



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin May 8, 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 our website:

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

LDDI Highlights

News feed from the Collaborative on Health and the Environment

CHE has begun publishing a daily news feed on its website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce> Articles and announcements, including those that will be used in these biweekly bulletins, are now available daily. Individuals can subscribe to the feed via RSS.

New members

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Frank Bove, ScD, MS, Tucker, Georgia
- Angelique Chaverri, MEd, Springfield, Missouri
- Carolyn Graff, PhD, Memphis, Tennessee

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.iceh.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) Film -- Black Mold Exposure

in various cities around the US from April 21 - June 16, 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

2) Healthy Buildings, Active Learners: Improving Indoor Environments for Oregon Schools

Thursday May 7, 2009

Cottage Grove, Oregon

at the Village Green Resort, 725 Row River Road

Sponsor: Oregon Schools Indoor Air Quality Partnership

This one-day conference will address air-quality issues for K-12 schools across Oregon. We encourage anyone interested in healthy buildings to attend this informative and hands-on event, including school administrators, facilities managers, custodians, teachers, nurses, PTA/PTO members, parents, and community leaders.

Price: \$25 includes lunch

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Beverly Stewart, 503-718-6146 or beverly@lungoregon.org

3) PubMed®

Thursday May 7, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Tempe, Arizona

at the Arizona State University Noble Science and Engineering Library, 601 East Tyler, Noble Instruction Room, 1st floor

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](#)

4) Responsible Chemical Management: Collaborative Efforts with Schools

Thursday May 7, 2009

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

San Francisco, California

at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco

Sponsor: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, EPA Office of Compliance, EPA Office of Cross Media Programs, EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Performance Track Participants Association, and corporate sponsors listed on the website

This training, part of the 6th Annual National Environmental Partnership Summit, is based on real-life school chemical management programs. For a fraction of the time and money it takes to clean up after a chemical accident, you will walk away from the session with best practices for collaborating with others to prevent such accidents and protect K-12 students and staff.

Price: \$40

[Visit the website](#)

5) First Orlando Children's Environmental Health Forum

Friday May 8, 2009

Orlando, Florida

at the Ginsburg Tower, Creation Conference Rooms D & E, Florida Hospital Center for Children, 601 East Rollins Street

Sponsor: Children's Environmental Health Network

There will be a panel presentation and town hall discussion on children's environmental health protection. Speakers include Dr. Antonia Novello, Dr. Joel Hunter and Dr. Karen van Caulil.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Washington, 202-543-4033 ext. 12 or lwashington@cehn.org

6) PubMed Clinics of North America: A Problem-based Approach to PubMed Searching

Friday May 8, 2009

1:00 p.m.

Tempe, Arizona

at the Arizona State University Noble Science and Engineering Library, 601 East Tyler, Noble Instruction Room, 1st floor

Sponsor: National Library of Medicine

The three-hour workshop will focus on a problem-based approach in learning to search the PubMed database. Through case studies, group exercises and hands-on practice, participants will become more efficient PubMed searchers. The class is geared for intermediate and advanced PubMed searchers. Three continuing education credits are available.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

7) Symposium on Toxicity Pathway-based Risk Assessment

Monday through Wednesday, May 11-13, 2009

Washington, DC

at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW

Sponsor: National Academy of Sciences

This public workshop will investigate application to risk assessment of new pathway-based approaches, such as those envisioned in the 2007 National Research Council report *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: a Vision and a Strategy*. The workshop will include plenary sessions, during which new toxicity-testing approaches and case examples will be presented to address the use of various types of data in risk assessment. The workshop will also incorporate a poster session to provide additional information in support of the case studies and to highlight examples of how new technologies may be applied to qualitative and quantitative aspects of risk assessment.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

8) CleanMed 2010

Monday through Wednesday, May 18 - 20, 2009

Chicago, Illinois

at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive

Sponsor: see [the list of sponsors](#)

CleanMed 2009 is the sixth international conference to catalyze environmental improvements in the health-care sector. The conference draws a diverse mix of over 600 health care leaders, materials/purchasing managers, environmental health and safety staff, nurses and providers, architects, designers, and medical and building product vendors from across the United States. The conference activates environmentally preferable advances in health care. Keynote speakers will be Ray Baxter, PhD, and Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

9) 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](#)

10) 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 our 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

11) 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](#)

12) 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](#)

Announcements & Articles

[Request for comments: Presidential Memo on Scientific Integrity.](#)

On March 9, 2009, the President issued a memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies on the subject of scientific integrity, stating that "science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of my Administration on a wide range of issues." Comments are due by May 13th. Office of Science & Technology Policy.

