



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin December 15, 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's Research and Science Teleconference Series January 11th

Frances Solomon, PhD, will provide an overview of persistent organic pollutants that are endocrine disruptor chemicals (EDCs). The webinar will begin with a description of the sources, properties, and mechanism of action of EDCs and exposure pathways. We will then focus on the impacts of specific EDCs and mixtures of EDCs, primarily on humans, with some examples drawn from the aquatic environment, e.g., impacts on brain development, reproductive health, carbohydrate metabolism and body weight, and links between EDCs and certain types of cancer in humans. The webinar will conclude with a discussion of regulatory reform and individual actions that can be taken to reduce exposure to EDCs. For more information, see event #4 below.

[Environmental Health Training for Moms.](#)

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment, in partnership with MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe), is providing a training March 2 - 4, 2011, to teach mothers about environmental health science. The goal is to provide a basic scientific understanding so that mothers can be more confident and active as advocates for a healthier world. This training will address some basic things people can do in their everyday lives to avoid chemical exposure, but will primarily focus on evidence-based science in lay language that you can use for advocacy. Acceptance into the training is based, in part, on a commitment to apply what you learn to social change. The training is free, and travel scholarships may be available. Priority consideration given to applications received by January 15, 2011.

Announcements

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

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

[EPA seeks public comment on Integrated Cleanup Initiative Implementation Plan.](#)

Sites covered under the cleanup programs include Superfund, federal facilities, brownfields, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act corrective action, and underground storage tank.

[New website: Include Me!](#)

This site has information and ideas on how to include Self Advocates in conferences. There is information for people organising conferences and for Self Advocates going to conferences.

[EPA seeks small business input on financial responsibility requirements for hard rock mining.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites small businesses to participate in a Small Business Advocacy Review (SBAR) panel on a proposed rule that would establish financial responsibility requirements for classes of facilities within the hard rock mining industry.

[Seeking 9 individuals with fresh ideas for a just and equitable food system.](#)

The IATP Food and Society Fellows program is pleased to announce this Request for Applicants for the next two-year class of fellows. This program, administered by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), provides fellowships for individuals to envision, advocate and create a just, equitable and healthy food system from its roots up. Applications are due by January 18, 2011.

[EPA screens 1,000 chemicals using ToxCast.](#)

ToxCast is designed to determine how chemical exposures impact the human body and how the chemicals most likely lead to health effects. When fully implemented, ToxCast will be able to screen thousands of chemicals in fast, cost-effective tests that provide people with relevant information.

[EPA announces new tool to promote safer chemicals and products.](#)

As part of the agency's Design for the Environment (DfE) program, EPA unveiled the new criteria which are an important tool under its DfE Alternatives Assessments for identifying safer alternatives to chemicals that pose a concern to human health and the environment.

[See a related announcement: [EPA launches website to increase transparency of regulatory activity](#)]

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) National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Web Dialogue Wednesday and Thursday, January 5 - 6, 2011

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registration, and RESOLVE, in collaboration with the American Public Health Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials

Since its launch in June 2009, the National Conversation has engaged a broad range of groups and individuals like you to propose actions needed to protect the public from harmful chemical exposures. A copy of the draft Action Agenda will be posted on December 20th. A key component of the month-long comment period, the 2nd National Conversation WebDialogue is an additional opportunity to have your voice heard and to share input as part of the public comment process.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Adding Value Through Green Chemistry

Friday January 7, 2011

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

Minneapolis, Minnesota

at the Cowles Auditorium, University of Minnesota, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Sponsor: The Minnesota Green Chemistry Forum, Institute for Agriculture and Trade

Policy and University of Minnesota: Center for Sustainable Polymers; Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy; and Institute on the Environment

Join Minnesota's business, NGO, policy and academic leaders in exploring the benefits of green chemistry for businesses, our economy, public health and the environment. The conference goals are to 1) bring businesses of all sizes together with policymakers, academics and NGOs to network and discuss opportunities in the field of green chemistry; 2) highlight opportunities in green chemistry for businesses, for Minnesota's economy, and for protecting public health and the environment; and 3) identify concrete actions to promote green chemistry in our state through investment, research, education, business practices and supportive policies.

