



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin June 30, 2010

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

[www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/learning/r/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/learning/r/bulletins)

## LDDI Highlights

### Journal Articles Published

LDDI published an article, "Scientific and policy statements on environmental agents associated with neurodevelopmental disorders" recently in the *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability (JIDD)*. The consensus statements, signed by leading researchers and public health professionals, document chemicals that can harm the nervous system and recommend actions for prevention. The current article in *JIDD* explains the statements, their relevance to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the need for additional research and reform. [Order the article from the journal website](#) and [see the consensus statements](#).

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Environmental Health Initiative has published another article in the journal *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* dealing with the impact of environmental contaminants commonly found in elementary and secondary schools. The impact of those contaminants on the special education population is the specific focus of the article: "Children's environmental health: The school environment." [Order the article from the journal website](#).

### 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 see event #1 below or contact Donna Ferullo: [dferullo@autism-society.org](mailto:dferullo@autism-society.org).

### Teleconference July 13th

AAIDD's Environmental Health Initiative (EHI) announces the next teleconference in their Research and Science teleconference series, sponsored by the John Merck Fund. The title is "School Health Policies and Program Study 2006: Healthy Physical School Environment; CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS)," presented by Dr. Sherry Everett Jones on Tuesday. See the event #2 below, [visit the EHI website](#) or contact Laura Abulafia, director of education and outreach at the EHI: [laura@aaidd.org](mailto:laura@aaidd.org).

## Announcements

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

### Children First: Promoting Ecological Health for the Whole Child

\$35 early bird registration [ends July 1st](#). Register for this groundbreaking one-day

symposium highlighting a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care. [Visit the website.](#)

**[CHE Now Podcasts Teleconference Calls.](#)**

Podcasts of CHE's recorded Partnership and Working Group calls are now available on [CHE's website.](#)

**[New website: European Centre for Environment and Human Health.](#)**

We are looking at how climate change and changes in biodiversity will affect human health and wellbeing in the coming years.

**[Autism and the Environment 101: A free online course.](#)**

The online course will take approximately 45 minutes to complete and covers the following areas: 1) The New Model of Autism, 2) Rapidly Rising Rates of Autism Spectrum Disorders, 3) Toxic Body Burden, 4) The Role of Government and 5) What We Can Do Every Day.

**[EPA seeks comments on consultation policy with Indian tribes.](#)**

EPA has scheduled national consultation conference calls to answer questions and seek input on the proposed policy from federally recognized tribes.

**[EPA proposes updating drinking water rule to better protect public health.](#)**

EPA is proposing to revise the 1989 Total Coliform Rule to incorporate improvements recommended by a federal advisory committee that included representatives from a broad range of stakeholder groups.

**[EPA seeks public comment on strategic plan to move forward on agency priorities.](#)**

Administrator Jackson's seven priorities are taking action on climate change, improving air quality, protecting America's waters, cleaning up our communities, assuring the safety of chemicals, expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice, and building strong state and tribal partnerships.

**[New report: What's That Smell?](#)**

Did you know that the lemon-fresh smell or pine forest scent in your favorite cleaner may be linked to serious health impacts? From Women's Voices for the Earth.

**[Call for proposals: Community Challenge Planning Grants.](#)**

HUD's \$40 million Community Challenge Planning Grant Program will foster reform and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities.

**[Call for proposals: Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program \(PESP\) Regional Grants.](#)**

Proposed projects must address implementation of integrated pest management approaches that reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in an agricultural or non-agricultural setting and demonstrate the importance and relevancy of the project to the goals of EPA's PESP.

**[Call for proposals: Public Health Support for Brownfield/Land Reuse and Legacy Sites in the Area of Concern \(AOC\) for the Great Lakes.](#)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has funding to provide an opportunity for eligible applicants to assess exposure to Great Lakes contaminants and to advance public health actions to protect people. The closing date for applications is July 6, 2010.

**[Job opening: Lyon, France.](#)**

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has an opening for a scientist with their Section of Environment. Applications are due August 5, 2010.

**[Job opening: Arlington, Virginia.](#)**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is recruiting a senior director for environmental health. Search the website for positions in Virginia.

**[Job opening: Amherst, Massachusetts.](#)**

The National Religious Partnership for the Environment seeks a dynamic and creative leader as executive director.

**[Job opening: Bahrain.](#)**

HR Intelligence is recruiting a full-time, permanent environmental health project manager.