[Call for proposals: Building Strategic Alliances for Healthy Housing Pilot.](#)

Approximately \$650,000 will be available to fund up to 6 awards, each between \$75,000 and \$110,000. The purpose of the program is to reduce or eliminate housing-related health hazards and to promote housing that is safe, healthy, accessible and affordable. The deadline for a letter of intent is May 26th. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Call for proposals: Global Prevention of Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Promotion of Health.](#)

The purpose of the program is to promote health, provide expertise and training to regions and countries across the globe to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, their risk factors, and related causes through effective regional, national and community health programs. Applications are due by June 1st. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Detoxing to get rid of chemicals in the body increasingly popular and much debated.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

Proponents of detoxing say that chemicals from pesticides and other contaminants in food, drinking water, cleaning products and air build up over time and cause disease. Detoxing has become enormously popular, but it is the subject of much debate. Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio.

[European Commission welcomes parliament vote to cut petrol vapor emissions.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

The European Commission on Tuesday welcomed European Parliament's vote to approve legislation proposed by the commission to cut harmful vapor emissions from fuel stations. Xinhua News Agency, China.

[Everyday pollutants in your home pose health risk.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

The Environmental Working Group has come up with a list of common pollutants in just about any home. Hampton Roads WVEC, Virginia.

[Study: Most key fishing spots in state polluted.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

The most comprehensive survey ever of pollutants in California's lakes and reservoirs has found that only a few of the most popular fishing spots are free of mercury, PCBs and other contaminants. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Arctic thaw may slow crackdown on toxic chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

A thaw of the Arctic linked to global warming may slow a drive to get rid of industrial chemicals that are harming indigenous people and wildlife, an expert said on Monday. Reuters.

[CPSC votes to delay lead law for ATVs.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission will delay enforcement of a new anti-lead law as it pertains to the sale of youth ATVs and dirt bikes. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Law puts brakes on kids' rides.](#)]

[Special report: thousands of kids exposed to dangerous liquid mercury in schools, homes.](#)

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

When children encounter long-forgotten stashes of liquid mercury, schools have to shut down for days or weeks and the toxic trail left in classrooms, buses, homes and communities costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up. Found in many old science labs and used in some cultural ceremonies, mercury triggered more than 37,000 calls to U.S. poison control centers in a five-year period. One specialist found traces in 40% of schools tested. Environmental Health News.

[See a related story: [CFL dangers: mercury exposure.](#)]

[Should DDT be used to combat malaria?](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

A panel of scientists recommended today that the spraying of DDT in malaria-plagued Africa and Asia should be greatly reduced because people are exposed in their homes to high levels that may cause serious health effects. Scientific American.

[Gas drillers battle Pennsylvania pollution concerns.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

U.S. energy companies rushing to exploit Pennsylvania's massive natural gas reserves have launched a public relations campaign to calm fears the bonanza is contaminating water with toxic chemicals. Reuters.

[Stockholm convention meets over new ban on organic pollutants.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

Ministers and officials from 150 governments are meeting this week to advance global efforts to rid the world of some of the most hazardous chemicals produced by humankind. Lagos Guardian, Nigeria

[See a related story: [Indonesia to ratify Stockholm Convention on May 12.](#)]

[Kiddie Kollege ruling could have broad impact.](#)

Monday, May 04, 2009

A New Jersey Superior Court judge's decision last week to void the deed to a contaminated day-care building, freeing the owner from cleanup costs, has sparked a wide range of reactions and debate about its implications. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[A multi-individual pharmacokinetic model framework for interpreting time trends of persistent chemicals in human populations: Application to a post-ban situation.](#)

Sunday, May 03, 2009

Cross-sectional trend data (CSTD) provide quantitative information about trends in human exposure and can be combined with exposure studies to estimate elimination kinetics. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[You are what you eat \(but also what it was packaged in\).](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Grease-resistant paper used in food packaging exposes humans to perfluorochemicals that have been linked to problems with reproduction and development, the immune system, and the liver, a new University of Toronto study has found. The Daily Green.

