



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



**Biweekly Bulletin May 20, 2009**

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning and developmental disabilities and environmental health. They are archived and searchable on LDDI's website:

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

## LDDI Highlights

### Next LDDI Working Group Call

LDDI's next general working group call is scheduled for Tuesday June 23rd at 11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. (This call was originally scheduled for May 21st but has been postponed until June 23rd.) Contact Laura Abulafia:

[laura@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:laura@healthandenvironment.org).

### Communications and Outreach Consultation

LDDI has hired the Raben Group to work on communications and outreach. Our conversations to date have focused mostly on web site development and audiences. The Raben Group is also gathering information from LDDI members about what kind of messaging and materials would be most useful for educational purposes and to leverage chemical policy reform. If you have suggestions, please email Ellie Collinson at

[ECollinson@rabengroup.com](mailto:ECollinson@rabengroup.com) and copy Laura Abulafia at

[laura@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:laura@healthandenvironment.org).

### New Director of Health Policy

AAIDD has hired Joyce M. Martin, JD, as new full-time Director of Health Policy in the Washington, DC, office. Joyce, who currently serves as director of the Office of Science Policy Planning at NIEHS, will start at AAIDD on June 1st and will bring her significant experience in environmental health science and policy. Joyce will be working closely with LDDI.

### New Reports on POPs

In collaboration with IPEN, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) prepared two new reports in advance of the Stockholm Convention Conference of Parties taking place in Geneva last week. They are 1) *Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Arctic: A Report for the Delegates of the 4th Conference of the Parties, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, and 2) *Lindane: Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Alternatives*. These can be found at [www.akaction.org](http://www.akaction.org).

### Mental Health and Environment Working Group

This new working group, a subcommittee of LDDI chaired by the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD), will hold its next call on Tuesday July 7th. The working group's goals include a) educating and engaging the mental health community in regards to environmental exposures that may impact mental health and result in psychiatric symptoms, b) developing materials for health professionals and patients regarding how to reduce environmental exposures that may contribute to neurological or behavioral problems, and c) encouraging the mental health community to support chemical policy reform and other efforts to improve environmental health. Contact Ed Seliger:

[eseliger@thenadd.org](mailto:eseliger@thenadd.org).

### **LDDI Biomonitoring Project**

The planning group for the LDDI biomonitoring project has starting to move forward on testing for specified chemicals with confirmed participants. For more information, please contact Sharyle Patton at [spatton@igc.org](mailto:spatton@igc.org).

## **Upcoming Events**

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi> (note the new URL).

### **1) Film - Black Mold Exposure**

in various cities around the US in April, May and June 2009  
at select theaters

Sponsor: Looking Glass Entertainment Company

"Black Mold Exposure" explores the bizarre illnesses associated with exposure to toxic mold and the film participants' difficult task of regaining their health and lives in an atmosphere of political and social intolerance and disbelief.

Price: varies

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [contact@blackmoldexposuremovie.com](mailto:contact@blackmoldexposuremovie.com)

### **2) Summers of Discovery Seminar Series**

several Wednesdays beginning May 27, 2009

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

at the NIEHS Main Campus/Rall Building Rodbell B, 111 T.W. Alexander Drive

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Linda Birnbaum, PhD, director of NIEHS, will present this weekly seminar titled "The Science of Toxicology: What's Out There and Why We Need Protection" to summer interns. The public is welcome.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Charle A. League, 919-541-5741

### **3) 2009 Toxics Conference**

Tuesday June 1, 2009

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

Portland, Oregon

at World Trade Center Two

Sponsor: Environmental Law Education Center

This conference covers issues of interest and concern in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Topics include 1) pollution prevention and toxics reduction strategies, 2) legislation, initiatives and follow up to Senate Bill 737, 3) water quality standards and NPDES permits, 4) developing toxics-reduction plans, 5) Persistent Priority Pollutants (P3 List), 6) pesticides and emerging contaminants, 7) ecological and human health risks, and more.

