



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin October 6, 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

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:

1) "Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging" with Ted Schettler and Maria Valenti

Tuesday October 12th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

The report Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging, provides compelling evidence that environmental factors play a major role in the overwhelming majority of cases of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, even in people who are genetically predisposed. The report explains how diet, exercise, exposure to toxic chemicals, and socioeconomic stress across the lifespan can change biological pathways to influence the risk of these and other chronic diseases including diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease - themselves risk factors for neurodegeneration. Fortunately, there is much that we can do to avoid those health problems and greatly improve the odds for delaying or even preventing disease onset - as a society, as individuals, and as family members. [Register for this call.](#)

2) "Built Environment" with Kathy Sykes, Rodney Harrell and Regina Gray

Tuesday October 19th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Can changes to the built environment improve health and well-being for older adults and persons of all ages? Can those changes also mitigate climate change and lead to greater sustainability. The presentation will explore the answers to those questions. It will examine threats to healthy aging in communities that include the physical and natural environments in which people live, work, study and recreate. We will look at air pollution, extreme heat events related to the built environment, drinking water contaminants, and conditions exacerbated by a poor or dangerous built environment including isolation and lack of physical activity etc. We will discuss strategies for interventions by government, the private sector and citizens including planning and design of "healthy" housing in advantageous locations such as near services and transit, building "Complete Streets" and connective street and transit networks, and fostering a healthier environment by reducing environmental health hazards, supporting environmental justice, and encouraging physical activity. [Register for this call.](#)

Other calls in the series:

3) "Psychosocial Environment" with Danny George and Peter Whitehouse
Tuesday October 26th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

4) "Chemical Environment" with Maye Thompson and Marybeth Palmigiano
Tuesday November 2nd, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

5) "Food Environment" with Michelle Gottlieb and Emma Sirois
Tuesday November 9th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

For more information, please visit AAIDD's [Teleconference webpage](#).

New Members

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Lauren Clyde, Petaluma, California
- Phanimohan Krishna, Chennai, India
- Jo Miller, Sartell, Minnesota
- Irene Solnik, MS, Bay City, Texas

Announcements

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

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

New Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative.

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment has launched a new initiative on Healthy Aging and the Environment to build on the seminal work instigated by the *Healthy Aging* report and continue to develop a set of "ecological" approaches to healthy aging.

New program: Eco-Healthy Child Care.

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) today launches its national Eco-Healthy Child Care program (EHCC), which encourages healthier child-care settings by training child-care providers to protect children and staff from harmful chemical exposures -- from bisphenol-A in plastic food containers, PVC in toys, and formaldehyde in commonly used furniture to lead and mercury -- with free or low-cost alternatives that are easy to implement.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 24-30, 2010.

CDC and HHS share the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States and have developed a NLPPW Campaign Toolkit to encourage information-sharing, collaboration, and promotion of NLPPW and lead poisoning prevention in general.

New online resource: Take Back Your Meds.

This site raises awareness about the importance of safe disposal of leftover and expired medicines to protect our kids, families and environment. It explains how to properly dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines, provides info about temporary take-back locations that are working in 11 Washington counties, and explains why Washington State needs a statewide medicine take-back program.

[See a related announcement: [EPA urges citizens to clear out medicine cabinets for drug take-back events](#)]

EPA observes Children's Health Month/President proclaims Oct. 4 as Children Health Day.

As President Obama proclaims today as Children Health Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with its partners to expand the conversation on what all of us can do to protect children from environmental health hazards.

EPA will propose rule to protect waterways by reducing mercury from dental offices.

EPA expects to propose a rule next year and finalize it in 2012. Dental offices will be able

to use existing technology to meet the proposed requirements.

[See a related announcement: [EPA proposes to cut mercury emissions from sewage sludge incinerators](#)]

[New report: Coal Ash: The Toxic Threat to Our Health and Environment.](#)

Many people are still not aware of how toxic coal ash is, much less how much coal ash is generated each year and how grossly mismanaged its disposal is.

[Call for abstracts: 3rd Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference.](#)

The Northwest Environmental Health Conference Planning Team is accepting abstracts for presentations at our 3rd Annual Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon, February 11, 2011. Submissions are due Friday November 12, 2010.

[Call for proposals: Pesticide Incident Surveillance Program \(PSP\).](#)

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is soliciting applications from state or local government public health authorities to support state pesticide incident surveillance efforts. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov on or before 5:00 PM Eastern time on November 4, 2010.

