



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin July 1, 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

Survey of LDDI Communications

An email message with call notes from Elise Miller was sent to all LDDI subscribers on June 26th. At the end of that message are a few communications survey questions that will inform and guide the development of the new LDDI website. Please take a few minutes to respond to those questions. If you would like a new message with the survey questions, please contact Laura Abulafia: laura@healthandenvironment.org

AAIDD Teleconference: July 14th

The next AAIDD Research and Science teleconference, [Association of Early-life Exposure to Household Gas Appliances and Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide with Cognition and Attention Behavior in Preschoolers](#), will be held Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 2:00 PM Eastern. Jordi Sunyer, MD, of the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Barcelona, Spain will speak. For more information, see event #2 below.

Environmental Health at Texas AAIDD Convention: July 15 - 17th

At the [AAIDD Texas Chapter's 34th Annual Convention](#), environmental health will be the topic of at least one session: Translating the Science: Links Between Neurotoxicants and Learning/Developmental Disabilities. The convention will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas. For more information, see event #3 below.

New members

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Amy Bates, MA, Tacoma, Washington
- Elena Bensonoff, RPH, CPH, Tampa, Florida
- Cindy Jorif, ND, Saratoga Springs, New York
- Paul Lee, MA, Emeryville, California
- Alison Ojanen-Goldsmith, Seattle, Washington
- Jereld Salazar, Coquitlam, Canada
- Cecile Schubert, Richmond, Kentucky
- Nancy Swan, Mobile, Alabama
- Chris Wall, Seattle, Washington
- Joyce R. Young, ND, Damariscotta, Maine

Upcoming Events

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

1) Early Indicators of Environmentally Induced Disease

Tuesday and Wednesday, July 14 - 15, 2009
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency National Center For Environmental Research

Two webinars are presented as a progress review for the grantees from the RFA "Early Indicators of Environmentally Induced Disease." Three grantees present on the first day and two on the second. Presentations: 1) Integrating Innovative Biomarkers of Environmentally Induced Disease for Children in Agricultural Communities by Elaine Faustman; 2) PON1 as a Predictor of Differential Susceptibility of Children to Organophosphate Pesticides by Brenda Eskenazi; 3) Biomarkers Of Health Risks Associated With Environmental Exposure To Arsenic by Miroslav Stýblo; 4) Assessment of Perinatal PBDE Exposure and Related Child Behavioral and Cognitive Effects by Julie Daniels; and 5) Development of Molecular Biomarkers to Measure Environmentally Induced Immune Responses by Lisa Miller.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

2) Association of Early-life Exposure to Household Gas Appliances and Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide With Cognition and Attention Behavior in Preschoolers

Tuesday July 14, 2009
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Jordi Sunyer, MD, of the Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Barcelona, Spain will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-424-3688

3) AAIDD Texas Chapter's 34th Annual Convention

Wednesday through Friday, July 15 - 17, 2009
Corpus Christi, Texas
at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter

In keeping with this year's theme, "Self Determination in a Sea of Choices," the program offers a range of presentations from which to choose. Speakers bring expertise from multiple professions and perspectives, as well as from different service options available to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Environmental health will be the topic of at least one session: "Translating the Science: Links Between Neurotoxicants and Learning/Developmental Disabilities."

Price: see page 19 of the brochure on the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Pat Holder, Convention Manager, 512-349-7470 or patholder@austin.rr.com

Announcements & Articles

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

[Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals: An Endocrine Society Scientific Statement.](#)

The Endocrine Society issued a seminal new report stating that exposures to endocrine disrupting chemicals are a growing threat to human health and well-being.