[Tests of women leaders show how toxins turn up in Americans' blood.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Tests of the body burden of five leading minority women environmentalists found a mixture of flame retardants, synthetic fragrances, bisphenol A and rocket fuel, among other contaminants. Los Angeles KABC, California.

[EPA seeks rules for utilities' polluted runoff.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Faced with new evidence that utilities across the country are dumping toxic sludge into waterways, the Environmental Protection Agency is moving to impose new restrictions on the level of contaminants power plants can discharge. Washington Post.

[Feds seize lead-tainted necklaces from China.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced Thursday that thousands of Chinese-imported children's necklaces that officers seized in March are tainted with lead. Bay City News, California.

[See a related story: [Jewelry labeled "lead free" exceeded limits, state says.](#)]

[Big increase in ocean mercury found; study predicts more human threat from fish.](#)

Saturday, May 02, 2009

Mercury levels in the Pacific Ocean will rise by 50 percent within the next few decades as emissions from coal-fired power plants and other sources increase, scientists reported Friday. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Landmark U.S. Geological Survey study demonstrates how methylmercury, known to contaminate seafood, originates in the ocean.](#)]

[Council mandates information sheet signings for dental fillings.](#)

Friday, May 01, 2009

City Council yesterday mandated distribution and signing of information sheets before any cavity is filled at any dental office in Philadelphia. Mayor Nutter's approval would propel the city to the front of a debate about the safety of dental fillings. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[BPA ban passes House.](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

The Connecticut House of Representatives has voted to ban the sale, manufacture or distribution of infant formula and baby food in containers made with Bisphenol-A. Hartford Courant.

[Vets' work conditions tied to preterm birth risk.](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Long work hours and exposure to anesthetics may raise pregnant veterinarians' risk of premature delivery, a new study suggests. Reuters Health.

[Ghana's illicit trade in discarded electronics.](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

There's a living to be made in scrap yards like this, burning, melting and breaking down old gadgetry, but environmentalists worry that the pervasive practice is devastating the air and water of West African cities like Accra. GlobalPost.

[Half of Argentina's children at risk for lack of clean water.](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2009

More than half of all children in Argentina are at risk of illness because of lack of access to clean running water; many are also threatened by polluting industries and the use of pesticides in agriculture, according to a study by the ombudsman's office. Inter Press Service.

[Dealing with uncertainties in environmental burden of disease assessment.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Environmental burden of disease estimates enable policy makers to evaluate, compare

and prioritize dissimilar environmental health problems or interventions. We have reviewed how different types of uncertainties affect environmental burden of disease assessments, and we give suggestions as to how researchers could address these uncertainties. Environmental Health.

[Receptor that responds to common pollutants also controls development.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

A genetic trigger in the cell, long studied for its role in responding to some of the most toxic compounds known, appears to have newly discovered important functions in directing development. Environmental Health News.

[America's most polluted cities.](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Six in 10 Americans live in counties where ozone or particle pollution has reached dangerous levels, finds a new report by the American Lung Association. Both can be deadly and have been linked to worsening respiratory conditions like asthma, emphysema and bronchitis, and particle pollution may increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Forbes.

[See a related article: [Minority areas more polluted.](#)]

[Neurobehavioral effects of ambient air pollution on cognitive performance in US adults.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

This study provides the first epidemiological data supporting the adverse neurobehavioral effects of ambient air pollutants in adults. Neurotoxicology.

[Sleeping with the enemy: indoor airborne contaminants.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

New research studying household air in homes in Arizona found more than 400 chemicals ranging from pesticides to phthalates, confirming that indoor air can be heavily contaminated with pollutants. Environmental Health News.