Price: \$450 until May 15th or \$495 after that; \$350/\$395 for government or nonprofit employees

[Visit the website](#)

#### **4) Update From Copenhagen: New Science on Hormone Disruptors and Reproductive Health**

Wednesday June 3, 2009

10:00 a.m. Pacific time/1:00 p.m. Eastern time/7:00 p.m. Central European time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will discuss exciting new data from the 5th Copenhagen Workshop on Endocrine Disruptors ([www.reproduction.dk/cow2009/index.htm](http://www.reproduction.dk/cow2009/index.htm)). The Copenhagen workshops consistently feature a multidisciplinary group of distinguished international scientists and cutting-edge new research emerging from the environmental and reproductive health fields. This year's Copenhagen workshop will focus on new science regarding the health effects of exposures to endocrine, or hormone, disruptors present in our everyday lives, including in our food, in products we commonly use and in our homes. The workshop will feature a mixture of studies and links between effects in laboratory studies and observations in wildlife and humans. Some of the topics to be covered include hormone-disruptor impacts to prenatal reproductive development, reproduction, obesity, puberty, brain development and thyroid-hormone function. The workshop is intended to facilitate an exchange of information and views both within the scientific community and with experts engaged in regulation and policymaking. On this call, presenters will discuss and comment on the highlights from this year's workshop. Confirmed speakers are Pete Myers, PhD, and Shanna Swan, PhD.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

#### **5) 2009 Northwest Chemicals Policy Symposium**

Thursday June 4, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Hyatt Hotel at Olive 8

Sponsor: Snohomish County, Conference on Canadian Stewardship

In this highly interactive workshop, participants will share activities and successes, barriers encountered, and emerging strategies to improve chemicals policy nationally. The session will bring together diverse stakeholders working toward a green materials economy where manufacturing, use, and end-of-life management of consumer products have no adverse effects on our health or environment. Representatives from academia, local and state government, health and environmental organizations, business, and advocacy organizations are all invited to attend. The session will emphasize generating ideas and joint strategies for advancing policy change in our communities, states, and the nation.

Price: \$50

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Marni Solheim, 509-329-3564 or [MSOL461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:MSOL461@ECY.WA.GOV)

#### **6) CHE Science Café Call**

Thursday, June 4, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE as we host our first Science Café call featuring Steve Gilbert, PhD, with the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders. Dr. Gilbert will discuss Toxipedia (<http://www.toxipedia.org>), a tool he created that uses a modified wiki approach. Now with a contract from the National Library of Medicine and funding from King County and the Washington Department of Ecology, he will be able to further develop the site and

lessen the information gap between those with knowledge on environmental public health and those that need the information to lead healthier lives.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **7) 21st Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability**

Thursday through Saturday, June 4 - 6, 2009  
Vilnius, Lithuania

Sponsor: European Academy of Childhood Disability

The meeting is intended to promote collaborations between eastern and western European countries in the field of developmental disorders, and in improving and unifying rehabilitation standards in Europe. Standards of care emerging in different therapy areas will be presented in the workshops. The conference theme is "From Myth to Evidence."

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

### **8) 3rd WHO International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment**

Sunday through Wednesday, June 7 - 10, 2009

Sponsor: World Health Organization

The event aims to extend the recognition of children's environmental health needs and provide a platform for the exchange of scientific experiences, promote learning about research efforts, and promote protective policies. It will also enable us to work out why existing global efforts have not progressed more rapidly and what needs to be done, both in developing and industrialized countries.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: World Health Organization, 41-22-791-21-11 or [info@who.int](mailto:info@who.int)

### **9) 12th Biennial Meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Association**

Sunday through Friday, June 7 - 12, 2009

Ma'ale Hachamisha, Israel

at the Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha Hotel and Convention Center

Sponsor: International Neurotoxicology Association

The conference theme is "Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurotoxicology." CME credit is pending. The official language of the meeting is English.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

