



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin October 21, 2009

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:

<http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

LDDI Highlights

LDDI Website Move and Update

LDDI is moving its full website to the CHE site:

www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/learning. The site is being updated and reorganized to better present LDDI's activities and resources, as well as to more effectively highlight LDDI partners and their work. As we continue to fine tune these new web pages, look for more additions in the coming weeks as materials and information are moved to the new site. This would be a good time to update your bookmarks or links to the LDDI site to point to the new pages.

TSCA Reform

Federal work on revising the Toxic Substances Control Act is continuous and has been a priority for LDDI. For more information on the national activities surrounding this extensive work, please contact Joyce Martin at AAIDD: jmartin@aaidd.org or Maureen Swanson with LDA.

Announcements

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

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

[EPA and MDEQ seek comment on proposed Dow Chemical Agreement: public meeting Nov. 5.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality said today that they are seeking comments from the public on a proposed agreement with the Dow Chemical Co. The agreement outlines the next steps in a comprehensive Superfund evaluation of dioxin contamination in the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River and Bay and their floodplains.

[Wipe out lead poisoning.](#)

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 18-24, is set aside to educate parents and children about the dangers of lead exposure, especially lead-based paint hazards in housing. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[See related news articles: [Brown County Lead Coalition wants parents to be aware of dangers](#), [Lead poisoning can impact a child's development](#) and [15,000 people to move away from lead poisoning threat in central China](#)]

[New EPA information on insect repellents.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched a new web page containing product information on certain skin-applied insect repellents. EPA's goal is to provide the public with information on registered insect repellents and their effectiveness claims in a clear, consistent, and user-friendly format.

[EPA to weigh public comment on Indiana's new wastewater permit for U.S. Steel Gary Works.](#)

EPA is withholding final judgment on the new draft permit until Indiana Department of Environmental Management's 45-day comment period, including a Nov. 18 public hearing, is completed and all comments considered. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA administrator announces plan to retool and reinvigorate clean water enforcement program.](#)

The Clean Water Action Enforcement Plan is a first step in revamping the compliance and enforcement program. It seeks to improve the protection of our nation's water quality, raise the bar in federal and state performance and enhance public transparency. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[New website: Find Water Polluters Near You.](#)

The New York Times has compiled data on more than 200,000 facilities that have permits to discharge pollutants and collected responses from states regarding compliance.

[The future of U.S. chemicals policy conference videos.](#)

Videos of the "Future of U.S. Chemicals Policy conference are now available for viewing online.

[EPA publishes voluntary guidelines for methamphetamine laboratory cleanup.](#)

EPA has issued a document providing state and local governments technical guidance for methamphetamine lab cleanups.

[New video: Don't Mess With Mercury.](#)

As part of Children's Health month, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry today launched its "Don't Mess with Mercury" video in an effort to protect children from the dangers of mercury.

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

The Chelan-Douglas Health District has an opening for an environmental health specialist to conduct routine public health inspections, review facility designs for code compliance and more. The position will stay open until filled.

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

The Washington State Department of Health has an opening for an asthma projects coordinator within the Community and Family Health Division. The opportunity closes on October 28, 2009.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) 2009 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference

Thursday October 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wheaton, Illinois

at the DuPage County Administration Building, Building #421, 111 North County Farm Road

Sponsor: Illinois Department of Public Health

This conference is held to assist environmental professionals, renovation contractors, and home property managers in identifying home health risks and improving maintenance and remodeling practices while maintaining a healthy home environment for occupants. Sessions will focus primarily on exposure to lead and home toxicants that may cause short- and long-term health effects as a result of these exposures. This conference will cover the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vicky Ritz, [217-785-4475](tel:217-785-4475) or vicky.ritz@illinois.gov

2) 2009 NECON Conference

Friday October 23, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Marlborough, Massachusetts

at the Royal Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: New England Coalition for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NECON)

In 1986, the New England Governors' Conference charged NECON to interact with the states' chief health officers and other health policymakers and to submit recommendations periodically for the improvement of the health status of the region. NECON responds to that charge through annual conferences and interactive working groups that continually address the prevention and control of chronic diseases.

