



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin June 2, 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 Resource on Chemical Policy Reform

CHE has created a new webpage with information on upcoming teleconferences, legislation and analysis; the initial focus will be on the "Safe Chemicals Act of 2010." [Visit the 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 #5 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.

New Members

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Anna Christie, San Francisco, California
- Tami Giles, Tumwater, Washington
- Ann Johnson, MFA, Clinton, Washington
- Kinga Kosny, Clawson, Michigan
- Daisy Lopez, Orlando, Florida
- Sancia Matthyssen, Georgetown, Texas
- Erin O'Brien, MD, Dallas, Texas
- Guilherme Reis, Montes Claros, Brazil

Announcements

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

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

[Call for nominations: EPA Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards Program.](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency offers three competitive awards. Applications are due Friday, October 8, 2010.

[Crow Wing County citizens invited to comment on proposed waste injection well permit.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has invited Crow Wing County, Minn., and surrounding area residents to comment on a proposed permit for a waste injection well. The public comment period will run through June 25th.

[See an announcement about public meetings in West Virginia: [EPA to hold community meetings on Port of Huntington Tri-State Collaborative](#)]

[EPA advises facility operators to minimize releases during hazardous weather events.](#)

As hurricane season approaches, EPA is issuing a Hazardous Weather Release Prevention and Reporting alert to remind facility operators of certain regulations that require minimization of chemical releases during process shutdown operations.

[EPA releases draft dioxin report for peer review and public comment.](#)

This comprehensive human health and exposure risk assessment on dioxin, one of the most toxic environmental contaminants, aims to protect the health of the American public. The draft report will now undergo scientific peer review by independent, external experts as well as public review and comment.

[See related articles: [A new source of dioxins: Clean hands](#), [River sediments contain dioxins linked to Triclosan](#) and [Dioxins reassessed](#) plus one about the legacy of dioxin in Agent Orange: [Vietnam's struggle with Agent Orange](#)]

[Early childhood profiles.](#)

State policies that promote health, education, and strong families can help the early development and school readiness of America's youngest citizens. These profiles highlight states' policy choices alongside other contextual data related to the well-being of young children.

[Children and Nature Initiative.](#)

The National Environmental Education foundation has launched an initiative designed to help pediatricians and other health care professionals to improve children's health by "prescribing" outdoor activity. Research indicates that unstructured outdoor activities may improve children's health by increasing physical activity, reducing stress, and serving as a support mechanism for attention disorders.

[The National Association of School Nurses online survey.](#)

This survey asks K-12 school nurses about common school environmental issues: pesticides, sinks, windows, carpeting in classes, drinking water, chemical spills, cleaning, radon testing, asbestos, renovation and more.

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

Earthjustice has two openings, one for a legislative counsel and one for an associate legislative counsel to work on advocacy for, and analysis of, federal rulemakings, policies and legislation regarding natural resource adaptation on federal public lands.

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) Toxic America

Wednesday and Thursday, June 3 and 4, 2010
8:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: CNN

Dr. Sanjay Gupta hosts the two-part television program revealing devastating results from a year-long investigation. Wednesday night highlights "Toxic Towns", delving into the environmental health and justice problems plaguing the community of Mossville, Louisiana. Mossville is not an isolated example, but instead a poster child for a broken chemical safety system. Thursday night highlights "Toxic Childhood" and features "Healthy Child, Healthy World" founders Jim and Nancy Chuda, Scientific Advisor Dr. Phil Landrigan, and HCHW's "A Wake-Up Story" video. This second part of the series reveals the effect toxics have on unborn babies.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) 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](#)

3) 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

4) 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

5) 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

6) Nanotechnology: A New Chapter in Environmental Health Sciences

Thursday June 10, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Over the past decade, nanomaterials have exploded onto the marketplace, ranging in use from teddy bears and tennis rackets to pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. What do we know about these materials and how are we addressing them from a public-health standpoint? The Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California, San Francisco, recently released a draft version of their report, "A Nanotechnology Policy Framework: Policy Recommendations for Addressing Potential Health Risks from Nanomaterials in California," which makes recommendations about how to face the new challenges to the policy and risk assessment process that nanomaterials present because of their unique properties. The document draws upon lessons we can learn from past chemical policy experiences and other recent nanotechnology reports in making recommendations for California. The final report is due out the second week of June. Presenters on this call will cover what we know about the unique properties of nanomaterials, why we should be concerned, how nanotechnology is being addressed at the policy and public health level, and what the gaps are in our knowledge. Presenters include Amber Wise, PhD, chemist and postdoctoral fellow in the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California, San Francisco; Jennifer Sass, PhD, senior scientist at Natural Resources Defense Council; and Carl Cranor, PhD, professor of philosophy at the University of California, Riverside.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