### **10) AAIDD Annual Conference**

Wednesday through Friday, June 10 - 12, 2009

New Orleans, Louisiana

at the Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans, 921 Canal Street

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The conference theme is "Creating Enviably Lives: The Business Plan Conference." A panel presentation is scheduled for Wednesday on "Translating the Science: Links

Between Neurotoxicants and Learning/Developmental Disabilities", led by Laura Abulafia.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

### 11) PubMed®

Monday June 15, 2009 OR Tuesday June 16, 2009 (select one day)

8:30 a.m.

Bethesda, Maryland

at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Building 38A, 4th Floor Training Room (4S-412)

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

This full-day class is designed to teach students how to use PubMed® which includes MEDLINE citations. The class also includes an overview of the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) and its importance as a tool to both searchers and indexers. PubMed® is awarded 7.5 MLA continuing education credits.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### 12) TOXNET® and Beyond

Wednesday June 17, 2009

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

Bethesda, Maryland

at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Building 38A, 4th Floor Training Room (4S-412)

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

This course is designed to convey the basics of searching the NLM's TOXNET®, a web-based system of databases in the areas of toxicology, environmental health and related fields. The course will also teach students to utilize NLM's environmental health and toxicology portal which provides resources beyond the TOXNET® databases. Students will learn the content and structure of files covering toxicology data, toxicology literature, toxic releases and chemical nomenclature. Among the databases highlighted will be TOXLINE, the Hazardous Substances Data Bank, the Integrated Risk Information System, the Toxi Release Inventory, and ChemIDplus. The course, taught by NLM instructors, will be conducted in a computer lab and includes lectures, online demonstrations and hands-on exercises. TOXNET® is a free class and is awarded 6.0 MLA continuing education credits.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: National Training Center and Clearinghouse, 800-338-7657

## Announcements & Articles

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

**[A Common Agenda for Health and Environment.](#)** In 2007, nearly 100 leaders of healthcare, community development, environmental, labor and agriculture organizations began a conversation about the world we want to leave our children, and what it will take to get there within a generation.

### **[New online environmental medicine education resources.](#)**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATDSR) offers environmental health and medicine education products for health professionals, community members,

and interested members of the public. These materials are designed to increase awareness and knowledge of how the environment impacts human health.

**[Call for Proposals: Exploring Linkages Between Health Outcomes and Environmental Hazards, Exposures, and Interventions for Public Health Tracking and Risk Management.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applications to develop new or improved environmental public health indicators (EPHIs) to build linkages between environmental hazards, human exposures, and public health outcomes. The aim of the research is to develop indicators that can be used for long-term tracking and surveillance of environmental public health, making better informed decisions, and assessing the actual impacts of environmental risk management decisions. Applications are due August 5, 2009.

**[Ethical issues in measuring biomarkers in children's environmental health.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Research measuring biomarkers in children raises a number of ethical issues, some of which related to children as research subjects and some of which are specific to biomarker research. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[Fighting off shareholders' environmental resolution, Dow cites inaccurate information in its SEC filing.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

In an effort to ward off a shareholder resolution that sought greater transparency in the company's handling of dioxin contamination, Dow Chemical gave the Securities and Exchange Commission inaccurate information about the state of Michigan's consumption advisory for walleye downstream from the company's Midland plant. Michigan Messenger, Michigan.

**[Are your household products safe?](#)**

*Monday, May 18, 2009*

Everyday products may contain toxic chemicals - and most of the time there's no warning label. Health Link.

**[Pollution can change your DNA in 3 days, study suggests.](#)**

*Monday, May 18, 2009*

Breathing in polluted air may wreak havoc on our DNA, reprogramming genes in as few as three days and causing increased rates of cancer and other diseases. National Geographic News.