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

The United Nations Foundation is seeking an executive director to develop and lead a new Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. The Alliance seeks to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

[Job opening: Lowell, Massachusetts.](#)

The University of Massachusetts Lowell Toxics Use Reduction (TUR) Program is seeking a manager to develop and deliver, and coordinate the development and delivery, of courses and workshops for toxics use reduction planners. The application deadline is September 30, 2010.

[Job opening: Australia.](#)

This environmental health officer position is part of a team of public health practitioners and integrated service teams who plan, develop, implement and evaluate environmental health promotion, protection and enforcement programs and activities to protect the public from physical, chemical, biological and radiological agents in the environment which may adversely impact on human health. This is a targeted position for aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people to apply. Applications are due October 22nd.

[Job opening: North Carolina](#)

Toxic Free NC is North Carolina's only organization working to put people before pesticides, by advocating for common-sense alternatives that protect our health and environment. As part of their expansion of mission and programs, they have created a new assistant director position that will begin on or around December 1, 2010. The application deadline is October 15th.

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) Revealing Socioeconomic Factors That Influence Your Health

Thursday October 7, 2010

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Saint Paul, Minnesota

at the Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Parkway North

Sponsor: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation and Twin Cities Compass

Be among the first to learn about key findings from a new report, *The distribution of unequal health in the Twin Cities*, prepared by Wilder Research, commissioned by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. Learn about links between health outcomes and income, education, neighborhood conditions, and race in the Twin Cities. Then stay for a provocative panel discussion about ways to reduce health inequities including policy changes that can make the Twin Cities healthier for everyone.

Price: free, but preregistration is requested

[Visit the website](#)

2) Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging, with Ted Schettler and Maria Valenti

Tuesday October 12, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

The report *Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging* provides compelling evidence that environmental factors play a major role in the overwhelming majority of cases of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, even in people who are genetically predisposed. The report explains how diet, exercise, exposure to toxic chemicals, and socioeconomic stress across the lifespan can change biological pathways to influence the risk of these and other chronic diseases including diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease - themselves risk factors for neurodegeneration. Fortunately, there is much that we can do to avoid those health problems and greatly improve the odds for delaying or even preventing disease onset - as a society, as individuals, and as family members.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

3) First Regional Health Sciences and Nursing Conference 2010

Tuesday through Thursday, October 12 - 14, 2010

Shah Allam, Selangor Malaysia

at the SACC Convention Centre

Sponsor: Universiti Teknologi MARA

The conference is designed to address health problems and issues related to environmental health, medical imaging, medical technology, nursing, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, optometry and physiotherapy. Other related fields are also welcomed.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: +603-3258 4494/4326/4382/4362 or frhsnc2010@gmail.com

4) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series: Great Lakes Mercury Research Synthesis

Wednesday October 13, 2010

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. David Evers, PhD, will present "Great Lakes mercury research synthesis" and Kevin Crist, PhD, will present "Mercury fate, transport, depositional patterns, and major source characterization in the Great Lakes region."

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

5) Are Vaccines Safe and Effective? An Educational Opportunity for Parents and Practitioners

Wednesday October 13, 2010

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

New York, New York

at the Philip Coltoff Center, 219 Sullivan Street

Sponsor: Lawrence B. Palevsky, MD, FAAP

In this workshop, you will hear discussions on vaccine science: 1) What is current vaccine science and who is funding it and doing it? 2) How do vaccines work, and have they done, and do they do what we're told they do? 3) What role do vaccine ingredients play when injected into infants and children? 4) What do the ingredients do to our children once they're injected? 5) Do vaccines contribute to the development of chronic illnesses in children? 6) How do our children get into school if they're not vaccinated? 7) How does the immune system work in babies and children? Attendees will hear some of the answers to these questions, along with the research that questions whether vaccines are safe and effective, and whether the scientific process is even at work to prove the answers to these questions. Attendees will also be asked to look at the issues that drive us to make the decisions we make, many of which come to us through fear, bullying, uncertainty and a lack of knowledge, and to perhaps think alternatively about how illnesses occur and disappear.