7) 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

8) 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

9) National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday June 15, 2010

1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The discussion topic is EPA's activities related to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, including cleanup and recovery actions, and the impacts of the spill on coastal environmental justice communities. Registration is required by noon Eastern time on Friday June 11th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 877-773-1489 or NEJACJune2010meeting@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com

News and Journal Articles

[Neurobehavioral effects of transportation noise in primary schoolchildren: a cross-sectional study.](#)

Tuesday, June 01, 2010

Based on this study and previous scientific literature it can be concluded that performance on simple tasks is less susceptible to the effects of noise than performance on more complex tasks. Environmental Health.

[Green chemistry: Scientists devise new "Benign by Design" drugs, paints, pesticides and more.](#)

Tuesday, June 01, 2010

Back in the days when better living through chemistry was a promise, not a bitter irony,

nylon stockings replaced silk, refrigerators edged out iceboxes, and Americans became increasingly dependent on man-made materials. Scientific American.

['Dirty dozen' produce carries more pesticide residue, group says.](#)

Tuesday, June 01, 2010

If you're eating non-organic celery today, you may be ingesting 67 pesticides with it, according to a new report from the Environmental Working Group. CNN.

[See related articles about pesticides: [Crop chemical \[atrazine\] suspected in boost of birth defects](#), [Domestic chemical \[chlorpyrifos\] banned](#), [Government warning: Don't drink the water](#) and [New law bans pesticides on NY schools' grass](#)]

[Electronic waste threatens water, fish and the country's health.](#)

Monday, May 31, 2010

The aquifers, fish and people of Costa Rica are exposed to contamination by heavy metals released by technological garbage; in the past 11 years the country has accumulated 13,500 tonnes of waste technology, mostly in the form of computers and cellular telephones. Needs Publisher.

[See a similar article about water quality testing in India: [Startling findings](#)]

[5 toxics that are everywhere and how to protect yourself.](#)

Monday, May 31, 2010

A growing body of research is linking five chemicals [BPA, phthalates, PFOA, formaldehyde and PDBEs] -- among the most common in the world -- to a host of ailments, including cancer, sexual problems and behavioral issues. CNN.

[See related articles about one or more of these chemicals: [The plastic panic: Phthalates: Are they safe?](#); [Why are so few chemicals tested?](#); [Mounting evidence: Kids sickened by common chemicals](#); [Confusion centers on chemicals and cancer](#); [Chemical Culprits: PFCs and Domestic detox: Extreme home cleaning](#)]

[Disposable diapers: Are they dangerous?](#)

Saturday, May 29, 2010

Pampers diapers, which include Cruisers and Swaddlers, are the subject of two U.S. lawsuits filed in mid-May and blamed for causing serious diaper rashes. The bad Pampers press has shed light on the fact that parents are largely in the dark about the chemicals found in the disposable diapers their children wear. CBC Canada.

[Web resource: Crude Oil Spills and Health.](#)

Friday, May 28, 2010

The US National Library of Medicine's Disaster Information Management Research Center compiles information about oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere.

[See a related website [Gulf Coast Oil Spill](#) and related articles: [Seafood testing from Gulf oil disaster could last years](#), [Attention turns to spill-related health risks](#), [Officials ask BP to protect health of workers cleaning up oil spill](#) and [Experts weigh risks of chemical ammo against oil in Gulf](#), plus an article about a spill in California: [State issues warning related to diesel spill at harbor](#)]

[Sewage problem a weighty issue in urban areas.](#)

Friday, May 28, 2010

Only 32 out of Kenya's 178 local government authorities have a sewerage system. This means that 142 local authorities around the country lack access to any form of sewerage system and are therefore highly exposed to diseases, according to a report on the link to health and environment. Nairobi Daily Nation, Kenya.