[EPA posts list of 44 "high hazard potential" coal ash waste impoundments.](#)

Following the failure of an impoundment at the TVA facility in Kingston, Tennessee, in December 2008, EPA has been gathering information on coal combustion residual impoundments from electrical utilities nationwide and conducting on-site evaluations to determine the impoundments' vulnerabilities. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA proposes cleanup plan for Copley Square Plaza Superfund site; meeting July 22, 7 p.m.](#)

Region 5 has proposed a cleanup plan for the Copley Square Plaza Superfund site in Copley, Ohio. A comment period runs from June 29 to July 30. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA update: Rockford freight train derailment and Rock River fish kill.](#)

Work at the cleanup site including air monitoring is expected to continue for several weeks. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[U.S. EPA's Environmental Justice Resource Guide available to the public.](#)

EPA's Environmental Justice Resource Guide, a handbook for community organizers and decision-makers, is now available from the EPA's Pacific Southwest Environmental Justice Office. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Public comments sought on regulations for financial conflicts of interest in federally-funded research.](#)

The comment period for the ANPM is open until July 7, 2009. Comments may be submitted online, by fax, or by mail. National Institutes of Health.

[Missouri launches environmental public health resource.](#)

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has launched its Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Portal, a powerful new tool that Missourians can use to protect themselves from environmental hazards statewide. EmaxHealth.

[Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan today announced an interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities to help improve access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA seeks input on decision documents for Camp Edwards cleanups.](#)

Public comment periods begin this week on decision documents for two sites addressed as part of the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program's (IAGWSP) cleanup at Camp Edwards on the Massachusetts Military Reservation. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Call for proposals: Identification and Characterization of Sensitive Periods for Neurodevelopment in Studies of Mental Illness.](#)

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) solicits research grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to investigate the role of sensitive periods (i.e., periods during which the developing brain is maximally sensitive to environmental influences that confer risk or resilience) in the development of cognitive or affective function and behaviors relevant to mental health disorders. Letters of Intent are due September 20, 2009.

[Call for proposals: National Environmental Medicine Education and Consultation Project.](#)

Approximately \$150,000 will be available in fiscal year 2009 to fund one award to provide nationally recognized experts to build competencies in environmental and toxicological medicine through delivery of professional education and clinical consultation

to primary care practitioners and other environmental public health professionals, state and local departments of health, tribal governments, federal officials, emergency response personnel, and those individuals, families, and populations impacted by exposure to hazardous substance and other environmental health disease threats. Submissions are due July 16, 2009. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Call for proposals: National Education Initiative on Human Health and the Environment.](#)

Approximately \$150,000 will be available in fiscal year 2009 to fund one award to provide a national source of public health professionals in the health communication, health education, and health promotion disciplines to provide environmental health education to lay community and health professional audiences through their member and partner networks. Submissions are due July 16, 2009. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

The U.S. 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. Submissions are due August 5, 2009.

[No medical evidence that insecticide poisoning treatment works.](#)

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

A study published this week in the open access journal PLoS Medicine finds no evidence to suggest that a controversial antidote recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to treat patients poisoned with highly toxic insecticides improves their chance of survival. Scientist Live.

[Flaws in the case against BPA.](#)

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Scientists, regulators, politicians in Europe, Australia, and Japan have all rejected the evidence that the chemical is harmful as methodologically flawed, badly conducted, or irrelevant -- with some warning that banning it could actually endanger the public. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Study finds reproductive health effects from low doses of bisphenol-A](#), [Plastic chemical may stay in body longer](#), [FDA to reassess toxin in cans, plastic](#), [Battle of the bottles](#) and [Bisphenol A: All eyes on California](#)]

[Expert questions gas-drilling chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

The toxic chemicals used to extract natural gas from deep underground and process it are among substances creating a dizzying list of embryonic -- and subsequent -- developmental aberrations in animals, including humans, according to an environmental health analyst [Theo Colborn]. Durango Herald, Colorado.

[EPA proposes tougher clean air rule.](#)

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

The Obama administration proposed to strengthen a key air pollution health standard to better protect children and people with respiratory illnesses. It wants to tighten the air quality requirement for nitrogen dioxide that is released from motor vehicles, coal burning power plants and factories. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [More preemies born in neighborhoods with heavy pollution from cars, trucks](#)]

[Tough anti-smoking law puts consumers' health first.](#)

Monday, June 29, 2009

The Food and Drug Administration will have two years to develop "color graphic labels" for all cigarettes sold in the country. And that's just one of dozens of changes the tobacco industry faces. US News & World Report.

