



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



**Biweekly Bulletin April 21, 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](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/learning/r/bulletins)

## LDDI Highlights

### **New Practice Prevention Column on PFCs**

A new column on perfluorochemicals, including PFOA / C8, is now available on our [Practice Prevention column page](#). Written to make the science and current knowledge accessible to parents and others, this succinct fact sheet summarizes health hazards and methods to reduce exposures.

### **Legislation Update**

Landmark chemical policy reform legislation to protect public health and healthy development was introduced both in the US Senate and House on April 15th. The Safe Chemicals Act of 2010, which would amend the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976, is being championed by Senator Lautenberg and Representatives Waxman and Rush. Leading organizational members of LDDI are part of a national coalition supporting the proposed legislation and are also pressing for improvements to the bill as it moves through the Congressional committee process. Major learning and developmental disabilities organizations associated with LDDI are preparing a press release regarding this issue. Please visit [www.disabilityandenvironment.org](http://www.disabilityandenvironment.org).

The Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA) Healthy Children Project has been leading the efforts on health care reform legislation in Pennsylvania and has also taken a leadership in federal chemical policy reform. For more information on LDA's or LDDI's work on health policy, especially in Pennsylvania, please contact Maureen Swanson: [mswanson@ldaamerica.org](mailto:mswanson@ldaamerica.org)

### **LDDI Biomonitoring Project**

The LDDI Biomonitoring Project entitled "Mind, Disrupted: How Toxic Chemicals Can Change How We Think and Who We Are" can be found at [www.minddisrupted.org](http://www.minddisrupted.org). Participants in this project are continuing to present on the report and use it leverage chemical policy reform on state and national levels.

### **Autism Society of America Meeting July 7-10th**

The Autism Society (ASA) will have its [annual national meeting](#) in Dallas, Texas. LDDI is cosponsoring a day-long symposium on July 8th just before ASA's official conference starts. Speakers for the symposium will present on environmental health, developmental disabilities, biomonitoring, and public health policy. Please stay tuned in for more information on this important meeting or contact Donna Ferullo from ASA at [dferullo@autism-society.org](mailto:dferullo@autism-society.org).

### **Call for Presentations: NADD Annual 27th Conference & Exhibit Show for 2010**

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) [invites submissions for the annual conference](#), scheduled for November 3 - 5, 2010, in Seattle. 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. For more information on LDDI's Mental Health Working Group or to get involved, please contact Ed Seliger: [eseliger@thenadd.org](mailto:eseliger@thenadd.org)

### **More Information**

Many more collaborative projects are in the works among members of LDDI. To get more information on any of these or to participate, please feel free to contact Laura Abulafia, National Coordinator of LDDI: [laura@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:laura@healthandenvironment.org), or Elise Miller, Director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment: [elise@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:elise@healthandenvironment.org)

## **Announcements**

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

### **[Call for submission of manuscripts: International Journal of Nursing in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.](#)**

The Fall 2010 issue of IJNIDD will be focusing on exposures to toxic chemicals in environments where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work, and receive health services and preventing or minimizing exposures that can lead to developmental disabilities. Original manuscripts must be submitted by June 30th to be considered for publication.

### **[Reach the Decision Makers Training Program.](#)**

This project of the UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, is an innovative science and policy training program that works to increase the number of scientists, community-based leaders, public health professionals and health care providers who are actively involved in informing the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) of current and relevant scientific findings impacting their decisions in setting policy. Applications are due May 7th, 2010. The 2010 inaugural class of 18-24 fellows will be for California-based participants only. Starting in 2011, the program will accept applications from throughout the United States.

### **[National Healthy Schools Day.](#)**

Celebrated on Monday, April 26, 2010, National Healthy Schools Day's 2010 campaign will focus on using certified green cleaning products which help reduce pollutants from indoor air.

### **[Environmental health in the 2009 state legislative sessions.](#)**

In every state, some bill related to environmental health was introduced, totaling 1,333 bills in the 50 states. Doug Farquhar at the National Conference of State Legislatures has put together a concise summary of all environmental health bills introduced and enacted in state legislatures in 2009.

### **[New group: ACHEMMIC.](#)**

ACHEMMIC is a newly formed group consisting of physicians, scientists, researchers, indoor air quality experts, advocates and others who are working together to promote the truth in health policy about the adverse effects of mold, microbes and indoor contaminants.

### **[EPA moves to slash mercury from gold production.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to cut emissions from gold ore processing and production facilities, the sixth largest source of mercury air emissions in the country.