## 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) 41st Annual Autism Society National Conference and Exposition**

Wednesday through Saturday, July 7 - 10, 2010  
Dallas, Texas  
at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Boulevard

Sponsor: Autism Society

The Autism Society recognizes that families and individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder have a range of issues and needs. The National Conference of the Autism Society is the only conference that addresses the range of issues, including early intervention, education, employment, behavior, communication, social skills, biomedical interventions and others, across the entire lifespan. Bringing together the expertise and experiences of family members, professionals and individuals on the spectrum, attendees are able to learn how to more effectively advocate and obtain supports for the individual with ASD. The ultimate goal is to empower family members, individuals on the spectrum and professionals to make informed decisions.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sarah Mitchell, 301-657-0881, ext. 9010 or [conference@autism-society.org](mailto:conference@autism-society.org)

**2) School Health Policies and Program Study 2006: Healthy Physical School Environment - CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS)**

Tuesday July 13, 2010  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Environmental Health Initiative

Join Sherry Everett Jones, PhD, MPH, JD, FASHA, health scientist in the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Jones will be speaking about data from CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS). SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels; the most recent study was in 2006. There is a module in SHPPS on the physical school environment. More information can be found on the [SHPPS website](#).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, [laura@aaidd.org](mailto:laura@aaidd.org)

**3) NACCHO Annual 2010**

Wednesday through Friday, July 14 - 16, 2010  
Memphis, Tennessee  
at the Memphis Cook Convention Center, Marriott Memphis Downtown

Sponsor: National Association of County & City Health Officials

The goal of the NACCHO Annual 2010 Conference is to enhance the ability of participants to create and build upon a forward-looking vision of local public health through disease-prevention interventions and wellness promotion, elimination of health inequities among individuals and communities, and expanded leadership capacity within local health departments.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: NACCHO, 202-783-5550 or [info@naccho.org](mailto:info@naccho.org)

#### **4) Mental Health Working Group Meeting**

Friday July 16, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Mental Health and Environment Working Group

An agenda will be available closer to the date.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

### **News and Journal Articles**

#### **[EPA toxics standards for cities are 10 years late, IG report says.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 29, 2010*

More than 10 years after releasing a plan to reduce health risks from toxic emissions in urban areas, US EPA has not followed through with new rules or updated risk assessments for smaller local sources, according to a new report by the agency's inspector general. Greenwire.

*[See other articles about toxic contamination in New Jersey: [NJ to add up to 25 more 'Superfund' sites in next 5 years as competition for federal funds increases](#); California: [Several Sierra trails are toxic, group says](#); Pennsylvania: [Erie Coke plant casts a long, unhealthy shadow](#); Michigan: [48217: Life in Michigan's most polluted ZIP code](#); Delaware: [Delaware politics: Carney outlines his cancer-research agenda](#); Ohio: [Ohio EPA finds water quality problems in Sandusky Bay tributaries](#) and [Preliminary manganese results released](#); North Carolina: [Documents: Tanks leaked fuel near Camp Lejeune well](#); Washington State: [Hanford barrier plan better block vs. waste in river](#); Canada: [Lax government enforcement to blame for Flin Flon contamination: expert](#) and [Mercury on the rise in NWT lakes](#); and India: [NEERI worried on pollution, health hazards due to shipbreaking](#) and [Pak tanneries poisoning Punjab folk](#)]*

#### **[Toxins found in whales bode ill for humans, report says.](#)**

*Friday, June 25, 2010*

Sperm whales feeding even in the most remote reaches of Earth's oceans have built up stunningly high levels of toxic and heavy metals, according to American scientists who say the findings spell danger not only for marine life but for the millions of humans who depend on seafood. Associated Press.

#### **[\[Parliament bans bisphenol A in baby bottles.\]](#)**

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

From 1 January 2011, the manufacture and marketing of baby bottles containing bisphenol A would be prohibited. France Info. [Article in French]

*[See a related article from New York: [New York legislation would ban BPA in products for young children](#) and one from California: [BPA baby-bottle ban bill fails in Assembly](#)]*

**[Mercury promotes blood clots, which increases heart disease risk.](#)**

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

Research shows that red blood cells, when dying after exposure to mercury, release proteins that encourage blood cells and platelets to clot and clump together -- or coagulate -- inside vessels. Environmental Health News.

*[See a related article: [Why mercury is more dangerous in oceans](#)]*

**[VA launches program for soldiers exposed to chemicals in Iraq.](#)**

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

The Department of Veterans Affairs is creating a program designed to aid military personnel who came in contact with a toxic chemical known as sodium dichromate during their service in Iraq. The move could provide assistance to dozens of members of the Indiana National Guard. Evansville Courier & Press, Indiana.