**[Law would require trash to be recycled by companies.](#)**

*Monday, May 18, 2009*

Four pieces of Massachusetts legislation are aimed at forcing manufacturers to take back and recycle after use by the consumer any products that contain ingredients harmful to humans or the environment, such as mercury. Lynn Daily Item, Massachusetts.

**[Synthetic turf fields kicking up safety concerns.](#)**

*Monday, May 18, 2009*

Some health experts, activists and parents from Seattle to Chicago to Stamford, Mass. worry that children who play on artificial turf may be exposed to chemicals if they inhale or swallow the rubber granules, known as crumb rubber. Associated Press.

**[Pesticide in pools far above safe limit.](#)**

*Monday, May 18, 2009*

Australia's pesticide regulators will consider banning or restricting the use of the controversial herbicide simazine in swimming pool treatments after concerns were raised about potential harmful impacts on children who swim regularly. Sydney Australian, Australia.

**[FDA relied heavily on BPA lobby.](#)**



*Sunday, May 17, 2009*

As federal regulators hold fast to their claim that a chemical in baby bottles is safe, e-mails obtained by the Journal Sentinel show that they relied on chemical industry lobbyists to examine bisphenol A's risks, track legislation to ban it and even monitor press coverage. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

**[Call to disorder: Parents, scientists, educators looking for answers about autism.](#)**

*Sunday, May 17, 2009*

David Wallace, the director of the Center for Integrative Neuroscience at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, and several other of the center's scientists and physicians, formed the Autism Research Group to help answer those questions. Specifically, they're interested in environmental ties to autism, researching possible links between heavy metals such as mercury, lead and cadmium. Tulsa World, Oklahoma.

[See a related report: [Autism Spectrum Disorders: Changes in the California Caseload.](#)]

**[Clearing the air.](#)**

*Saturday, May 16, 2009*

Air researchers talk about the Rule of 1,000: anything released indoors is about 1,000 times more likely to be breathed in than something released outdoors. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Is indoor air pollution a real problem?](#)]

**[UN official challenges chemical industry.](#)**

*Saturday, May 16, 2009*

The United Nations' top environmental official on May 14 challenged the chemical industry to clean up stockpiles of its old, toxic products. Chemical & Engineering News.

**[Mercury levels in fish.](#)**

*Saturday, May 16, 2009*

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says mercury levels are rising in walleye and northern pike in Minnesota, possibly due to emissions from coal fire plants overseas. Duluth WDIO TV, Minnesota.

**[Joe Biden announces \\$100M for lead-paint removal.](#)**

*Saturday, May 16, 2009*

Nearly \$100 million in federal stimulus money will go toward a program to remove lead-based paint and other health and safety hazards from low-income homes, Vice President Joe Biden announced Friday. Associated Press.

**[House approves \\$6.4 billion for green schools.](#)**

*Friday, May 15, 2009*

The House on Thursday passed a multiyear school construction bill with the ambitious goals of producing hundreds of thousands of jobs, reducing energy consumption and creating healthier, cleaner environments for the nation's schoolchildren. Associated Press.

**[Authors discover toxins in 'off-the-shelf' products increase quickly.](#)**

*Friday, May 15, 2009*

After steering clear of food packaging containing bisphenol A for a couple of days, Rick Smith saw the levels of the hormone-disrupting chemical linked to breast and prostate cancer in his body increase 7.5 times after just two days of restricting his diet to canned foods heated in a microwave using a polycarbonate plastic container. Vancouver Sun, British Columbia.

**[Panel discusses shielding kids from chemicals.](#)**

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

The idea behind the group "Go Greener Greenwich" is to educate residents about environmental issues - especially on the impact that the thousands of chemicals in everyday items have on children, said Alex Bergstein, who helped organize the event. Greenwich Time, Connecticut.

**[For urban gardeners, lead is a concern.](#)**

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Health officials, soil scientists and environmental engineers worry that the increasing popularity of gardening, particularly the urban kind, will put more people at risk for lead poisoning if they don't protect themselves. New York Times.