Price: \$35 per ticket or \$60 per couple from the same household

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

6) Built Environment, with Kathy Sykes, Rodney Harrell and Regina Gray

Tuesday October 19, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

Can changes to the built environment improve health and well-being for older adults and persons of all ages? Can those changes also mitigate climate change and lead to greater sustainability? The presentation will explore the answers to those questions. It will examine threats to healthy aging in communities that include the physical and natural environments in which people live, work, study and recreate. We will look at air pollution, extreme heat events related to the built environment, drinking water contaminants, and conditions exacerbated by a poor or dangerous built environment including isolation and lack of physical activity, etc. We will discuss strategies for interventions by government, the private sector and citizens including planning and design of "healthy" housing in advantageous locations such as near services and transit, building "Complete Streets" and connective street and transit networks, and fostering a healthier environment by reducing environmental health hazards, supporting

environmental justice, and encouraging physical activity.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

7) CDC Healthy Homes Meeting

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 19 - 20, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Westin Atlanta Perimeter North

Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The goal of the meeting is to build on knowledge gained from our childhood lead poisoning prevention activities to enhance healthy homes program planning and facilitate dialogue around healthy homes initiatives. The agenda will be posted on the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

8) Psychosocial Environment, with Danny George and Peter Whitehouse

Tuesday October 26, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

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.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

9) 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

10) 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

11) Chemical Environment, with Maye Thompson and Marybeth Palmigiano

Tuesday November 2, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative and Healthy Aging Initiative

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.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

12) NADD Annual 27th 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: unknown

Contact: Ed Seliger, eseliger@thenadd.org

13) 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](#)

News and Journal Articles

[American children facing new public health crisis: Obama.](#)

Tuesday, October 05, 2010

"On Child Health Day, we reaffirm the critical importance of the quality health care, nutritious foods, clean air and water, and safe communities our kids need to grow into strong and active adults," [President Obama] said. Press Trust of India, India.

[See other articles about children's environmental health: [Developmental milestones in children's environmental health](#); [AAP publishes oil protection guidelines for children](#) and [New Calif. law limits toxic cadmium in jewelry](#)]

[Ensuring safe, healthy living.](#)

Tuesday, October 05, 2010

Environmental health is a field that integrates diverse scientific disciplines to study the hazardous agents in the environment, with the aim of assessing, preventing, controlling and overcoming their adverse impacts on the well-being of present and future generations. Sun2Surf.

[Nail salons urged to cut chemicals.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

The City is putting pressure on San Francisco's 200 nail salons to discontinue use of products containing three toxins to protect the industry's estimated 1,800 workers, along with customers. San Francisco Examiner, California.

[See another article about toxic chemicals in cosmetics: [Abercrombie & Fitch: Stop spraying toxic fragrance!](#)]

[Autism coal link study stalled by government.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

A researcher who has found strong evidence that autism is caused by mercury poisoning has been refused access to data that could point to emissions from coal-fired power stations. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[Green chemistry digs in on pollution.](#)

Monday, October 04, 2010

Supporters of green chemistry are no longer satisfied with reducing the amounts of toxins and pollutants in water, air and soil one at a time. They also want to look at how people's health is affected by where they live and work, what they eat, drink and breathe, and how they feel. Raleigh News & Observer, North Carolina.

[See a related article: [Sustainable R&D](#)]

[Vietnam could become toxic waste dump to the world, officials warn.](#)

Saturday, October 02, 2010

Vietnam will become the dumping ground to the world if authorities fail to stop the illegal importation of toxic waste, officials said. A raft of garbage schemes were busted up recently, mostly in major port cities of Hai Phong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City. VietNam Net.

[See a related article from Ghana: [Polluters warned against damage to environment](#)]

[Detecting low-level impurities.](#)

Saturday, October 02, 2010

Since 2007, guidelines from the European Medicines Agency and the US FDA have called on the drug industry to reduce DNA-reactive genotoxic impurities in pharmaceuticals. But the result has been a paradigm shift in pharmaceutical impurity profiling and control, one observer reports. Chemical & Engineering News.

[New study finds frac'ing chemicals hazardous.](#)

Saturday, October 02, 2010

A total of 944 chemicals used to extract natural gas, some of which are said to cause serious health problems for humans, have been identified in a recent study. The industry maintains that there is no scientific evidence, but critics assert that's because industry has squelched research. Glenwood Springs Post Independent, Colorado.

