



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin May 19, 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

New LDDI Coordinator

Erika Hagensen, MPH, MSWc, officially joined LDDI on May 10th as the new half-time national coordinator and has been busy connecting with various colleagues and members of LDDI. You can read more about her background and experience on LDDI's home page: www.disabilityandenvironment.org, or you can reach her directly: ehagensen@healthandenvironment.org.

LDDI members are deeply grateful to Laura Abulafia for her outstanding service to LDDI over the past year, and we are very pleased that she will continue to work with LDDI in her half-time position as director of education and outreach with the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). Laura can be reached directly: laura@aaidd.org.

Mental Health Working Group Update

The Mental Health Working Group, a sub-group of LDDI, encourages members of the listserv to post emerging scientific articles on associations between environmental exposures and mental health issues. This group has also published some important resources on the [group website](#). For more information, or to get involved, please contact Ed Seliger with the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD): eseliger@thenadd.org.

AAIDD Webinar June 2nd

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Environmental Health Initiative will host a webinar on June 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. The focus of the call is the recently introduced versions of the House and Senate Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform bills. The webinar will be led by Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition deputy director Lindsey Dahl. Space is limited, and advanced registration is required. For more information see event #7 below or the [registration webpage](#).

AAIDD Annual Meeting June 9 - 11th

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is hosting their [annual meeting](#) in Providence, Rhode Island. On the agenda will be two Environmental Health Initiative presentations: one on the *Mind, Disrupted* biomonitoring project (www.minddisrupted.org), with participants Laura Abulafia (AAIDD), Robert Fletcher (National Association for the Dually Diagnosed), and Joe Meadours (self-advocate and executive director of People First of California), and one session on health policy work led by Joyce Martin (AAIDD). For more information, please see event #11 below or contact Joyce Martin: jmartin@aaidd.org.

Autism Society of America Meeting July 7 - 10th

The Autism Society (ASA) is hosting a full-day environmental health symposium at their [annual meeting](#) on July 8th in Dallas, Texas. Speakers will include Joe Guth, JD; Ted Schettler, MD, MPH; and other prominent environmental health leaders. There will also be a session on the *Mind, Disrupted* biomonitoring project. To get more information, please contact Donna Ferullo: dferullo@autism-society.org.

Announcements

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

Use the Community Conversation Toolkit to host a Community Conversation.

Want a nation safe from harmful chemical exposures? Join the effort by hosting a community conversation - ATSDR is seeking individuals interested in hosting a community conversation between May and June of 2010.

New report: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance.

The majority of chemicals found in this report have never been assessed for safety by any publicly accountable agency, or by the cosmetics industry's self-policing review panels. Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

[See related articles: [Perfumes contain hidden harmful chemicals, environmental groups say](#) and [Scented products are so prevalent, potent they are a public health hazard](#)]

EPA, Shanghai Launch AirNow International Shared technology will provide real-time air quality information in China

"AirNow has been an extraordinary tool for helping the public understand air pollution in the United States," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "We're pleased to be working with Shanghai to use this technology to make real-time air quality data available in China."

First Nations environmental health guide is now available.

Canada's Ministry of Health announced the launch of the First Nations environmental health guide *Your Health at Home* which provides useful information and practical tips for First Nations to keep their homes safer and healthier.

Job opening: New York City.

Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) has an opening for an Enhancing the Field Program Director. The program encompasses both the goal of increasing knowledge about environmental issues within broader philanthropy and serving to inform and encourage members on issues of inclusivity; diversity; and, green practices in the workplace and beyond. Applications are due June 1st.

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) Exposures Assessment and the Importance of Compound-Compound Interactions in Mixtures

Thursday May 20, 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, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health

The speaker will be Gunnar Boysen, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical

Sciences.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) First Annual National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition Meeting

Monday and Tuesday, May 24 - 25, 2010

3:00 p.m. on May 24th - 5:00 p.m. on the 25th

Washington, DC

Sponsor: National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

The meeting is open to all coalition members, and there is no fee to join. The meeting will include speakers, Hill visits, and Congressional briefings. The agenda is available on the website.

Price: free, but preregistration is required

[Visit the website](#)

3) Spring 2010 TRI Webinar: Using the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to Support Environmental Justice

Tuesday May 25, 2010

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

Sponsor: Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Using TRI to Support Environmental Justice. The purpose of the Webinar is to share experiences and lessons learned using TRI to address environmental justice concerns and expand TRI use among current and potential users who work on environmental justice issues. Speakers will include representatives from EPA headquarters and regions, nonprofit organizations and academia. All are welcome to participate.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer Major, jennifer.major@ross-assoc.com

4) Public Meeting: EPA's reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations

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](#)

5) Introduction to Managing Environmental Data with Microsoft Access 2007

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 25 - 26, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Greenwood Village, Colorado

at Wingate by Wyndham, Denver Tech Center, 8000 E Peakview Avenue

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Participants will gain basic to intermediate skills in using Microsoft Access 2007 to build relational databases for managing and mining their environmental data. This comprehensive class uses extensive hands-on exercises for in-depth use of tables, queries, forms, reports and macro objects in Access 2007. These Access database subjects use real-world environmental examples with actual field data. This class is recommended for anyone desiring concentrated exposure to Access training.