### **[Study charts path for better protection from harmful "chemical mixtures."](#)**

The EU can and should assess and manage the risks from exposure to chemical mixtures, better known as the "cocktail effect", according to a significant report commissioned by the Environment Directorate General (DG) of the European Commission. DG Environment is inviting comment and questions on the report by April 30, 2010.

[See the report: [State of the Art Report on Mixture Toxicity](#)]

**[Call for comments: EPA's reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency requests comments on the issue of EPA's reassessment of PCB use authorizations. Comments must be received on or before July 6, 2010.

**[EPA's Office of Research and Development launches newsletter.](#)**

EPA's Office of Research and Development is now publishing *Science Matters*, a newsletter devoted to sharing the innovative environmental and human health science conducted by EPA scientists and engineers and our partners.

**[EPA proposes adding more chemicals to Toxics Release Inventory list.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to add 16 chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list of reportable chemicals, the first expansion of the program in more than a decade.

**[Job opening: United Kingdom.](#)**

The Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry has several openings for professorships and lectureships in Environment & Human Health. The closing date is April 30th.

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

Greenpeace is seeking an up-and-coming campaigner with good writing skills for a position on the Toxics Campaign Chemical Security Project. Applications are due by April 27, 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) The Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference and the Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees Conference**

Tuesday through Friday, April 27 - 30, 2010  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: The Lead and Environmental Hazards Association and The National Association of Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees

The joint conference includes program tracks and technical assistance workshops dealing with lead hazard control, lead-poisoning prevention and Healthy Home program issues. Program tracks, technical assistance workshops and consultation roundtables are offered from Tuesday afternoon through Thursday afternoon to provide in-depth education and discussion. Sessions and workshops are organized under the two conferences listed on the website. Attendees are encouraged to participate in any session.

Price: \$270 with discounts for more than one attendee from the same organization

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Steve Weil, 301-924-0804 or the [contact web page](#)

**2) National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Call**

Wednesday April 28, 2010  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The primary topics of discussion will be updates on EPA's response to the NEJAC's Goods Movement Report; and reports from the NEJAC liaisons to the Tribal Operations Commission and the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee School Siting Task

Group.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 877-773-0779 or [Meetings@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com](mailto:Meetings@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com)

### **3) ADHD and Environmental Toxicity**

Tuesday April 28, 2010

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Thiensville, Wisconsin

at the Mequon-Thiensville Library, 11345 Cedarburg Road

Sponsor: Developmental Delay Resources

This is part of a series. The speaker will be Dr. Norman Schwartz.

Price: free, but please RSVP before the event

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-385-1655 or [holisticneuro@gmail.com](mailto:holisticneuro@gmail.com)

### **4) CHE Cafe call with Annie Leonard, author of *The Story of Stuff***

Tuesday May 4, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

In December 2007, Annie released *The Story of Stuff*, a hit 20-minute webfilm that takes viewers on a provocative and eye-opening tour of the often hidden costs of our consumer-driven culture. The film has won numerous awards, including a South by Southwest Festival award, and in 2008 Annie was named one of *Time Magazine's* Heroes of the Environment. Annie's films, writing and presentations combine solid information and first-hand investigative reporting with a profound sense of hope that we can, indeed must, find a more sustainable way to meet our material needs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **5) Public Meeting: EPA's reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations**

May 4th (New York), May 18th (Chicago), May 25th (Atlanta) and May 27th (Washington, DC)

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

In addition to the requests for information and comments issued online, EPA intends to involve stakeholders through a series of public meetings taking place in locations across the country. The purpose of these meetings is to receive stakeholder comments on the issue of EPA's reassessment of PCB use authorizations, including the questions described in Unit XIV of the online document. Comments must be received on or before July 6, 2010.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **6) California's Toxics Information Clearinghouse: Scientific Approaches to**

### **Implementation**

Monday and Tuesday, May 10 - 11, 2010  
Berkeley, California  
at UC Berkeley

Sponsor: UCLA Law and Environmental Health Sustainable Technology Policy Program, the UC Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), with primary funding from the UC Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program

The second of two workshops, this will address indicators of exposure potential, ecotoxicity and other environmental effects.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sara Hoover of OEHHA, [shoover@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:shoover@oehha.ca.gov)

### **7) Joining the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposure**

Wednesday May 12, 2010

3:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:00 p.m. Central / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The speaker will be Ben Gerhardtstein, MPH, public health analyst and presidential management fellow at the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Heckl, 716-951-0971 or [rheckl@glu.org](mailto:rheckl@glu.org)

### **8) Parental Pesticide Exposure and Child Development in the Fresh-cut Flower Industry in Ecuador**

Thursday May 13, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room HSB D-209

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

The speaker will be Jose Ricardo Suarez, MPH, MD, PhD(c), from the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **9) World Autism Congress Asia 2010**

Saturday and Sunday, May 15 - 16, 2010

Hong Kong, Hong Kong

at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road

Sponsor: World Autism Organisation, Autism Children Foundation, Autism Recovery Network

This conference brings together a distinguished group of renowned experts from the United States, Europe and Australia to offer two broad streams of information exchange on biomedical and educational development in autism. The theme of WACA 2010 is "A Roadmap to Recovery" and aims to raise awareness, educate and empower those in the

autism community including individuals and families with autism spectrum disorder, health professionals, caregivers and educators.