*[See other articles about exposures from military action: [U.S. troops face new threat: Afghanistan's toxic sand](#), [UN starts \\$5m Agent Orange cleanup at Vietnam base](#) and [\\$300 million needed for Agent Orange in Vietnam](#)]*

**[FDA warns maker of product used as alternative autism treatment.](#)**

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

A product promoted to parents of children with autism is not a harmless dietary supplement, as claimed, but a toxic unapproved drug that lacks adequate warnings about potential side effects, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned in a letter to its maker. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

*[See another article about autism and environment: [Urinary porphyrin excretion in neurotypical and autistic children](#)]*

**[Law would require reducing sulfur in common heating oil.](#)**

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

Moving to reduce air pollution, the New York State Assembly approved legislation on Wednesday that requires a drastic cut in sulfur levels in the heating oil most commonly used by households across the state. New York Times.

*[See other articles about air quality concerns: [UA scientists look for link between disease and AZ's air & water](#); [Could breathing car exhaust trigger a stroke?](#); [EPA lags on setting some air standards, report finds](#); [Springfield says 'no' to biomass](#) and [Trash-burning power plant in Fairfield fires debate](#)]*

**[Create a healthy home for your newborn.](#)**

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

New moms and dads certainly have plenty to worry about, especially with news about toxic bottles, bedding and even toys. It might seem overwhelming for parents-to-be, but there are several easy ways you can create a healthy home for your child while doing your part to leave a cleaner environment for their future. McClatchy Newspapers.

*[See another article about parents' concerns over children's products: [Toxic fears spark some parents to rethink sunscreen](#)]*

**[Software cuts CT radiation dose in half: Study.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

A new software program that enhances the quality of CT images allowed doctors to cut in half the radiation dose needed for a colon scan and still produce clear images, U.S. researchers said on Monday. Reuters Health.

*[See a related article: [Huge radiation risk: The hospital](#) and another about access to diagnostic technology and impacts on health outcomes: [Board to hold forum on access to medical diagnostic equipment](#)]*

**[City fluoride levels safe, says council.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 22, 2010*

Fluoride opponents cited the European Commission figures which showed fluoridation levels in some districts were too high for bottle-fed babies. Taranaki Daily News, New Zealand.

*[See a related article from Michigan: [Debate about addition of sodium fluoride to Mount Pleasant water continues](#)]*



### **[EPA to delay enforcing lead-paint regulation.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 22, 2010*

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided to delay enforcing a new lead-paint regulation following pressure from home builders and members of Congress. Wall Street Journal.

*[See other articles about lead exposures and regulation: [WI to address childhood lead poisoning](#); [EPA to study the effects of aircraft using leaded fuel, may impose changes](#); [Nigeria: education crucial to prevent more lead poisoning](#) and [Maternal low-level lead exposure and fetal growth](#)]*

### **[Early-life exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls reduces immune response to vaccination.](#)**

*Monday, June 21, 2010*

Children exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) early in life later had a diminished immune response to diphtheria and tetanus vaccinations, according to a study published online in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP). Newswise.

*[See a related article: [Milwaukee River PCB cleanup delayed](#)]*

### **[Flame retardants can alter thyroid hormones in pregnant women, new study shows.](#)**

*Monday, June 21, 2010*

High levels of brominated flame retardants can alter pregnant women's thyroid hormones, which are critical to a baby's growth and brain development, according to a California study published Monday. Environmental Health News.

*[See related articles: [NIEHS director reacts to study of pregnant women, urges more investigation of flame retardants](#) and [New research indicates higher risk for miscarriage in pregnant women with thyroid hormone levels on high end of normal](#)]*

### **[Science suffers when it's put in the 'spin' cycle.](#)**

*Sunday, June 20, 2010*

Determining if trace amounts of chemicals in the environment pose a risk to health is not like determining how many calories there are in a gram of sugar. And when there are various vested interests involved, there is always the motivation to twist data in the direction of a desired outcome. Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

*[See a related book review: [Snuffing out science](#)]*

### **[Exploring ways everyone can help environment.](#)**

*Sunday, June 20, 2010*

Right now, we don't pay the full cost of pollution control, and that pollution is disproportionately dumped on poor people and minorities. Houston Chronicle.

*[See a related article: [Anger grows across the world at the real price of 'frontier oil'](#)]*

### **[Warning: 'Toy Story 3' partnership with Toys R Us may be toxic for kids.](#)**

*Saturday, June 19, 2010*

Independent product testing conducted by the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor, Mich., has confirmed that Toys R Us is selling "Toy Story 3" merchandise made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl), a poison plastic. PR Newswire.

### **[Health studies gas up.](#)**

*Saturday, June 19, 2010*

Colorado has launched one of the nation's first health assessments of gas-drilling impacts. It will be one of the first times that regulators will be asked to consider a detailed health assessment when permitting gas drilling. High Country News.