Price: \$495 or \$395 for Native American Tribes; nonprofits; government agencies; students; and NAEP, NEBC, CAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

6) National Environmental Partnership Summit

Tuesday through Thursday, May 25 - 27, 2010

Orlando, Florida

at the DoubleTree Resort Orlando

Sponsor: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, US Environmental Protection Agency

The summit will include a plenary session by Elizabeth Grossman and sessions on human health such as on the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

7) Senate and House TSCA Reform Bills: What Do They Say? Where Are they Going?

Wednesday June 2, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This webinar will discuss two long-awaited bills to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representatives Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) unveiled the Safe Chemical Act of 2010 earlier this spring. Despite earlier attempt to overhaul the way the country manages chemicals, this is the first time that both chemical industry lobbyists and public health advocates agree that we can't delay change any longer -- the scientific evidence is too overwhelming; the public outcry too loud. The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition supports the goals of the bill. As always, "the devil is in the details." Join the webinar to learn what the bills say, what the controversial issues are and what the prognosis for the future of toxic chemical policy reform. The webinar features Lindsay Dahl, deputy campaign director at Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, a groundbreaking coalition of diverse groups united by their common concern about toxic chemicals in our homes, places of work, and products we use every day. Members include nurses, parents, cancer specialists, disability advocates, conservationists and concerned citizens from across the nation.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

8) 2010 National Tribal Science Forum

Sunday through Thursday, June 6 - 10, 2010

Traverse City, Michigan

at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Sponsor: National EPA Tribal Science Council

The forum theme "Mother Earth: Indigenous Knowledge and Science to Promote Positive

Change" will be explored in the following tracks: air, water, earth, community health and cross-theme issues.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

9) 26th International Neurotoxicology Conference

Sunday through Thursday, June 6 - 10, 2010

Portland, Oregon

at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront

Sponsor: see the [Sponsors page](#)

The conference theme is "Unifying Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders: Scientific, Translational, and Clinical Implications."

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jackie Jagers, Registrar, The Neurotoxicology Conference, 501-364-1248 or JagersJF@archildrens.org

10) Our Environment, Our Health: A Nurse's Call to Action

Monday and Tuesday, June 7 - 8, 2010

Baltimore, Maryland

at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, 655 W. Lombard Street

Sponsor: Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

This is the first national conference for nurses addressing the relationship between human health and the environment. Learn about the growing movement that is being created by nurses as they "green" their health care institutions, engage in scientific inquiry, integrate environmental health practices into nursing assessments and interventions, and create and support policies that protect human health and the environment. Come hear about and share in the expanding roles that nurses are taking in the exciting and critical field of environmental health. Continuing Nursing Education credits are available.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, anhe@son.umaryland.edu

11) 134th Annual Meeting of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Tuesday through Friday, June 8 - 11, 2010

Providence, Rhode Island

at the Westin Providence, One West Exchange Street

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The conference theme is "Imagining the Future, Celebrating the Past." Two sessions on environmental health are on the agenda, including one session focused on the *Mind, Disrupted* biomonitoring project in which a number of colleagues in LDDI participated over the past year. Two people who were biomonitoring and featured in the *Mind, Disrupted* report - Laura Abulafia with AAIDD and Rob Fletcher with the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) - will speak about their experiences and why this kind of study underscores the need for chemical policy reform.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: AAIDD, 800-424-3688

12) Early Intervention in Autism: From Recent Research to Multiagency Practice

Friday June 11, 2010

9:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Manchester, United Kingdom

at the Ramada Hotel Piccadilly, Great Portland Street

Sponsor: Royal Society of Medicine

This conference will be suitable for health and education professionals, as well as parents and others, who are concerned with the early intervention for autistic disorders. It will address early preschool intervention with diagnosed autism, as well as the emerging possibilities for 'prodromal' prediagnostic intervention with at-risk infants and toddlers. New theories and empirical findings will be considered alongside currently innovative best practice within health and education.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Phil McShane, 44 (0) 20 7290 2980