**[No easy solutions for Great Salt Lake mercury.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Dealing with mercury problems plaguing the Great Salt Lake won't be as simple as finding and eliminating its sources, a national mercury expert said Tuesday. Associated Press.

**[Tennessee spill: The dredge report.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

The Tennessee Valley Authority's efforts to clean tons of toxic coal ash are set to cause a "major toxic event" that could kill entire fish species and send a human health threat slinking up the food chain, according to scientists. The Nation.

[See related articles: [EPA failed to disclose coal ash-related health risks](#) and [EPA takeover of fly ash cleanup could fend off TVA lawsuits.](#)]

**[Nonstick chemical pollutes water at notable levels.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

A new study finds evidence that people may be exposed through drinking water to a persistent nonstick chemical, PFOA or perfluorooctanoic acid, at levels approaching those that trigger adverse effects in laboratory animals. Science News.

[See a related article: [Teflon lawsuit against DuPont dismissed.](#)]

**[Association of traffic-related air pollution with children's neurobehavioral functions in Quanzhou, China.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

There was a significant relationship between chronic low-level traffic-related air pollution exposure and children's neurobehavioral functions.

**[The seafood conundrum.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Nutritionists say we should eat more, that many types of fish are nutritious and contain fats that seem to protect the heart. Yet some species have been found to contain high levels of environmental contaminants like PCBs and mercury, particularly hazardous to pregnant women, while other types are decimated by overfishing or farmed in environmentally damaging ways. New York Times.

**[How thalidomide makes its mark.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

More than 50 years after the drug thalidomide hit the market as a remedy for nausea in pregnant women, researchers may finally have pinned down how it causes severe birth defects. Nature.

**[Cleaner air from reduced emissions could save millions of lives, says report.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Tackling climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions could save millions of lives because of the cleaner air that would result, according to a recent study. London Guardian, England.

**[Carbofuran pesticide residues in food revoked.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

The Environmental Protection Agency has revoked regulations that permitted small residues of the pesticide carbofuran in food. EPA's action will eliminate residues of carbofuran in food, including all imports, in a move to protect people, especially children, from dietary risk. US Environmental Protection Agency.

**[Privatization of NJ toxic cleanup law reveals a systematic collapse.](#)**

*Monday, May 11, 2009*



In an extraordinary new low for New Jersey's declining commitment to protect the health of residents and the environment, this week, Governor Corzine signed legislation that privatized the state's toxic site cleanup program. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

**[Trash merits role in Obama energy plan, waste management says.](#)**

*Monday, May 11, 2009*

While waste-based energy would make Obama's goals more achievable, environmentalist groups such as Environment America have long opposed the garbage companies as polluters and say burning trash releases toxic chemicals. Bloomberg News.

**[State will spend millions to improve water quality.](#)**

*Sunday, May 10, 2009*

Iowa is about to launch its biggest assault ever on river and lake pollution - a \$455 million campaign. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

**[EPA chief calls for environmental justice.](#)**

*Saturday, May 09, 2009*

The federal Environmental Protection Agency needs to address the systemic environmental issues facing America's poor, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said in a speech yesterday at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. Trenton Times, New Jersey.

**[Idaho study shows arsenic in wells.](#)**

*Saturday, May 09, 2009*

More than a century of irrigation has caused naturally occurring arsenic in the soil to be carried to underground reservoirs. Associated Press.