[The exposome: A powerful approach for evaluating environmental exposures and their influences on human disease.](#)

Friday, October 01, 2010

To succeed in identifying the combined effects of genetic and environmental factors on chronic diseases, scientists need 21st-century tools to characterize exposures of human populations. Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions.

[See related articles: [Regulation of cellular genotoxic response](#) and [Growing knowledge: Using stem cells to study developmental neurotoxicity](#)]

[Study links C8, changes in puberty age.](#)

Friday, October 01, 2010

Teenagers who were exposed to DuPont Co.'s C8 [also called PFOA] pollution experienced a four- to six-month delay in puberty, according to a new study that adds to the growing concerns about potential health effects of chemicals that have been widely used in nonstick and stain-resistant products. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[See related articles: [Accumulation and clearance of PFOA in current and former residents of an exposed community](#) and [Private drinking water wells as a source of exposure to PFOA in communities surrounding a fluoropolymer production facility](#)]

[Dietary iodine: Why are so many mothers not getting enough?](#)

Friday, October 01, 2010

The task now is to understand why so many women are deficient in iodine -- and what it will take to make sure pregnant women get enough. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article about thyroid function: [Disruption of thyroid hormone receptor-mediated transcription and thyroid hormone-induced purkinje cell dendrite arborization by polybrominated diphenylethers](#)]

[Doctors urged to minimize CT scans in children.](#)

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Because CT scans and other tests that use X-ray technology expose the body to often large doses of radiation, their unnecessary, repeated and excessive use may increase cancer risk, especially in children. Johns Hopkins Medicine.

[See a related article: [California tightens oversight of CT scans](#)]

[Grappling with the 'gray zone', Feds focus on nano workers' health.](#)

Thursday, September 30, 2010

How do you protect someone from something they can't see? That's the trick for researchers trying to ensure that workers in the growing business of nanotechnology aren't threatened by their livelihood. New Haven Independent, Connecticut.

[See a related article: [New approaches needed to gauge safety of nanotech-based pesticides](#)]

[Grow your own vegetables, city dwellers, but do mind the lead.](#)

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Those baby lettuces growing in the downtown community garden are lovely, but are they safe to eat? Research by a geochemist at Indiana University has found that soil in abandoned urban lots in industrial cities like Baltimore, Brooklyn, Detroit and Indianapolis is sometimes contaminated with lead. National Public Radio.

[See other articles about soil contamination: [Soil tests needed to lower risk of lead poisoning, says expert](#) and [Fear, tainted trust at Westlawn](#)]

[A flu jab too close for comfort.](#)

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Sharron Coppin was flabbergasted to discover some of the federal Department of Health and Ageing's top immunisation advisers have links with the drug company that created the vaccine that landed her kids in hospital. The flu shots, provided free by West Australian health authorities, had never been tested in children through clinical trials. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See another article about vaccinations in general: [Database to raise alarm on vaccines](#)]

[Secondhand smoke affecting nation's youth.](#)

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Sitting in a smoking cafe serving narguileh is as bad for your health as sitting in Beirut's famous Salim Slam Tunnel during rush-hour, new findings have shown. Beirut Daily Star, Lebanon.

[See another article about smoking and health: [Russia eyes cigarette ad ban, public smoking curbs](#)]

[Fluoridation is still a hard sell in Mass.](#)

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Massachusetts, the birthplace of public health, has long led the nation in disease-fighting crusades, vaccinating children at high rates and crafting antismoking campaigns exported around the world. But it ranks 36th when it comes to providing residents with fluoridated water. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

[There's no cure for Alzheimer's, but you can fight it -- doctor.](#)

Monday, September 27, 2010

A guest speaker at the third annual Symposium on Aging Care in Fredericton said that reducing risk factors could play a crucial role in preventing Alzheimer's disease. Daily Gleaner.

[Strong law to put an end to plastic pollution urged.](#)

Monday, September 27, 2010

Environmental health and justice advocates on Monday asked senators to enact a law to bring the reckless use and disposal of plastic bags under control. Inquirer.net.

BPA: Studies suggest it should be avoided.

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical used to make plastic and epoxy resins, among other things, that have been both common and useful in our day-to-day life for more than 50 years. The problem is that it may be toxic, especially to fetuses, infants and young children. Fort Wayne Business Weekly, Indiana.