Price: \$50 (includes snacks and lunch) through December 15th or \$70 after

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: IATP, 612-870-0453

3) Atmospheric Toxics Webinar Series

Tuesday January 11, 2011

10:00 a.m. - noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Commission

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

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: GLC, 734-971-9135

4) Impacts of Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals on Human Health and the Aquatic Environment

Tuesday January 11, 2011

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Environmental Health Initiative

In this webinar, part of AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative's Research and Science Teleconference Series, Frances Solomon, PhD, will speak. Organic chemicals are discharged to water, air and soil from various human activities, and have the ability to biomagnify in food webs and persist in fatty tissues of organisms. Many of these chemicals are found in everyday household products and have toxic effects from the molecular to the organism to the ecosystem level, including endocrine disruption. Endocrine disruption effects are fascinating, alarming and far-reaching. This webinar will be an overview of persistent organic pollutants that are endocrine disruptor chemicals (EDCs). These chemicals of emerging concern include pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, bisphenol A, phthalates, and perfluorinated compounds. The webinar will begin with a description of the sources, properties, and

mechanism of action of EDCs and exposure pathways. We will then focus on the impacts of specific EDCs and mixtures of EDCs, primarily on humans, with some examples drawn from the aquatic environment, e.g., impacts on brain development, reproductive health, carbohydrate metabolism and body weight, and links between EDCs and certain types of cancer in humans. The webinar will conclude with a discussion of regulatory reform and individual actions that can be taken to reduce exposure to EDCs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, laura@aaidd.org

News and Journal Articles

[Challenging the plants.](#)

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Many of Western Pennsylvania's 16 coal-fired power plants have been charged repeatedly for violations of their air or water pollution permits and paid relatively small penalties, according to a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette review of federal and state environmental agency data. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

[See another article about regulation: [EPA action on Texas natural gas driller escalates fight over state regulation](#)]

[Quiet lawmaker prompts national change in environmental law.](#)

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

This year, Pavley's bill limiting levels of the hazardous metal cadmium in children's jewelry became state law. Sacramento Bee, California.

[10 hair straightening products centre of Health Canada warning.](#)

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Health Canada has put a stop-sale order on 10 hair-straightening products after they were found to contain excessive levels of formaldehyde. Postmedia News.

[Roloids SoftChews recalled over contamination.](#)

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Roloids Ultra Strength SoftChews are being recalled by Johnson and Johnson's Canadian distributor, McNeil Healthcare because they may contain wood or metal particles. A company investigation has determined that the metal and wood contamination was potentially introduced during the manufacturing process. CBC Canada.

[Farming's toxic legacy.](#)

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Throughout much of the 20th century, farmers across the country blanketed crops with now-banned pesticides, including lead arsenate and a suite of long-lasting, synthetic organic compounds laced with chlorine. Today, decades after they were sprayed, these compounds and their breakdown products often persist in the soil. High Country News.

[See other articles about pesticides: [Calif approves use of pesticide linked to cancer](#) and [Long-term exposure to pesticides may be linked to dementia; Most pesticide poisonings happen at home, an Oregon Public Health Division study finds](#)]

[Wanted: Chemicals that cause autism.](#)

Friday, December 10, 2010

Dr. Philip Landrigan is rounding up a posse in search of one of America's most elusive evildoers: The cause of autism, which afflicts as many as 1 in 80 American children. Genetics only explains a fraction of the cases. Daily Green.

[See a related article: [Explaining autism: Energy drain](#)]

[The bad daddy factor.](#)

Friday, December 10, 2010

Over the last half-century, few researchers even considered the possibility that men played a role in prenatal health. It would turn out to be a scientific oversight of significant proportions. A critical mass of research demonstrates that environmental

exposures -- from paints to pesticides -- can cause men to father children with all sorts of abnormalities. Miller-McCune.

[Secondhand smoke tied to kids' poor mental health.](#)

Thursday, December 09, 2010

Kids who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to struggle with mental health problems, suggests a large new study of British children. Reuters.