[See related announcements from the US Environmental Protection Agency: [EPA and New York State announce ban on boat sewage disposal to New York canal system](#) and [EPA to initiate rulemaking to reduce harmful effects of sanitary sewer overflows](#) and another article about hazards in sewage waste: [Drugs passing through septic tanks and into local waters](#)]

[The health risks of swallowing button batteries.](#)

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Writing in the journal Pediatrics, researchers report on a disturbing rise in youngsters

swallowing small button batteries. These are the newer, coin-shaped lithium based power sources that are found in toys and electronic games, hearing aids and watches. Time Magazine.

[EPA seizing control of air pollution permit for Corpus Christi refinery.](#)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

The EPA, saying Texas' system of regulating industrial air pollution violates federal law, stripped the state of jurisdiction over one of its biggest permits Tuesday. Dallas Morning News.

[See an article with the response from the Texas governor: [Perry says EPA harming Texas economy](#) and other articles about regulating air pollution in Kansas: [EPA, KDHE oversight at issue](#) and Pennsylvania: [Pa. orders coke plant to shut down](#)]

[Study: 1 in 8 public pools are unfit to swim in.](#)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

With the temperatures heating up, a dip in the pool may sound like a good idea. But before you do, a startling new CDC report found 1 in 8 public pools were unfit for use. KPSP News.

[See a related article: [The good, the bad, and the volatile: Can we have both healthy pools and healthy people?](#)]

[Cellphones' radiation levels hard to find: probe.](#)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

The amount of radio frequency energy -- a form of radiation emitted by cellphones and absorbed by the body -- is nearly impossible to determine when buying a phone, a CBC-TV Marketplace investigation has found. Environmental Defence.

[See a related article: [Static in cellphone study](#) and others about other sources of radiation: [Easing that electromagnetic anxiety](#) and [Radiation risks cited in full-body airport scans](#)]

[Study finds herbal supplements contain contaminants.](#)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Nearly all of the herbal dietary supplements tested in a Congressional investigation contained trace amounts of lead and other contaminants, and some supplement sellers made illegal claims that their products can cure cancer and other diseases, investigators found. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Herbs, supplements often sold deceptively: U.S. report](#) and one from the UAE: [Herbal drugs: sting in the tail?](#)]

[Environmental warrior takes on industry.](#)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

"I think they were just trying to scare me and get me to back off," says Subra, a soft-spoken grandmother who has made it her life's mission to help communities fight against chemical threats from industry. CNN.

[Soil bacteria might increase learning.](#)

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

A recent study done with 1,200 people, published in the journal Environmental Health and Technology found that even just five minutes in a leafy park can significantly boost our mood. Well, it might be because we inhaled some bacteria among the leaves and grass.

[A mission to help moms quit smoking.](#)

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Smoke Free Babies, funded by grants from the state's First Five Commission and the Sonoma County Health Department, offers support to pregnant women and new mothers. Santa Rosa Press Democrat, California.

[See related articles: [WHO seeks clampdown on tobacco ads targeting women: Smoking puts your unborn child at risk, women told](#); and [2nd-hand smoke plagues pregnant Chinese women](#) and another about the effects of smoking: [Heavy smoking mutates thousands of genes](#)]

[Many vaccines at once ok for kids' brains.](#)

Monday, May 24, 2010

Until now, nobody had studied whether getting several vaccinations in a short time could have negative consequences, for instance by overloading the immune system, as many parents believe, according to Smith. Reuters Health.

[See another article about vaccine controversy: [British Medical Council bars doctor who linked vaccine with autism](#)]

[Fluoride could help, advocates say.](#)

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Nearly half of rural adults in Wisconsin have lost teeth from decay, compared to just over a third of urban adults. Adding fluoride to rural drinking water systems could close that gap, health officials say. Madison Wisconsin State Journal, Wisconsin.

[See an opposing view: [Austin, TX: America's largest water fluoridation fight](#)]

[Health care for exposure to military environmental hazards.](#)

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Senate bill (S3378) authorizes health care for individuals exposed to environmental hazards at Camp Lejeune and the Atsugi Naval Air Facility and establishes an advisory board to examine exposures to environmental hazards during military service. Salem News, Oregon.