Price: \$55

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NECON, [401-272-5522](tel:401-272-5522) or info@neconinfo.org

3) 2009 National Environmental Public Health Conference

Monday through Wednesday, October 26 - 28, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street NE

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health, US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Environmental Health Association, US Department of Health and Human Services

With a theme of "Healthy People in a Healthy Environment", the conference seeks to promote the nation's environmental-health capacity by enhancing the expertise of environmental-health professionals - including public health and health-care professionals, academic researchers, representatives from communities and organizations, as well as advocacy and business groups with a primary interest in environmental public health. The conference aims to develop and encourage innovative strategies for addressing existing and emerging issues in addition to being a forum for CDC/ATSDR and its many partners to share research, scientific and program information focusing on environmental public-health priorities.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [678-261-7002](tel:678-261-7002) or d_cook@team-psa.com

4) ISES 2009 Annual Conference

Sunday through Thursday, November 1 - 5, 2009

Minneapolis, Minnesota

at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center

Sponsor: International Society of Exposure Science

The ISES 2009 Annual Conference will bring together scientists from a wide range of disciplines to share current research activities and to identify critical needs for exposure science in the 21st century. The goal of ISES is to foster and advance the science of exposure analysis related to environmental contaminants, both for human populations

and ecosystems.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: ises09@gmail.com

5) 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish

Monday through Thursday, November 2 - 5, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Avenue

Sponsor: US EPA and co-hosted by the Oregon Department of Human Services

This event brings together public health and environmental professionals from governmental agencies, industry, environmental and health advocacy groups and other interested parties to discuss the many issues related to the risks and benefits of fish consumption.

Price: see the Registration tab on the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the Contacts tab on the website

6) Biological Monitoring of Exposures to Organophosphorus Pesticides: Challenges and Opportunities

Thursday November 5, 2009

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

Christopher D. Simpson, PhD, MSc, associate professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sarah Fischer fischs@u.washington.edu

7) Toxic Environmental Threats to Children's Development: What We Know and What We Can Do

Saturday November 14, 2009

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

Boston, Massachusetts

at Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, 221 Rivermoor Street

Sponsor: the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, the Boston Institute for the Development of Infants and Parents (BIDIP) and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society

Emerging scientific evidence alerts us to the ways that environmental toxins affect children's brains, bodies and behavior. As family members and as professionals, it is critical that we understand the role that these substances play in children's development, and understand what we can do to minimize these risks. This conference will present cutting-edge research on the effects of toxins - such as lead, food additives, and endocrine disruptors found in plastics, cans and other sources - on intellectual, emotional and physical development. We will hear about practical approaches, programs and

interventions that have successfully reduced exposure to these chemicals, including programs targeting families living in urban housing. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss how to apply the information learned at the conference in their own practices, communities and family lives. Speakers include Philip Landrigan, MD; David Bellinger, PhD; Bernard Weiss, PhD; Megan Sandel, MD; and Barbara Brenner, DrPH.

Price: \$135 for 6 CE credits, \$155 for 6 CME credits, or \$67.50 for 6 CE/CME credits for graduate students, unemployed or retired professionals

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: MSPP, [617-244-1682](tel:617-244-1682) or ce@mspp.edu

8) EMBL Workshop on Translating Behaviour: Bridging Clinical and Animal Model Research

Saturday through Monday, November 14 - 16, 2009
Heidelberg, Germany

Sponsor: European Molecular Biology Laboratory

The goal of this workshop is to bring together behavioral neuroscientists working on animal models with clinical researchers studying human behavior. The main question to be addressed by the workshop is how animal models can best be used to discover treatments for behavioral disorders, including mental illness. The workshop will try to cover a range of commonly studied behaviors relevant to human disease, including anxiety, impulsivity and aggression, but also more controversial topics such as depression, schizophrenia, autism and attachment.

Price: 375 EUR, 325 EUR for students

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

9) World Congress on Disabilities Conference and Expo

Thursday and Friday, November 19 - 20, 2009
Jacksonville, Florida
at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center

Sponsor: World Congress on Disabilities

The conference will present issues facing the disability community from experts. Some presentations address nutritional and other environmental contributors to disabilities, especially autism spectrum disorders. See the full list of sessions on the website.

Price: \$150 until October 16th, \$175 from October 17th to November 15th, or \$195 after that

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: WCD, [201-722-9233](tel:201-722-9233) or info@wcdexpo.com

10) New Habits of Mind for New Solutions

Friday November 20, 2009
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Seattle, Washington
at NWETC Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This eight-hour class is about systems thinking, systems in the natural world, and ways to increase our ability to address complex problems. Our class will give you the competence and confidence to start using systems thinking in your organizations and

communities to better understand complex problems - whether you find them in the natural environment or in social systems. Participants will learn what makes a system a system, and why systems thinking is so useful and so necessary in our world. We'll share our understanding of the ways and habits of systems thinking, as well as how to apply these habits. We'll learn about some systems thinking tools, such as causal loops and behavior over time graphs, and how to identify feedback loops. We'll use the "iceberg model" to deepen our understanding of leverage points for change. At the end, we'll put it all together - applications and practice. Learning will occur through hands-on activities such as small group conversations, large group dialogue, individual reflection, system thinking games, viewing personal stories through a new lens, and the collaborative exploration of complex problems. Both instructors' intense interest in the natural world has been enriched through the study and application of systems thinking.