**[UN: Treaty expanded by 9 more dangerous chemicals.](#)**

*Saturday, May 09, 2009*

A U.N.-sponsored treaty to combat highly dangerous chemicals has been expanded beyond the original "dirty dozen" to include nine more substances that are used in pesticides, flame retardants and other products, U.N. officials said Saturday. Associated Press. [See a related article: [China phases out pesticide POPs.](#)]

**[Folic acid might be losing its sheen.](#)**

*Saturday, May 09, 2009*

Folic acid was thought to be a wonder-vitamin. It was linked to a reduction of certain birth defects and to the prevention of some cancers. But new studies suggest that getting too much folic acid might actually fuel certain cancers. Los Angeles Times, California

**[State bans chemical in baby bottles.](#)**

*Saturday, May 09, 2009*

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed a bill into law Thursday that prohibits the sale of baby bottles and cups that contain Bisphenol-A (BPA), which is found in many plastics and in canned food coatings. Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota. [See a related news article: [Chicago bans sale of baby bottles, sippy cups with dangerous chemical.](#) and related journal articles: [Bisphenol A stifles thyroid hormone and slows frog development](#) and [Use of polycarbonate bottles and urinary bisphenol A concentrations.](#)]

**[Age of greatest susceptibility to childhood lead exposure: A new statistical approach.](#)**

*Friday, May 08, 2009*

Susceptibility to lead toxicity is often assumed to be greatest during early childhood (e.g., 2 years of age), but recent studies suggest that blood lead concentrations (BPb) taken at 5 to 7 years of age are more strongly associated with IQ. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[G8 identifies focus on children's environmental health.](#)**

*Friday, May 08, 2009*

A recent Environment Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Eight (G8) major

industrialised countries showed renewed focus on children's health as a fundamental objective of environmental protection and sustainable development. Environmental Expert.com.

#### [DDT linked to health problems.](#)

*Friday, May 08, 2009*

Spraying the pesticide DDT indoors to fight malaria, as is done in SA's malaria areas, could be leading to increased incidences of cancer, diabetes, foetal and childhood developmental problems and decreased fertility among exposed communities, experts said yesterday. Johannesburg Business Day, South Africa.

[See a related article: [Goodbye DDT.](#)]

#### [Testing finds lead in children.](#)

*Friday, May 08, 2009*

The first widespread testing for lead exposure among Spokane children found that 6 percent of those tested had ingested measurable amounts of toxic lead. Spokane Spokesman-Review, Washington.

#### ['Green' lightbulbs poison workers.](#)

*Thursday, May 07, 2009*

Large numbers of Chinese workers have been poisoned by mercury, which forms part of the compact fluorescent light bulbs. Environmental News Network.

#### [Poison in the air, part 4.](#)

*Thursday, May 07, 2009*

When we talk about pollution, it's not just industry and power plants that shoulder the blame. We all contribute to the hazards that cause cancer, lung and heart problems. Birmingham WIAT TV CBS 42, Alabama.

#### [Fear of vaccines spurs outbreaks, study says.](#)

*Thursday, May 07, 2009*

Parental doubts about the safety of childhood vaccinations are leading to outbreaks of largely eradicated diseases like measles and whooping cough, doctors warned in a new report. Wall Street Journal.

#### [Why does the vaccine/autism controversy live on?](#)

*Thursday, May 07, 2009*

The idea that there is something wrong with our vaccines - that they have poisoned a generation of kids, driving an "epidemic" of autism - continues to be everywhere. Discover.

#### [U.S. radiation dose has doubled.](#)

*Wednesday, May 06, 2009*

Collectively, Americans now receive more than twice as much radiation each year as in the 1980s. That's according to a new tally by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Science News.

#### [Saving face: How safe are cosmetics and body care products?](#)

*Wednesday, May 06, 2009*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration oversees the multi-billion-dollar-a-year cosmetics industry but it lacks the power to approve products or ingredients before they hit store shelves, even though their contents have been shown to enter the body. Scientific American.

[See a related article: [Are you being poisoned by cosmetics?](#)]

#### [Air quality at schools studied.](#)

*Wednesday, May 06, 2009*

The air your children breathe at school may have a big impact on their learning, researchers at the University of Tulsa have found. In crowded schools, carbon dioxide can build up and make students tired, lethargic, and not want to learn. That's why ventilation is so important. Tulsa KTUL TV, Oklahoma.

*Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News,  
<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>*

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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