[See a related story: [Go green: local experts weigh in on how to make a greener home.](#)]

[Prevention: Enforcing law cuts teenage smoking.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Rigorous enforcement of laws on tobacco sales, including the use of people posing as underage buyers, has significantly reduced the smoking rate among teenagers, a new study has found. New York Times.

[Camphor-containing products tied to kids' seizures.](#)

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Camphor-containing products, commonly used to ease cold symptoms, deter pests, or for spiritual purposes, can be highly toxic to young children, researchers warn in the journal Pediatrics. Reuters Health.

[20% of private water wells contaminated, research shows.](#)

Monday, April 27, 2009

One out of five private drinking-water wells in the United States contains at least one contaminant that exceeds public health standards, and wells in the San Joaquin Valley are no exception, according to new research from the U.S. Geological Survey. Stockton Record, California.

[Tainted water: Illinois vows to tighten rules to ensure safety of municipal supplies.](#)

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Illinois officials are taking steps to ensure people aren't drinking contaminated water, including proposing criminal penalties for misleading the public about the source of water flowing from their taps. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Federal Court orders publication of all mining pollution data.](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

The Canadian government must report in a national public database all the pollution being produced by mining companies, a Federal Court judge ruled Thursday. CBC Canada, Canada.

[Health issues 'Through the eyes of a child.'](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Through the Eyes of a Child: First Nation Children's Environmental Health manual -- produced by UOI's FASD program -- looks at some of the environmental issues that are affecting First Nation children on and off reserve. North Bay Nugget, Canada.

[What if vitamin D deficiency is a cause of autism?](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

As evidence of widespread vitamin D deficiency grows, some scientists are wondering whether the sunshine vitamin -- once only considered important in bone health -- may actually play a role in one of neurology's most vexing conditions: autism. Scientific American.

[See related articles: [Vitamin D often low in mothers and newborns](#) and [Mother's antibodies may contribute to autism.](#)]

[How clean is the Great Salt Lake?](#)

Friday, April 24, 2009

How pristine is North America's largest body of salt water? Opinions vary as to what threat contaminants pose even as major studies continue. Concentrations of total mercury compounds and methylmercury are higher in Great Salt Lake than in any other body of water in the United States. Tooele Transcript, Utah.

[Even low lead levels may be harmful to kids.](#)

Friday, April 24, 2009

Even low blood levels of lead -- well below the 10 ug/dl threshold for harmful effects set by the U.S. CDC -- during early childhood can adversely affect how a child's cardiovascular system responds to stress and could possibly lead to high blood pressure later in life, new research hints Reuters.

[Group says flea collars for pets endanger kids.](#)

Friday, April 24, 2009

Some cat and dog flea collars leave chemicals on fur that are hazardous to the pets and their owners, in violation of California's anti-toxics laws, according to a national environmental group's lawsuit Thursday.

[Health agency accused of overlooking environmental threats to public.](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2009

The federal agency responsible for investigating human-health risks posed by contaminated sites or excessive industrial pollution is under fire in Congress. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry routinely conducts perfunctory investigations that use simplistic and outdated science, according to a report by congressional investigators and scientists. Environmental Science & Technology.

[Poisoned waters.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

More than three decades after the Clean Water Act, iconic American waterways like the Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound are in perilous condition and facing new sources of contamination. Frontline.

[Lead poisoning in adults.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

The good news is that blood lead levels in American adults have declined significantly in the past 15 years. Between 1994 and 2007, blood lead levels dropped from 14 per µg/dL to 7.2 -- a drop of nearly 50%. See which occupations, hobbies and habits are most likely to expose you to lead. The Daily Green.

[EPA seeks tighter lid on kiln emissions in Oregon, elsewhere.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

The federal government is moving to drastically reduce air pollution from cement plants, and the biggest offender is here in Oregon. On Tuesday the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released proposed rules for airborne mercury and other pollutants from cement kilns. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

[Bugs, cornstarch replace pesticides today.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Starting today, Ontario stores may not sell -- and residents may not use for cosmetic purposes -- any herbicide or insecticide containing one of the 80 chemicals listed in a pesticide ban announced by Environment Minister John Gerretsen on Earth Day last year. Toronto Star, Canada.

*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.partnersforchildren.org/bulletins.html>
- 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!](#)

Email Marketing by