Price: \$195, \$155 reduced tuition for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, [206-762-1976](tel:206-762-1976)

11) Making Healthy Babies, Raising Healthy Children: Living Well in a Toxic World

Saturday November 21, 2009

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

Berkeley, California

at the UC Berkeley Art Museum Theatre, 2625 Durant Avenue

Sponsor: Sage Femme, Ryder Foundation, Midwifery Today, Autism Recovery Consortium

The 2009 CIA World Factbook ranks the USA 45th among nations for infant mortality -- the worst among all industrialized countries. The autism rate in our country is now 1 in 100. How can we understand and take appropriate steps to ensure healthy mothers, births and children? Take a unique look at the entire system that affects our future generations. This symposium brings together scientists, doctors, researchers and professionals for a compelling conversation about environmental influences around birth and childhood. It features plenary speakers, panels, audience questions and film clips. Revolutionary new software will also be introduced that will help parents assess the risks our children may encounter from the environment before birth, at birth and during childhood. Our three-part program will make clearer to attendees what they should know about environmental health, their world, and how it affects them and their children.

Price: \$60 until October 31st, \$75 after that; a student discount is available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

News and Journal Articles

[City awarded \\$105 million in Exxon Mobil lawsuit.](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

A federal jury found Exxon Mobil liable for contaminating groundwater in New York City and awarded the city \$104.7 million in compensatory damages. Although the city didn't get as much money as they wanted, lawyers called the decision a "total victory." New York Times.

[How safe is your drinking water?](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

An estimated one in 10 Americans have been exposed to drinking water that contains dangerous chemicals or fails to meet a federal health benchmark in other ways. We're talking carcinogens in the tap water of major American cities and unsafe chemicals in drinking water wells. Fresh Air, NPR.

[See related articles: [Atrazine in our water](#), [An assessment of exposure to prescribed estrogens in drinking water](#), [Senate Committee holds hearing for Lejeune water](#)

[contamination, Pollution an enduring legacy at old missile sites, Boxer plans hearing on toxic school drinking water, GRU won't remove fluoride: commission will vote and Contaminated wells threaten 2 million people in Ha Noi\]](#)

Landfill sites may be used to dump radioactive waste.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The government is poised to allow nuclear power generators to use ordinary landfill sites for dumping "hundreds of thousands of tons" of waste in an attempt to reduce the £73bn cost of decommissioning old reactors. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

Risky beauty business.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

A group of advocates are concerned the chemicals used in manicures, and especially acrylic nails, are affecting the health of nail salon workers. American Public Media.

Mercury levels similar in autistic, normal kids.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Children with autism have mercury levels similar to those of other kids, suggesting the mysterious disorder is caused by a range of factors rather than "a single smoking gun," researchers said on Monday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Why are preemies more likely to develop autism?](#)]

Michigan limits mercury emissions from coal-fired plants, requires 90 percent cutback by 2015.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Michigan's coal-fired power plants will be required to make drastic cuts in mercury emissions under regulations announced Monday. Associated Press.

[See a related article from New Jersey: [Environmentalists announce campaign against power plant](#)]

Fossil fuels' hidden cost is in billions, study says.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Burning fossil fuels costs the United States about \$120 billion a year in health costs, mostly because of thousands of premature deaths from air pollution, the National Academy of Sciences reported in a study issued Monday. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Air pollution worse on one side of the street](#), [State targets school bus emissions](#), [New York enacts ban on open waste burning](#), [Study finds danger in the air around Tonawanda Coke](#), ['We have so far to go' in pollution fight -- EPA air chief](#), [Air pollutants from abroad a growing concern, says new report](#), [Canada quietly asks EPA to weaken anti-pollution measures](#), [Haifa kids at highest risk from pollution](#)]

Is your new car making you sick?

Monday, October 19, 2009

It used to be that buying a new car was a totally positive experience. That was until somebody started testing the interiors for toxins. That new-car smell is the factory-fresh, high-tech materials in the seats and on the dash undergoing off-gassing. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

Controversy heats up as cities look to incinerators.

Monday, October 19, 2009

Waste-to-energy is being touted as a green technology that can produce energy, help with global warming, reduce waste and generate revenue. But a growing body of evidence suggests the hidden costs of incinerators outweigh the benefits. Canwest News Service.

Center for Excellence in Children's Environmental Health launches.

Sunday, October 18, 2009

The Center provides consultations, referrals and medical management to children diagnosed with diseases that are possibly linked to toxins in the environment and to children who have been exposed to toxic substances. Long Island Press, New York.

A new shade of hospital green.