13) Canadian Public Health Association Centenary Conference

Sunday through Wednesday, June 13 - 16, 2010

Toronto, Ontario Canada

Sponsor: Canadian Public Health Association

The conference theme is "Public Health in Canada: Shaping the Future Together." Public health practitioners from across the country and around the world will meet to celebrate a century of achievements and to shape the future of public health. Conference key priority areas include 1) environmental health and built environments; 2) mental health and mental illness; 3) universal policies, health equity and the social determinants of health; 4) knowledge exchange and risk communications; and 5) health through the lifecourse, among others.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: conference@cpha.ca

News and Journal Articles

[Toxicology smackdown: The Paracelsian paradigm versus hormesis.](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Edward Calabrese...and others then began to look at what happened at many low-dose levels and found that it often matches not with the dose-equals-poison theory, but with a 19th century theory formally known as hormesis. CBC News.

[Groups warn parents vs toxic school supplies.](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

As parents start shopping for school supplies, a waste and pollution watchdog has called on concerned government authorities to conduct a random testing of school supplies for chemicals which may be harmful to their children. BusinessMirror, Philippines.

[Caffeine may slow Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, restore cognitive function, according to new evidence.](#)

Monday, May 17, 2010

Substantial evidence from epidemiological studies and fundamental research in animal models suggests that caffeine may be protective against the cognitive decline seen in dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AD). Science Daily.

[See another article about dementia: [Dementia risk higher if your spouse has dementia](#)]

Few people know their name, but these chemicals have become EPA priority.

Monday, May 17, 2010

An obscure family of chemicals [short-chain chlorinated paraffins] -- important to the metalworking industry but virtually unknown to the public -- is suddenly the subject of scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Health News.

Research links pesticides with ADHD in children.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A new analysis of U.S. health data links children's attention-deficit disorder with exposure to common pesticides used on fruits and vegetables. Associated Press.

[See related articles about pesticide concerns: [Agencies pledge to curb child farmworker abuse](#), [Preservatives under fire](#), [Choosing fair trade can change the world](#), [Judge hears evidence as Dole Food Co. seeks to overturn pesticide verdict](#), [Local fish ban gets murky](#), [Lawn chemicals a growing concern in state](#), [The environmental cost of keeping golf courses green](#) and [Keeping your lawn from bugging you](#)]

Scientist taught world to get the lead out.

Friday, May 14, 2010

During his time in El Paso, Landrigan found his calling. He is now director of the Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. He's also a principal investigator with the National Children's Study, a 21-year, federal project just getting under way designed to give the most detailed picture to date on how the environment affects health. CNN.

[See other articles about lead: [Toss out kids' jewelry if you suspect it contains lead](#), [cadmium: Health Canada](#); [Lead in your dishes](#); [Blood lead levels tied to ALS risk](#); [Get the lead out](#) and [High lead levels hurt learning for DPS kids](#)]

Protection with a price.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Sunscreen can help prevent those painful episodes of childhood sunburn, a risk factor for skin cancer later in life. But there's growing concern that some of the chemicals in the products are endocrine disruptors and may pose risks to children. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

A burning issue: Gasping for breath - Fires are like a smoke bomb for vulnerable people.

Friday, May 14, 2010

For some residents, especially those with respiratory problems, each breath can be an effort, especially when the air they breathe is polluted by car and truck exhaust or smoke from local wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Oroville Mercury-Register, California.

[See related articles: [A Burning Issue: Scientists take a hard look at wood-stove emissions](#), [A burning issue: Three case studies...](#) and [Prairie burns a shared concern](#) and others about a health effect of air pollution: [Destination brain](#)]

FDA needs new tools to check food, drugs - US experts.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is stuck using crude tools to measure the benefits of food, drugs and supplements and needs a whole new set of standards, a panel of experts said on Wednesday. Reuters.

'They're killing us anyway.'

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Citing health complaints they link to alleged pollution by Ecoltec, a toxic waste processing plant run by a Swiss company, the people of Apaxco [Mexico] and neighbouring communities are trying to permanently close down the plant. Inter Press Service.

[See other articles about use, releases and regulation of toxics: [Reforming toxic chemical regulation](#); [Trafigura faces £105m legal bill over dumping of toxic waste](#); [Virginia must regulate toxic chemicals](#) and [Recycled computers, televisions still ending up in dumps](#)]

[Evaluation of spatial relationships between health and the environment: The Rapid Inquiry Facility.](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

The RIF offers a tool that allows epidemiologists to quickly carry out ecological environmental epidemiological analysis such as risk assessment or disease mapping.

[Legislation aimed at Tulane's environmental law clinic could hobble other clinics statewide.](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Law clinics at universities across Louisiana fear a state senator's proposal could force them to close, leaving their impoverished clients without free legal services. Associated Press.