[See other articles about smoking and cigarettes: [Moms' smoking in pregnancy tied to girls' puberty](#); [When the state paid, people stopped smoking: study](#); [FDA can't regulate e-cigarettes as drug devices, appeals court rules](#); [Just one cigarette can harm DNA, Surgeon General says](#); [Many hospitals still not enforcing smoking ban](#); [Apartment kids exposed to more tobacco smoke](#) and [King County wants to ban public e-cigarette smoking](#)]

[Study: Flame retardant found in small butter sample.](#)

Tuesday, December 07, 2010

A stick of butter purchased at a Dallas grocery store contained high levels of a flame retardant, PBDE, used in electronics, according to environmental scientists at the University of Texas School of Public Health. CNN.

[See other articles about contaminants in food: [Biologist warns of toxic metal in B.C. seafood](#); [FDA not considering Gulf seafood consumption in safety estimates, says coalition](#) and [How to clean your fruits and vegetables](#)]

[Do trees on the streets make people happy?](#)

Tuesday, December 07, 2010

The government's Big Tree Plant campaign - which aims to plant one million trees in English urban areas over the next four years -- claims trees are not only good for our bank balance, but they do wonders for our well-being. BBC.

[Study links cellphones to child misbehavior.](#)

Tuesday, December 07, 2010

Researchers studying the health effects of cellphones say they have found evidence that when pregnant women use them regularly, their children are more likely to have behavioral problems. Reuters.

[See another article about cell phones: [Beyond peanut butter](#)]

[New policy: Model Australian Public Health Policy on Lead.](#)

Monday, December 06, 2010

The policy adopts the German practice of setting blood lead 'targets' for people with a blood lead level above that of 95 per cent of the survey population (the 95th percentile).

[See other articles about lead: [Health Dept downplays lead findings](#); [Lead in most U.S. holiday tree lights poses hazard for kids, group says](#); [High levels of lead found in play make-up](#); [Mixed results for holiday lead test](#); [Feds dismiss need to recall lead drinking glasses](#); [Study of D.C. water sharpens understanding of lead threat](#); [Consumer group to test worn dishes for lead potential](#) and [Perils of buying used](#)]

[American urban lake pollution traced to parking lot seal coat.](#)

Monday, December 06, 2010

A black sealant sprayed on parking lots, driveways and playgrounds turns out to be the largest contributor to the rise of a toxic pollutant in urban lakes and reservoirs across America, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey study. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See other articles about water contamination: [UC Merced holds a symposium on clean water](#); [Water pollution causes villagers to shun local produce](#); [Buckman Direct Diversion: Groups say river-toxin report deficient](#); [Antibiotic resistance, gene transfer, and water quality patterns observed in waterways near CAFO farms and wastewater treatment facilities](#); [The relation between amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and inorganic selenium in drinking water: a population-based case-control study](#); [Federal lab not testing for oilsands chemicals](#); [States pursue radon limits in drinking water as EPA action lags](#); [Study finds more arsenic in wells than suspected](#); [Report: Development killing New Jersey waterways](#); [EPA: Texas gas drilling activities contributed to well contamination](#);

[Governor Christie outlines plan to restore Barnegat Bay; Athabasca River contamination affecting traditional hunting, fishing: report; Those affected by tainted Lejeune water still searching for answers, resolution and State study: Low levels of perchlorate affect infants\]](#)

[EcoWaste: 6 of 7 toys from bargain centers have toxic plastic.](#)

Monday, December 06, 2010

Despite a government health warning, six out of the seven toys an environment group bought in bargain centers had toxic plastic additives. GMA News, Philippines.

[Dallas-Fort Worth body shops' paint booths are going green.](#)

Sunday, December 05, 2010

Slowly but surely, North Texas auto body shops are converting their paint booths to more environmentally friendly waterborne spray systems, which emit half the air pollution of traditional solvent-borne systems. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Texas.

[In small doses, toxic gases may be medicinal.](#)

Saturday, December 04, 2010

When belched out of cars and factories at high levels, the noxious gasses nitric oxide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide are deadly poisons. But scientists are finding that, in miniscule doses, those same gases can serve as medicines. Los Angeles Times, California.

[BPA may inhibit pregnancy.](#)

Friday, December 03, 2010

Even as women choose to have babies later in life, more are having trouble conceiving, and the chemical BPA might be partly to blame, suggests a new study. Discovery Channel.