Sunday, October 18, 2009

The hospital has nurtured an atmosphere that supports green initiatives -- everything from setting up recycling bins in patient areas to figuring out ways to prevent its pharmaceutical waste from ending up in landfills. Burlington Free Press, Vermont

[EPA investigation into Atlanta lead smelter.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

An investigation by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to open an investigation of the site, also known as Metalico-Evans, said EPA spokeswoman Dawn Harris-Young. Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Georgia.

[See a related article about another smelter: [Frisco officials fight plans to expand lead smelter](#)]

[Green Intelligence: Creating Environments That Protect Human Health.](#)

Sunday, October 18, 2009

One of the most significant lessons to be learned from books such as this one is how one country's actions impact significantly the rest of the world. Washington Times.

[Pesticide endosulfan considered for global ban.](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Endosulfan is under consideration for inclusion on the list of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the 166-member Stockholm Convention -- a treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals. Reuters.

[Green spaces 'improve health.'](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

There is more evidence that living near a 'green space' has health benefits. Research in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health says the impact is particularly noticeable in reducing rates of mental ill health. BBC.

[See a related article: [Quiet green spaces needed to reduce stress in cities, study says](#)]

[Deforestation and the true cost of Europe's cheap meat.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

Cheap meat has become a way of life in much of Europe, but the full price is being paid across Latin America as vast soya plantations and their attendant chemicals lead to poisonings and violence. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[Radiation overdoses point up dangers of CT scans.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

At a time when Americans receive far more diagnostic radiation than ever before, the cases underscore the risks posed by a diagnostic tool when used incorrectly. New York Times.

[See a related article: [CT scans and cancer: How to minimize your risk](#)]

[Giving babies Tylenol may blunt vaccines' effects.](#)

Friday, October 16, 2009

Giving babies Tylenol to prevent fever when they get childhood vaccinations may backfire and make the shots a little less effective, surprising new research suggests. Associated Press.

[Is nanotechnology regulatable? Reporting from the Nano Summit.](#)

Thursday, October 15, 2009

On October 8-9, roughly 150 invited guests -- graduate students, researchers, government officials, and consultants -- gathered in North Carolina to discuss priorities and provide recommendations to businesses and policy makers to ensure the safe development of nanotechnology. Institute for Ethics & Emerging Technologies.

[See related articles: [Tiny technology may yield major finds -- and possible perils](#) and [Nanotechnology: sci-fi fears vs. a world of innovation](#)]

[\\$2.5M verdict over birth defects blamed on Paxil.](#)

Thursday, October 15, 2009

The closely watched verdict handed down Tuesday in Philadelphia was the first of about 600 similar cases pending across the country that blame Paxil for heart problems and other birth defects. Associated Press.

[Blinded by the light.](#)

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

In every corner of the globe tonight, our nighttime sky shines brighter than it did less than 10 years ago with potentially serious consequences to humans, animals and ecosystem. Miller-McCune.

[Melting glaciers bring 1980s pollution revival.](#)

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Bad hair and shoulder pads are not the only things from the 1980s that we'd rather not see again. Nasty chemicals banned in that decade are also on the list. Unfortunately, melting Alpine glaciers are generating a revival of toxic organic pollutants. New Scientist.

[Toxic chemicals found in Maine health workers.](#)

Friday, October 09, 2009

Doctors and nurses in 10 states, including Maine, tested positive for at least 24 different toxic chemicals in their blood and other body fluids in a study released Thursday by the national organization Physicians for Social Responsibility. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

[See a related article: [Study: Toxic chemicals endangering health](#)]

[Arsenic in rice: a recipe for nutrient loss.](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Exposure to arsenic, a class 1 carcinogen for which there is no safe dose, affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Food could be a significant source of arsenic. In some regions, high arsenic levels may be depressing the micronutrients people need to stay healthy and fight disease. Environmental Science & Technology.

[Concerned about BPA: Check your receipts.](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Some -- but not all -- cash-register and credit-card receipts can be rich sources of exposure to BPA, a hormone-mimicking pollutant. Green chemist John Warner claims that receipts are the biggest BPA exposure source for people in urban environments. Science News.

[See a related article: [Scientists chastise government for drawing out BPA study](#)]

[Endocrine disruptors in our food?](#)

Thursday, October 08, 2009

The Cascade network of excellence is studying the ability of certain of these molecules present in our food to disrupt our hormonal system. Research.eu. Brussels, Belgium.

[Common air pollutants react and make more pollution.](#)

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

Common air pollutants can react with one another to form highly reactive and toxic chlorine gasses, reports a study published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Environmental Health News.

[Regulators plan to study risks of atrazine.](#)

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

New studies linking atrazine in drinking water with birth defects, low birth weights and reproductive problems in humans have prompted the EPA to study its effects. New York Times.

Most of the news articles above come from

[Environmental Health News](#). ;

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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