Price: \$200 through April 9th or \$215 after

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

## News and Journal Articles

### [Manganese and Parkinson's disease: A critical review and new findings.](#)

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

The overwhelming evidence shows that Mn-induced parkinsonism does not involve degeneration of midbrain dopamine neurons and L-dopa is not an effective therapy. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Environmental factors and Parkinson's disease: a case-control study in Belgrade, Serbia](#), [Alzheimer's risk cut by a third eating veggies, fish, poultry](#) and ['Fatness' gene may thin your brain](#)]

### [Weigh the points of view against the actual risks.](#)

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

What appears to be true on television may not always be so. Statistics are a tricky thing to discuss, and even more difficult to comprehend. Augusta Kennebec Journal, Maine

### [Prenatal PCB exposure linked to children's ADHD symptoms.](#)

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

A study of children born near a PCB-contaminated harbor in Massachusetts finds that prenatal exposure to banned persistent organic pollutants -- specifically PCBs and DDT -- may be linked to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Environmental Health News.

### [BPA battle makes way to Senate.](#)

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has introduced legislation to ban the chemical BPA from being used in food and drink containers and has signaled that she plans to offer a similar amendment when the food safety bill is debated on the Senate floor. Politico.

[See related articles: [Experts split on 'toxic' plastic ban](#), [BPA raises uterine gene activity in mice exposed before birth](#) and [BPA makes mice anxious, forgetful](#)]

### [Drinking water safe, but threats remain.](#)

*Sunday, April 18, 2010*

In the 40 years since the first Earth Day, the Dayton area has made great strides in containing and even reversing environmental degradation due to toxic industrial chemicals. But as another Earth Day approaches on Thursday, the impact of pollution is still evident. Dayton Daily News, Ohio.

[See related articles about water quality issues: [Agricultural runoff has harsh impact on environment](#); [Growing concern in the water](#); [As pharmaceutical use soars, drugs taint water and wildlife](#) and [Are water filters worth it?](#)]

### ['The Story of Stuff' by Annie Leonard.](#)

*Saturday, April 17, 2010*

In "The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff Is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health -- and a Vision for Change," Leonard connects the dots between the trash we accumulate from the "stuff" we accumulate and its direct impact on the global environment. Good Morning America.

[See related event #4 above.]

### [Compensation victory: Children born with defects win 11-year battle over clean-up of steelworks in Corby.](#)

*Saturday, April 17, 2010*

Children born with birth defects after their mothers were exposed to toxic waste were



awarded a multi-million-pound payout yesterday. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

#### **[Environment big factor in health, death -- report.](#)**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

Environmental risks contribute greatly to the high rise of deteriorating health and even death in humans. Poor sanitation and hygiene and water and air pollution, a new report stated, are the major environment factors that pose a health risk to communities.

Nairobi Daily Nation, Kenya

#### **[Assembly bill keeps farmworkers' health a priority.](#)**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

Assembly Bill 1963, also known as the Farmworker Health Act, is gaining traction on the state assembly floor as a key piece of legislation that could better regulate pesticide safety by mandating reporting of blood tests for workers exposed to certain dangerous chemicals. Ventura County Reporter, California.

#### **[New research theorizes link between autism and toxic chemicals.](#)**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

During the last decade the reported cases of autism and other illnesses related to brain development have dramatically increased not just in the U.S. but around the world.

Some scientists believe the increase is linked to toxic chemicals in the environment.

Voice of America.

#### **[Early arrivals.](#)**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

The rate of preterm births globally is 9.6 percent. In West Philadelphia, the preterm birth rate is 15.6 percent. Factors range from violence and stress to a lack of medical access and transportation. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

#### **[Flouridation may not do much for cavities.](#)**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

A new study examining the controversial issue of water fluoridation shows the process makes little difference on dental health, suggesting the risks may outweigh the benefits. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

#### **[Camp Lejeune toxic water legacy.](#)**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

Camp Lejeune's contaminated wells are now closed, but the adverse health effects have affected an estimated 500,000. Veterans and dependents continue to experience serious health effects from exposure to organic solvents like trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and benzene. Salem News, Oregon.