[See related articles: [Obama signs historic tobacco law](#), [Malibu to ban public smoking](#)]

and [Smoking to be banned in cars with kids](#)]

Nanotechnology: Revolution and pollution.

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Knowledge of the potential toxicity of nanomaterials is "scant," the head of Mount Sinai's Children's Environmental Health Center, argues. And what is known about possible toxicity to early human development is "virtually nil." Bloomington Alternative, Indiana.

[See a related journal article: [Nanotechnology and in situ remediation: A review of the benefits and potential risks](#), an article: [Nanotechnology: Tiny particles raise big concerns](#), and a news release: [Landmark study on nanomaterials and the environment](#)]

Lead paint 'is a real problem.'

Sunday, June 28, 2009

In response to a question about the impact lead paint can have on children, the city's certified lead-risk assessor leans forward in his chair and begins, "Now you got me going" before delivering a rapid-fire answer. Lancaster Sunday News, Pennsylvania.

[See related journal articles: [Maternal blood lead levels and the risk of pregnancy induced hypertension: The "EDEN" Cohort Study](#), [Higher bone-lead levels associated with dementia](#) and [Lead exposure and behavior among young children in Chennai, India](#) and a related news article: [Lawsuit claims lead levels in purses too high](#)]

After 14-year wait, group seeks EPA help on water safeguards.

Saturday, June 27, 2009

After waiting 14 years for state action, an environmental group wants the federal government to make Florida enact new rules limiting dozens of chemicals in its rivers. Jacksonville Times-Union, Florida.

S&T forum panel: Addressing climate change will benefit global health.

Friday, June 26, 2009

Shifting global energy use away from carbon-rich sources like fossil fuels and coal is a critical step to mitigate climate change, but it also would have profound benefits for public health, a panel of experts concluded at the 2009 AAAS Forum on Science & Technology Policy. American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Why the adage 'the dose makes the poison' can be toxic to corporate chemicals policy.

Thursday, June 25, 2009

There's no doubt we know astonishingly, depressingly little about the effects of small amounts of most chemicals. Even worse, the science emerging in recent years signals that the more we learn, the more we ought to be concerned. Reuters.

Industrialization of food linked to chronic diseases.

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Michael Pollan says the chronic diseases that kill us can be traced directly to the industrialization of our food. Vancouver Sun, Canada.

[See a related article: [GM crops compromising Australia's food security: Canadian expert](#)]

Mixing mercury with PCBs reduces PCB effect on hearing in rats.

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Developmental exposure to PCBs can permanently damage hearing but co-exposure with methyl mercury reduces the effects. Environmental Health News.

Model development and validation of personal exposure to volatile organic compound concentrations.

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The models proposed identify the most important non-weather-related variables for VOC exposures, highlight the effect of personal activities, use of solvents and exposure to ETS on PE levels and may assist in the development of specific models for other locations. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Quick guide to the FDA.

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

While voluntary industry recalls help protect against future harm, each successive safety warning inevitably leaves the American public wondering who in the federal government is looking out for our well being. Time Magazine.

[High school may have toxins in windows.](#)

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

There are concerns that Doherty Memorial High School may have elevated levels of a known carcinogen within its window caulking, making it one of thousands of schools and other buildings built between the early 1960s until 1977 with materials that contain PCBs. Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Massachusetts.

[Water quality disclosure not government's job.](#)

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Government agencies that oversee thousands of small water suppliers in California don't have to order the companies to notify their customers when their water is contaminated, the state Supreme Court has ruled. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Pesticide susceptibility in children lasts longer than expected.](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Although it is known that infants are more susceptible than adults to the toxic effects of pesticides, this increased vulnerability may extend much longer into childhood than expected, according to a new study by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley. Science Daily.