[Should nanomaterials be regulated?](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Nanomaterials are being used these days in a wide variety of consumer items, from cosmetics to flat-screen TVs to baseball bats, and are the focus of a three-day national conference at Notre Dame University. South Bend Tribune, Indiana.

[Counties want to incinerate old, unused medicines.](#)

Monday, May 10, 2010

For years, unused pharmaceuticals were flushed down toilets or tossed in the garbage without a second thought. Now, environmental concerns have a growing number of communities looking at alternatives. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota.

[Natural way to control arsenic.](#)

Monday, May 10, 2010

Researchers have found a completely natural solution for people living in region with widespread arsenic contamination of ground water. New Delhi Hindustan Times, India.

[See other articles about arsenic: [Residents not 'overexposed' to arsenic](#), [No association between arsenic exposure from drinking and diabetes mellitus: A cross-sectional study in Bangladesh](#) and [Playground arsenic dose relatively low](#)]

[Making choices for the kids' sake.](#)

Sunday, May 09, 2010

The environment is playing a big role these days in the decisions parents make about what they bring into their homes. Victoria Times Colonist, British Columbia.

[Stress early in pregnancy increases risks to babies.](#)

Sunday, May 09, 2010

Stressful situations in early pregnancy can lead to the birth of babies who are underweight or born too early, new research from China shows. Timing of the stress, the researchers found, was the key. Reuters Health.

[See related articles about preterm births: [Pre-term births fall in US, government finds](#) and [Puerto Rico's rising preterm birth rate](#)]

[Report warns of global warming costs.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

The health risks of global climate change read like a chapter out of the Book of Revelation: plagues from mosquitoes and other insects; floods and droughts that cause sickness and mental anguish; food-borne scourges and malnutrition. Charlotte Observer, North Carolina.

[See a related article: [Global warming is the biggest threat to human health](#) and an announcement from the US EPA: [EPA sets thresholds for greenhouse gas permitting requirements/Small businesses and farms will be shielded](#)]

[Vaccine may trigger early start of infant epilepsy.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Childhood vaccines may trigger early onset of a severe form of infant epilepsy, but researchers say the disorder is ultimately caused by defective genes and lifesaving vaccines should not be withheld from these children. Reuters Health.

[See another article about vaccine controversy: [Despite test results, FDA urges vaccine use](#)]

[Two-year study finds no brain benefit for fish oil.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Fish oil may be good for your heart, but it doesn't seem to help preserve your smarts, a new two-year study shows. Reuters.

[See another article about environmental influences on heart health: [Deli meats increase risk of heart disease](#) and [Effects of weight on kids' heart rate vary by income](#)]

[EPA proposes new rules on coal ash.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Coal ash -- like the millions of tons Duke Energy disposes of each year -- could be classified as hazardous waste under rules the Environmental Protection Agency proposed Tuesday. Charlotte Observer, North Carolina.

[See related articles: [Details emerge on EPA plans for Alabama's toxic coal ash ponds](#) and [Loophole in coal ash rules could impact Iowa](#)]

[Exposure to smoke in the womb may lead to psychiatric problems, study shows.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

It's well known that smoking while pregnant isn't good for the baby, but new research shows it could also lead to psychological problems for that baby later in life. Vancouver Sun, British Columbia.

[See related articles about parental smoking: [Smoking moms tied to lasting kids' sleep woes](#) and [Smoking while driving with kids could lead to fine](#)]

[Mercury high in South Georgia fish.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

The University of Georgia studied more than 60 fish for mercury; tests on those fish show that people are getting more mercury than recommended if they eat the fish more than once a week in some cases, more than once a month in others. Georgia Public Broadcasting, Georgia.

[See related articles about mercury pollution: [Mercury high in Japanese town that hunts dolphins](#) and [Bill will curb mercury pollution](#)]

[FDA ties Tylenol recall to contamination.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Raw materials that were to be used to make several lots of the Tylenol products for children and infants that were recalled over the weekend were contaminated, the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday. Wall Street Journal.

[See a related article: [Fear of metal in children's medication prompted recall: company official](#) and more about other recalls: [FDA says lay off asthma supplement - too much lead](#) and [More kids' jewelry recalls in works](#) and from Guam: [23 medicines on recall list off shelves](#)]

[The perils of household plastics](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

By acting as a foreign oestrogen (a female sex hormone), these chemicals can disrupt the body's natural hormone system and create hormone imbalances, leading to a range of health conditions. Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

[See related articles about concerns with plastics: [Another plastics ingredient raises safety concerns](#), [Regulators fear ban on BPA in bottles would make matters worse](#) and another specifically about BPA: [Exposure to bisphenol A may alter hormone levels in men](#)]

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!](#)