA's "environmental justice" tour comes to California](#); [Waste remains at Wayne site despite years of prodding](#); [Fund for S.C. dry-cleaning sites short on revenue and State sends radioactive waste west](#)]

Supreme Court to consider vaccine case.

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

The Supreme Court's review of the no-fault system for vaccines could have an effect on hundreds of lawsuits over childhood vaccines and autism. New York Times.

[See other articles about vaccines: [Survey: Most U.S. docs getting flu shots](#), [Why fear of vaccination is spelling disaster in the developing world](#) and [Swine flu jab linked to rare nerve disease](#)]

Autism linked to jaundice in babies.

Monday, October 11, 2010

Infants born with jaundice are at much greater risk of developing autism, a study published on Monday showed. Agence France-Press.

Environmental groups launch children's health initiative.

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Utah environmental and public health agencies on Saturday launched a children's environmental health and justice initiative that will focus on several neighborhoods in central and west Salt Lake City that were selected because of the presence of several environmental risk factors. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

Clearville residents blame reduced property values on natural gas project.

Sunday, October 10, 2010

People say they and their families and animals have been poisoned with water and air pollution as well as bombarded with noise, traffic and a loss of power over their properties. Altoona Mirror, Pennsylvania.

[See related articles: [Two hundred people filled the hall](#); [Philadelphia City Council passes](#)

[resolution supporting three-year statewide moratorium on new gas drilling permits and Hundreds fight wells by homes, schools in South Fayette\]](#)

Cancer-linked epigenetic effects of smoking found.

Monday, October 11, 2010

For the first time, UK scientists have reported direct evidence that taking up smoking results in epigenetic changes associated with the development of cancer. Science Daily. [See other articles about cigarettes: [Tobacco companies accused of promoting cigarette brands online](#) and [Anti-smoking campaign hits home](#)]

Cadmium risk in 'Shrek' glasses' is detailed.

Friday, October 08, 2010

Consumers were originally told the recalled McDonald's Shrek glasses were being recalled out of an abundance of caution. But regulatory records show that government scientists had concluded that a 6-year-old could be exposed to hazardous levels of the carcinogen after touching one of the glasses eight times in a day. Chicago Tribune, Illinois. [See another article about cadmium in children's products: [Kids' jewelry shows high levels of toxic metal cadmium: Health Canada documents](#)]

Prenatal arsenic exposure quintuples infant death risk.

Friday, October 08, 2010

Babies born to mothers with high levels of arsenic exposure are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than infants whose mothers had the least exposure to the toxic mineral, new research shows. Reuters Health. [See a related article: [Arsenic-associated oxidative stress, inflammation, and immune disruption in human placenta and cord blood](#)]

Where children live influences stress hormones, and perhaps, disease.

Thursday, October 07, 2010

Children -- especially African Americans -- who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods have consistently low levels of the stress hormone cortisol, according to a study that examined children in Alabama. Environmental Health News. [See related articles: [Stress, war can affect fetal development](#) and [Where we live can determine how long we live](#)]

With new evidence on the dangers of mobile phones, we examine the worrying risks you're NOT being told about.

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

With mobile phone use soaring, especially among the young, Dr Davis says we could face a 'global public health catastrophe' in as little as three years if the problem is ignored. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom. [See a related article: [Disguised cellular phone towers sprout up across N.J.](#)]

Aid groups say lead poisoning has killed 400 children in Nigeria.

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

As many as 400 children have died of lead poisoning-related illnesses in Nigeria since March, two international aid groups say, and as many as 30,000 people could be affected by lead contamination. CNN. [See another article about lead poisoning: [Children the worst victims of lead poisoning: Child lead poisoning at an all time low; Group: High lead levels in kids' items at Wal-Mart, Target; Coalition works to raise public awareness about lead poisoning and Health Dept. offering free lead toy testing](#)]

Air pollution alters immune function, worsens asthma symptoms.

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

Exposure to dirty air is linked to decreased function of a gene that appears to increase the severity of asthma in children, according to a joint study by researchers at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley. RedOrbit. [See other articles about air quality: [MfD: D8 motorway responsible for locals' shortened](#)

[life expectancy; Maternal exposure to ambient levels of benzene and neural tube defects among offspring, Texas, 1999-2004; The myth of unhealthy cabin air exposed; Killer Moscow is still healthier than most of Russia; Ports delay adoption of updated environmental plan; Hong Kong air killing more than SARS puts pressure on Tsang; Move us or move the quarries, say residents; Study: No allergy spike from Katrina mold; Burning rule hangs in the air; Plane exhaust kills more people than plane crashes; Estimating the benefits of reducing hazardous air pollutants: Summary of 2009 workshop and future considerations; Free radon test kits available for one week only; Vapor intrusion's silent threat; Cheaper, tougher smog checks promise to reduce pollution, supporters say; As elections loom, EPA takes bipartisan flak on pollution rules and industries heat up over boiler rules\]](#)

[Population-based inorganic mercury biomonitoring and the identification of skin care products as a source of exposure in New York City.](#)

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

Population-based biomonitoring identified a previously unrecognized source of exposure to inorganic mercury among NYC residents. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Prenatal organochlorine compound exposure, rapid weight gain and overweight in infancy.](#)

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

This study found prenatal DDE exposure to be associated with rapid weight gain in the first six months and elevated BMI later in infancy, among infants of normal weight mothers. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article about exposures and infant health: [Genetic, biochemical and environmental factors associated with pregnancy outcomes in newborns from the Czech Republic](#)]

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

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