[See another article about BPA: [Controversial chemical BPA found on paper money](#)]

[Mercury in dental fillings: Harmful or not?](#)

Friday, December 03, 2010

If you have so-called silver dental fillings, you've got mercury in your mouth. The dental establishment and many health experts say it's perfectly safe. But some consumers and scientists argue the mercury can contribute to a host of health problems, from autoimmune diseases to Alzheimer's. Louisville Courier-Journal, Kentucky.

[See other articles about mercury: [Consumer Reports warns pregnant women against canned tuna](#); [Is a mouthful of mercury safe?](#) and [FDA to re-examine use of mercury in dental fillings](#)]

[Superfund film raises awareness of well water arsenic.](#)

Friday, December 03, 2010

Titled "In Small Doses: Arsenic," the short film draws attention to the high levels of naturally occurring arsenic in the area and is an effective way to spread the message to a large audience.

[See other articles about arsenic: [Dartmouth center to study arsenic, babies' health](#) and [Livingston eyes cheap way to deal with arsenic contamination in water supply](#)]

[Triple that vitamin D intake, panel prescribes.](#)

Thursday, December 02, 2010

A long-awaited report from the Institute of Medicine to be released Tuesday triples the recommended amount of vitamin D most Americans should take every day to 600 international units from 200 IUs set in 1997.

[See another article related to diet: [Eating purple fruit could fend off Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis](#)]

[ADHD and environmental risk factors, with Susan Schantz](#)

Wednesday, December 01, 2010

In this podcast, Susan Schantz discusses how the neurologic effects of lead and polychlorinated biphenyls compare with symptoms of ADHD and what environmental

health researchers can learn from those similarities and differences. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[RSNA: Walking staves off dementia.](#)

Wednesday, December 01, 2010

Walking about six miles a week reduced the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and slowed progression of mild cognitive impairment, researchers reported here. MedPage Today.

[One dioxin exposure in the womb affects female fertility in mice for generations.](#)

Wednesday, December 01, 2010

A study with mice finds the reproductive health effects of dioxin last for generations, reducing fertility and increasing the chances of premature delivery. Environmental Health News.

[See another article about prenatal exposures and health: [Toothpaste chemical \[triclosan\] 'that can leave unborn babies brain damaged'](#)]

[EPA fines Kettleman City waste dump over PCB contamination.](#)

Wednesday, December 01, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday levied a \$300,000 fine against a toxic waste dump near a Central California farming community plagued by birth defects for failing to properly manage carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [Hinkley residents get update on toxic plume](#); [Dispute in Pennsylvania town highlights EPA's coal ash dilemma](#); [Contamination less serious than thought](#); [Environmental legacy looms over Teck smelter](#); [Dupont deal gave state more tainted soil](#); [Iraq, Kuwait dust may carry dangerous elements](#); [Pollution still impacts Northport community](#); [PCBs capping plan rallies opposition](#); [City delays cleanup of PCBs at schools](#); [Tailings dams and radioactive bricks - acid water in Gauteng](#); [Calgary gas company hit with clean up order](#); [Crops suffer from industrial pollution](#); ['Clusters' of death](#) and [Rachel Carson's legacy can't hide death rates in Allegheny Valley](#)]

[Blood vessels in eye reveal connection between heart disease and air pollution.](#)

Wednesday, December 01, 2010

Up until this point, previous studies have indicated that heart disease may be linked to pollution, but the study conducted by Kaufman and Adar is the first to observe the connection between pollution and tiny blood vessels, called the microvasculature. Daily Tech.

[See a related article: [Blood vessel dysfunction linked to heart disease also impacts Alzheimer's](#) and other articles about air quality: [Living near a major road tied to preterm birth](#); [The cost of coal in China](#); [Quantitative assessment of airborne exposures generated during common cleaning tasks: a pilot study](#); [U.S. proposes major reductions in air pollution from large ships in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Island waters](#); [Exploration of the rapid effects of personal fine particulate matter exposure on hemodynamics and vascular function during the same day](#); [Ambient air pollution and risk of congenital anomalies: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#); [Pollution levels unsafe across Beirut - study](#); [Leaks of lethal fumes most common in winter](#); [What you can't see](#); [Region at risk: Can higher rates of death be linked to air pollution?](#) and [EPA loan to help in upgrades to diesels](#)]

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health: http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the LDDI Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)