[See other articles about BPA: [Something's in the air: BPA found around the world](#); [EU watchdog says no need to cut cap on BPA in food](#) and [The dangers of a food chemical: new evidence against BPA](#)]

First SVHCs added to REACH authorisation list.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

A committee of member states has voted to add the first six substances of very high concern (SVHCs) to an authorisation list under the REACH chemicals regulation. ENDS Europe.

[See a related article from the US: [Investors warn Congress: Obsolete federal chemicals policy threatens business recovery](#)]

Food watchdog asks who's minding the store.

Friday, September 24, 2010

The amount of imported food on Canadian dinner plates is growing, but the federal agency responsible for inspecting it relies to a large extent on inspectors in other countries to ensure safety. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See other articles about food and health: [6 genetically modified foods that changed the world](#); [Told to eat its vegetables, America orders fries](#); [Seeing red over additives](#); [Food safety under microscope amid contaminated meat crisis](#); [Neurobehavioral effects of artificial food dyes, with Bernard Weiss](#); [Children, males and blacks are at increased risk for food allergies](#); [Survey finds harmful bacteria, chemicals rife in popular foods](#); [National Organic Week](#) and [Agency warns farmers over use of chemicals](#)]

White House meeting yields 'environmental justice' pledges from agencies.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

During a meeting at the White House Wednesday, the heads of U.S. EPA, and the Departments of Interior, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development agreed to update their environmental justice plans by next fall and to restart a long-dormant panel that was created to address that issue. Greenwire.

[See related articles: ['Sacrifice Zones' predominantly poor, minority](#) and [Yellow dirt](#)]

How the first nine months shape the rest of your life.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

The nutrition you received in the womb; the pollutants, drugs and infections you were exposed to during gestation; your mother's health and state of mind while she was pregnant with you -- all these factors shaped you as a baby and continue to affect you to this day. Time Magazine.

[See a related article: [Permeable boundaries: How mothers' meds affect a fetus](#)]

Dry cleaners and greenwashing.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

New York City doesn't lack for dry cleaners, but many customers these days want their clothes not only clean but processed with environmentally sound practices. A bill pending in the City Council may help consumers identify environmentally responsible dry cleaners, but some say it's enough. New York Times.

UN investigates Nigeria lead poisoning deaths.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

The UN has sent an emergency environmental team to Nigeria to investigate the deaths of more than 200 children this year from lead poisoning. BBC.

[See another article about lead exposure: [Mood rings and necklaces recalled because of high lead levels](#); [Hemoglobin, lead exposure, and intelligence quotient: Effect modification by the dopamine receptor D2 Taq IA polymorphism](#); [Toxins in city garbage](#)]

[killing children; Exposure to lead can shorten lifespan; Soil tests needed to lower risk of lead poisoning, says expert; Paint, petrol raise lead alarm for city children: Mark Taylor; Evaluating and regulating lead in synthetic turf; Brain imaging measures effects of lead on development; Lead tainted product found at Calif. stores; Exide exposes neighborhood to illegal levels of lead in air and Homes top threat, health officials say\]](#)

Toxic overflow Part 1.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

The contamination of many First Nations by unregulated landfills and dumps is a dirty story that has yet to be fully told. Aside from the mess you can see -- and smell -- the risk of groundwater pollution is probably the most severe environmental impact from these waste sites. Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

[See other articles about water contamination: [Sandusky's coal tar reaches bay](#); [ATSDR panel discusses water modeling](#); [Lejeune water contamination](#); ['Action plan' targets Columbia River pollution](#); [ATSDR officials detail findings from Superfund study](#); [Boulder, Xcel testing downtown groundwater for toxic chemicals](#); [Attica pollution lawsuit gains class action status](#); [Power plants' effects targeted](#); [Dry-cleaning chemical in downtown Boulder groundwater 460 times state limit](#); [Nuclear spill could contaminate Canadian waters for centuries, environmentalists argue](#); [Cameron calls for Alberta oilsands to be developed properly](#); [Excessive rains may cause problems with private wells, drinking water supplies](#); [U.S. oil spill waters contain carcinogens: report](#); [Ukraine drives toxic wastes to Britain](#); [Feds look into water woes](#); [Illegal sewage overflows common](#); [Following protest, EPA board upholds finding that mountaintop removal threatens environmental health](#); [Gratnot weighing drinking water options, El Toro's most toxic 200 acres](#); [Cities key source of toxics in bay, study finds](#) and [Colo. county planners reject nuclear-waste loading facility\]](#)

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.

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