[See a related article: [New Brunswick to restrict use of pesticides](#)]

[Birth defects in China's Shanxi show human price of coal.](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

In Shanxi province, coal has brought riches to a few, jobs for many, and environmental pollution that experts say has led to a high number of babies born with birth defects. Reuters.

[Governor Baldacci signs 2 eco-friendly bills.](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Governor John Baldacci held a ceremonial signing Monday for bills that would establish an industry-funded recycling program for compact fluorescent light bulbs and create a registry for those who want notification about aerial pesticide applications. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

[POPs blood levels down in a sample of pregnant US women.](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

First time expectant mothers in the US have much lower blood levels of selected persistent organic pollutants than women did before the chemicals' ban and restrictions on use and emissions. Environmental Health News.

[Mobile phones for children: a boon or a peril?](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Health concerns about the impact of mobile phone use on adults' brains may have largely subsided but government guidelines still warn that children's vulnerable grey matter should be protected. London Times, England.

[Weed killer kills human cells.](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Used in yards, farms and parks throughout the world, Roundup has long been a top-selling weed killer. But now researchers have found that one of Roundup's inert ingredients can kill human cells, particularly embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells. The new findings intensify a debate about so-called "inerts" -- the solvents, preservatives, surfactants and other substances that manufacturers add to pesticides. Environmental Health News.

[Chemotherapy for the soil.](#)

Monday, June 22, 2009

Methyl bromide is the California strawberry grower's dream chemical. Problem is, it's highly toxic and it eats the ozone layer. Toronto Star, Canada.

[There may be danger in rubber play surfaces.](#)

Monday, June 22, 2009

EPA officials say they can't vouch for the safety of recycled rubber, which can be contaminated with lead and other toxins, according to internal documents released under the Freedom of Information Act to the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. USA Today.

[See a follow-up article with preliminary study results: [Breathing easier on artificial turf](#)]

[Next-generation risk assessment.](#)

Monday, June 22, 2009

The Environmental Protection Agency is strongly considering revamping how it performs chemical risk assessments. Many advocates for change say the current system for ensuring the safety of chemicals is broken and EPA needs to do something radical to fix it. Chemical & Engineering News.

[Valley cities divert cleanup funds.](#)

Sunday, June 21, 2009

A handful of San Joaquin Valley cities and public agencies have used millions of dollars from legal settlements with oil and chemical companies meant for filtering contaminated water for entirely unrelated purposes, records and interviews show. Fresno Bee, California.

[Alzheimer's disease could be triggered by brain toxins.](#)

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Emerging evidence indicates that toxic environmental exposures, in combination with nutritional, social, and exercise factors, may play a major role in the development of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other degenerative diseases, according to Philip Landrigan, MD. Kitsap Sun, Washington.

[Hudson fish alerts cast wider net.](#)

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Local health officials are launching a grass-roots, multilingual effort to warn residents about contamination in Hudson River fish. Lower Hudson Valley Journal News, New York. [See related articles about the Cuyahoga River in Ohio: [River still on toxic spots list](#), the Delaware River: [Health warnings on fish confusing](#), warnings in South Carolina: [Mercury warnings affect 28 waterways](#), and two articles on fish advisories in California: [Updated warnings on eating locally caught fish](#) and [Comment sought on pollution plan](#)]

[Iowa utilities fight proposed mercury rule.](#)

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Iowa's largest utility companies are ramping up their opposition to proposed state rules that would require them to monitor the mercury being emitted from their power plants, public records obtained by The Des Moines Register show. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

[Keys to staying sharp in old age revealed.](#)

Saturday, June 20, 2009

A decline in thinking or "cognitive" function with age is not inevitable, according to a new study that showed that many adults maintain their cognitive function as they grow older and identified modifiable factors related to preserving brain function. Reuters Health.

[More evidence links pesticides to Parkinson's.](#)

Saturday, June 20, 2009

A new study confirms the link between on-the-job pesticide exposure and Parkinson's disease, and suggests that certain insecticides may be particularly risky. Reuters Health.