[See related articles: [Camp Lejeune water contamination timeline](#) and [Lejeune ignored water warnings](#)]

#### **[Lautenberg bill seeks to overhaul U.S. chemical laws.](#)**

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) will introduce legislation Thursday to remake the nation's chemical laws by requiring manufacturers to prove the safety of chemicals before they enter the marketplace. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [States support reform of federal toxic law](#)]

#### **[Dietary intake is associated with phthalate body burden in a nationally representative sample](#)**

*Wednesday, April 14, 2010*

These results, combined with results from previous studies, suggest that diet is an important route of intake for phthalates. Environmental Health Perspectives.

#### **[Smoke from Kansas prompts health warning in Lancaster County.](#)**

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Dozens of large fires started by farmers and ranchers to provide fresh grass for cattle created a smoke plume that stretched from eastern Kansas across the southern Great Lakes states and all the way to the Atlantic Coast off Long Island, N.Y. Lincoln Journal

Star, Nebraska.

[See a related article about the hazards of burning trash: [DEFRA report finds garden bonfire boom spreads deadly chemicals](#)]

### **Do your part: Is your home making you sick?**

Monday, April 12, 2010

You may be surprised to find out that the air we breathe inside our homes every day can be several times more polluted than the air outside. It makes sense when we take stock of the many chemicals we bring into our homes. Sacramento Bee, California.

[See related articles about indoor air quality: [Be careful, formaldehyde is everywhere](#), [Are flame retardants putting us at risk?](#), [Air quality tested in 600 UAE homes](#) and [School heaters pose health risk for children](#)]

### **The Vietnam War's sad legacy.**

Monday, April 12, 2010

Millions of Vietnamese still bear the brunt of the horrid scars of the war for generations due to the use of toxic chemicals as a "weapon of mass destruction." Kuala Lumpur Malay Mail, Malaysia.

### **Green chemistry is becoming a red-hot field.**

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Green chemistry is red hot these days, as it should be. What is it? Simply stated, it is "the invention, design and application of chemical products and processes to reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances." Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

### **Most Barnett Shale facilities release emissions.**

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Plumes of toxic, smog-causing chemicals from Barnett Shale natural-gas operations are so common that inspectors find them nearly every time they look, a Dallas Morning News examination of government records shows. Dallas Morning News, Texas.

[See related articles about contaminated areas in Washington state: [The most contaminated site in the Western Hemisphere: WA's Hanford Nuclear Site](#), New Jersey: [Cancer Alley no more? Incidence declining in most of N.J.](#), Alaska: [How much is too much arsenic in the well?](#), Ohio: [Gahanna toxic site closer to cleanup](#), California: [Feds find problems at Central Calif. toxic dump](#), Arizona: [Iron King Mine: EPA finds elevated levels of toxins on sites](#) and Peru: [Peru town copes with being devoured by mine](#)]

### **Concerns grow over chemical used in toiletries, toys.**

Saturday, April 10, 2010

New research on a chemical [triclosan] found in everyday consumer products ranging from soaps to toothpaste to toys raises concerns about its possible health effects. Canwest News Service.

[See related articles: [FAQ: Triclosan and your health](#), [FDA, EPA to review safety of antibacterial ingredient, triclosan](#) and [Our antibacterial overload](#)]

### **Curious about harmful effects of cell phones.**

Friday, April 09, 2010

Almost all of us own cell phones, and a lot of people seem to have them glued to their ears. That's why there's a continuing concern about the tiny amount of radiation that cell phones emit. Boston WBZ TV, Massachusetts.

### **Rule on lead safety set to take effect.**

Friday, April 09, 2010

After almost two decades of delays, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that it was on track to implement a regulation requiring the construction industry to help prevent cases of lead poisoning among children. New York Times.

[See related articles: [High lead content in paints](#) and [Blood lead levels tied to timing of puberty in boys](#)]

### **Scans giving off unnecessary radiation.**

Thursday, April 08, 2010

CT scans carried out in Australia generate up to a third more radiation than is needed to



yield a clear diagnostic image, exposing patients to an increased risk of cancer. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[See related articles: [FDA turns attention to radiation therapy devices](#) and [Caution: Radiation -- Weighing the risks of over-screening](#)]

**[Report: EPA office not protecting kids fully.](#)**

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

The EPA's Office of Inspector General issued the report Tuesday. It says the EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education hasn't set up a strategic plan, identified goals or listed major accomplishments over the last six years. San Jose Mercury News, California.

[See related articles: [Kids still exposed to toxins, pediatrician says](#) and [Babies tainted by many toxins, report says](#)]

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](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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