[See a follow-up article: [Health care for exposure to military environmental hazards: Part 2](#)]

[Studies link infertility treatments to autism.](#)

Saturday, May 22, 2010

A study conducted by a team at the Harvard School of Public Health found that autism was nearly twice as common among the children of women who were treated with the ovulation-inducing drug Clomid and other similar drugs than women who did not suffer from infertility. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Research points to new causes of autism](#) and [Autism link with migrant parents, study finds](#)]

[Toxic substances agency draws fire.](#)

Friday, May 21, 2010

As officials from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry were questioned at a Congressional hearing Thursday, the Government Accountability Office released a report that found the agency lacked policies in place to give a higher level of review to hazardous sites. New York Times.

[Some question safety of sunscreen products for children.](#)

Friday, May 21, 2010

Although sunscreen is recommended for infants older than 6 months by the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics, there's growing concern that some of the chemicals in the products are endocrine disruptors that may pose health risks to children. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See related articles: [Sunscreen or smoke screen?](#), [Steering around skin cancer](#), [Studies offer conflicting views on sunscreen use](#) and [FDA works on improved labels for sunscreens](#)]

[Water study prompts hearing.](#)

Thursday, May 20, 2010

A U.S. House of Representatives hearing scheduled for this week will examine the ways the National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry assesses, validates and releases public health documents, and to inquire about uses of flawed science and incomplete data in drawing public health conclusions. encToday.com

[Walmart pulls Miley Cyrus jewelry from shelves.](#)

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Walmart said Wednesday it is pulling an entire line of Miley Cyrus-brand necklaces and bracelets from its shelves after tests performed for The Associated Press found the

jewelry contained high levels of the toxic metal cadmium. Associated Press.

[Hospital admissions found to decline since AZ public-smoking ban.](#)

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Arizona hospital admissions for stroke, asthma, heart attacks and angina fell more than 10 percent in the year after a statewide smoking ban took effect, a new study says. Tucson Arizona Daily Star, Arizona.

[See related articles from Washington State: [Smoking in Wash. homes plunges 60 percent since 2000](#) and China: [A breath of fresh air](#)]

[Exposure to PCBs destroys cell connections in the gut.](#)

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

A family of common environmental contaminants, PCBs, can damage and break the important protein links between cells that line the intestine and form a protective barrier into the body. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Piles of poison PCBs remain across Ontario](#)]

[Canadian technologies helping to make world's drinking water safer.](#)

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Even in water-rich Canada, water is becoming a bigger issue. As deaths and illnesses from contaminated water in Ontario showed 10 years ago, clean water isn't something you can take for granted anywhere in the world. CBC Canada.

[See related articles: [A special report on water: To the last drop --how to avoid water wars](#), [A special report on water: Enough is not enough -- it must also be clean](#)]

[Some skin whitening creams contain toxic mercury, testing finds.](#)

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Some creams promising to lighten skin, eliminate age spots and zap freckles contain high levels of mercury, a toxic metal that can cause severe health problems, a Tribune investigation has found. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[See related articles: [FDA to investigate skin creams for mercury](#) and from Indonesia: [Consumers at risk of mercury poisoning: activists and others about different toxic substances in face creams](#): [Gold face cream: A costly leap of faith](#) and [Toxic beauty](#)]

[Hurricanes cleaned up lead-laden New Orleans.](#)

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

The sediment washed into New Orleans by the floods accompanying the storms may have blanketed over heavily polluted, lead-laden soil in the city, leading to a decrease in lead levels in the bloodstreams of children across the city, according to researchers. New Scientist.

[See other articles about lead contamination in Connecticut: [Lead poisoning: Regulation seeks to protect families](#), Washington, DC: [Report: CDC used bad data to judge DC water safety](#), Arkansas/Oklahoma: [Lead-paint rule one month old](#) and Tennessee: [New lead paint law could hinder flood repairs](#)]

[Health: BPA report.](#)

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

There's new research about Bisphenol A; tests on 50 canned products from 19 states reveal the presence of potentially dangerous levels of BPA. Philadelphia KYW TV, Pennsylvania.

[See a related article: [BPA: Toxic chemical debate](#) and another about health effects of BPA: [Bisphenol-A exposure during pregnancy disrupts glucose homeostasis in mothers and adult male offspring](#)]

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!](#)