[Canada to pull plug on 'rubber duck' chemicals.](#)

Saturday, June 20, 2009

Phthalates used in children's soft vinyl toys and in personal care products will be included in new Health Canada regulations, following similar moves in other countries. Toronto

Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See a related article: [Chemicals in shower curtains and children's toys linked to underweight babies](#)]

[Dow dioxin cleanup in Michigan could take years.](#)

Friday, June 19, 2009

Federal officials have set a timeline for a long-delayed cleanup of dioxin contamination caused by a Dow Chemical Co. plant in Midland, Michigan. It could take several years for any actual work to be done, and nearly a decade or more for the entire cleanup, EPA officials said. Associated Press.

[Radiation leaking at double the 'action level.'](#)

Friday, June 19, 2009

Low-level radiation seeping into the Ottawa Valley from the disabled nuclear reactor at Chalk River is double the "action level" at which officials must respond to control the situation, a new Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission document shows. Ottawa Citizen, Canada.

[New diesel trucks and buses cut soot and smog more than 90 percent.](#)

Friday, June 19, 2009

For decades, diesel trucks and buses have spewed large amounts of soot, smog-causing gases and carcinogens into the air. But new diesel engines are vastly cleaner, far exceeding the emission reductions required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to a new study released Thursday. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Port of Oakland votes to ban dirty diesel trucks](#)]

[Diet contributes significantly to the body burden of PBDEs in the general U.S. population.](#)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Intake of contaminated poultry and red meat contribute significantly to PBDE body burdens in the United States. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Scientists call foul on NRC report cutting government loose of responsibility for toxic Marine bases.](#)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

A group of esteemed scientists and physicians have raised serious questions about Saturday's National Research Council report on toxic water at the Camp Lejeune Marine base in North Carolina. Salem News, Oregon.

[See an article about the government response: [False comfort: US pulls report that minimized cancer risk from toxic water at Marine base](#)]

[Study: Toxins found in scents.](#)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

The fumes that waft from top-selling air fresheners and laundry products contain dozens of chemicals, including several classified as toxic or hazardous, says a University of Washington study published recently. McClatchy Newspapers.

[Jury rules in 3M's favor in groundwater pollution case.](#)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

The 3M Co. won a landmark court case Wednesday when a jury ruled against claims of Washington County residents suing the company over chemicals in their groundwater. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota.

[See other stories about litigation: [Court OK's \\$5-million settlement in Northstar lawsuit](#), [US court rules for Travelers in asbestos case](#), [DuPont sued over asbestos in Argentina](#) and [Paint maker loses in Mississippi lead contamination suit](#)]

[Schools to keep up 'no idling' effort.](#)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Parents carting their kids to and from school this fall may be asked to turn their engines off as they wait. Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Georgia.

[EPA declares health emergency in Montana town.](#)

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

The Environmental Protection Agency for the first time has determined there is a public health emergency in a contaminated community, targeting a Montana town Wednesday for immediate federal attention. Bellingham Herald, Washington.

[More chemicals for California's Prop 65.](#)

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

California officials proposed listing 30 more substances under Proposition 65, including the common gasoline additive tert-amyl methyl ether, the pesticide carbaryl, and n-butyl glycidyl ether, used in epoxy resins. Chemical & Engineering News.

[See a related article with the full list: [30 'new' toxic chemicals to avoid](#)]

[Radioactive revival in New Mexico.](#)

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

A resurgence of interest in building nuclear power plants has sparked a uranium rush. But a group of Navajos are battling licenses granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, afraid the companies will leave behind another trail of environmental destruction, illness and death like that of thirty years ago. The Nation.

[US EPA proposed cement kiln rules opposed by industry.](#)

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

The U.S. cement industry faces stiffer federal regulation of emissions from its kilns, including mercury, which environmentalists say is overdue but industry advocates believe will put some domestic plants out of business. Reuters.

*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
- 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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