*[See a related announcement: [EPA announces a schedule of public meetings on hydraulic fracturing research study](#) and articles: [Gulf oil spill worsens -- but what about the safety of gas fracking?](#); [A colossal fracking mess](#); [Chemicals used in 'fracking' often a mystery at spill cleanup time](#); [In fracking debate, 'disclosure' is in the eye of the beholder](#); [Josh Fox](#); [Natural gas-powered vans could boost jobs, reduce pollution from autos](#) and [Pennsylvania natural gas drilling uses chemicals linked to illness](#)]*

### **[US accused of double standards over Bhopal.](#)**

*Saturday, June 19, 2010*

Activists seeking justice in the world's worst industrial disaster in the Indian city of Bhopal are accusing the United States of double standards, saying it penalised firms polluting its soil but ignored its mistakes abroad. Dublin Irish Times, Ireland.

**[Free range eggs contain a little something extra: Pollutants.](#)**

*Friday, June 18, 2010*

A Taiwanese study found that free-range eggs contain much higher levels of industrial pollutants than eggs laid by caged hens. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[Low, high manganese levels may affect the infant brain.](#)**

*Friday, June 18, 2010*

Babies with either relatively high or relatively low levels of manganese in their blood may be slower to hit certain developmental milestones in their first year than other infants, a new study suggests. Reuters Health.

**[Tylenol recall broadens: includes extra strength, Benadryl.](#)**

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

A Tylenol recall issued last year by the Johnson & Johnson unit of McNeil Consumer Healthcare because of chemical contamination has been expanded for a second time to include Benadryl Allergy Ultratablets and Extra Strength Tylenol. ABC News.

*[See articles about other recalls: [Kellogg's cereal recall highlights a new concern: Chemicals leaching from food packaging](#) and [Cadmium in 'Shrek' glasses could extend to past souvenirs](#)]*

**[Removing stubborn fluorines detoxifies CFCs.](#)**

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

A new method for removing fluorines from fluorinated chemicals offers a promising method to detoxify some types of organohalogen pollutants, such as CFCs. Environmental Health News.

**[A better way to clean up old dry-cleaning sites.](#)**

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Pollution control crews began using a new technique on Wednesday to clean up tainted soil and water at a site near Duluth, hoping they have found a simpler and cheaper way of dealing with cancer-causing chemicals often traced to old dry-cleaning sites. Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota.

*[See a related article: [Contamination cleanup nears end](#)]*

**[EPA checks science on 4 chemical assessments.](#)**

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is holding four ongoing IRIS (Integrated Risk Information System) assessments [on methanol, MTBE, ETBE and acrylonitrile] pending a review of some of the underlying studies used in the assessments. Environmental Protection.

**[Household insecticides appear in umbilical cord blood.](#)**

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Common household insecticides reached detectable levels in the blood of the majority of babies born at an urban hospital. Chemical & Engineering News.

*[See related articles about pesticide regulation in Ohio: [Stronger bedbug killer request rejected](#) and California: [Methyl iodide rules require wide buffer zones, likely deterring use in county](#); [Scientists tell state regulators methyl iodide is too toxic to be used on crops](#), and [Dispute over pesticide for California strawberries has implications beyond state](#)]*

**[C8 exposure linked to ADHD in children.](#)**

*Thursday, June 17, 2010*

Children exposed to higher levels of C8 [also known as PFOA] are at an increased risk of developing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, according to a scientific paper published this week. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

*[See the research article: [Exposure to polyfluoroalkyl chemicals and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in U.S. children aged 12-15 years](#)]*

**[Environmental justice concerns arising from Gulf of Mexico oil spill aired.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Federal agencies responding to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster should do a better job of targeting communities that have historically been underrepresented in disaster response, members of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council said Tuesday. New Orleans Times-Picayune, Louisiana.

*[See a related report: [Gulf Oil Spill Health Hazards](#) and articles: [Health care problems from BP oil spill to last years, experts say](#); [Long-term health risk of oil exposure is poorly understood, experts say](#); [Assessing the health effects of the oil spill](#) and [Gulf oil spill poses unique health challenges](#)]*

**[San Francisco passes cellphone radiation law.](#)**

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Imposing roughly the same cautionary standards for cellphones as for fatty food or sugary soda, this city -- never shy about its opinions -- voted on Tuesday to require all retailers to display the amount of radiation each phone emits. New York Times.

*[See related articles: [Cellphone industry attacks San Francisco's ruling on radiation](#), [Cell phone risks still murky](#) and [Mobiles 'too dangerous' for children](#) and one about cell phone masts: [Study finds no link between phone masts and childhood cancers](#)]*

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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