



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



**Biweekly Bulletin July 28, 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

### AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative Upcoming Teleconferences

**Policy teleconference** on Wednesday July 28th from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern time. Gina Solomon, MD, and Andy Igrejas will discuss the health risks and possible environmental consequences of BP's decision to treat the oil spill with dispersants made up of undisclosed chemicals. Over a million gallons have been dumped in the Gulf to try to ameliorate the situation. Gina and Andy will discuss what we know about dispersants and what we don't - and how EPA regulations keep us from knowing more. They will highlight the health risks and potential environmental issues. Finally, they will explore how the industry decision to spread dispersants on the Gulf oil is related to bills in Congress right now that would reform the Toxic Substances Control Act. For more information, contact [Laura Abulafia](#).

**Research and Science teleconference** on Tuesday August 31st from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Sherry Everett Jones, PhD, MPH, JD, FASHA, will present on School Health Policies and Program Study 2006 to make up for the technical difficulties experienced in her previously planned session. The School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school and classroom levels. SHPPS 2006 provides a comprehensive look at the extent to which schools have health-promoting physical school environment policies and programs. This presentation will provide an overview of SHPPS and findings for topics such as inspection of school physical facilities; school plans for dealing with mold and moisture-related issues; indoor air-quality management; pest management procedures; purchase of low-emitting products; testing of drinking water; and the use, labeling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. For more information, contact [Laura Abulafia](#).

**Aging, Environmental Health, and IDD Teleconference Series.** This fall, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) with Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and our distinguished panels of guest speakers bring you a groundbreaking series of teleconference calls on aging, environmental health and disability. Scheduled webinars include these:

- 1) "Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging" with Ted Schettler and Maria Valenti  
Tuesday October 12th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 2) "Built Environment" with Kathy Sykes, Rodney Harrell and Regina Gray  
Tuesday October 19th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

- 3) "Psychosocial Environment" with Danny George and Peter Whitehouse  
Tuesday October 26th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 4) "Chemical Environment" with Maye Thompson and Marybeth Palmigiano  
Tuesday November 2nd, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time
- 5) "Food Environment" with Michelle Gottlieb and Emma Sirois  
Tuesday November 9th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time

For more information, please visit AAIDD's [Teleconference webpage](#).

## Announcements

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

### **[Call for comments: Interim Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.](#)**

In order to provide the experts with a range of opinions and views about the functioning and achievements of FP7, this interactive consultation has been set up to allow for contributions both from those with direct experience of the FP, as well as any groups or individuals who wish to give their views.

### **[EPA releases rulemaking guidance on environmental justice.](#)**

EPA is seeking public feedback on how to best implement and improve the guide for agency staff to further advance efforts toward environmental justice.

### **[EPA seeks public comment on Allegan County \[Michigan\] smog.](#)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed approval of a request from the state of Michigan to redesignate Allegan County as an attainment area for the national health-based eight-hour outdoor standard for ozone.

### **[Call for input: Congress for the New Urbanism \(CNU\).](#)**

CNU 19 will build on the theme of "Growing Local." A new interactive platform will make your suggestions visible to other CNU members, who can comment and vote on them.

### **[Call for abstracts: NEHA 75th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition.](#)**

The conference will be held June 15 - 18, 2011, and the submission deadline is October 15, 2010.

*[Other calls for proposals and presentations are listed in [CHE's searchable calendar](#)]*

### **[EPA and other federal agencies collaborate to improve chemical screening.](#)**

The Tox21 collaboration merges federal agency resources (research, funding and testing tools) to develop ways to more effectively predict how chemicals will affect human health and the environment.

*[See a related article: [FDA joins effort to improve chemical screening](#)]*

### **[EPA to hold coal-ash hearing in Denver.](#)**

Denver will be the site of one of five public hearings nationwide that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled on proposed rules for coal ash from power plants. Denver Business Journal, Colorado.

*[EPA will hold four other hearings in Texas, North Carolina, Illinois and Virginia; see details on the [EPA website](#)]*

### **[Online Environmental Bootcamp.](#)**

This online course from the EPA Institute provides a broad range of training in numerous air, water and waste regulations and their applicability to different industries.

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

The George Mason University, Department of Communication is seeking a tenure-track Assistant Professor to teach and conduct research on issues related to health, risk and/or strategic communication.

**[Job opening: Berkeley, California.](#)**

The Environmental Chemistry Laboratory has an opening for an Association of Public Health Laboratories Environmental Fellow for a period of 1-2 years. Applications are due August 25, 2010.

## 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) The Human Health Effects of the Gulf Coast Oil Spill: A Summary of the IOM Workshop**

Thursday July 29, 2010

1:00 p.m. Pacific / 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The Gulf oil spill is now being called the largest single environmental disaster in our nation's history. The impact on the gulf ecosystem is only beginning to be assessed. And what of potential impacts on human health? The Institute of Medicine recently convened a meeting on that topic, and we will hear from some of the leading participants in that meeting about known and suspected health implications of the spread of crude oil and of efforts to contain and clean it. Featured speakers will include Linda Rosenstock, MD, MPH, dean of the UCLA School of Public Health; and Brenda Eskenazi, PhD, Jennifer and Brian Maxwell Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology and director of the Center for Children's Environmental Health Research at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

### **2) The Summer Institute on Neurodevelopmental Disorders**

Friday August 6, 2010

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento, California

at the University Union Ballroom, Sacramento State University

Sponsor: UC Davis Health System and Sacramento State University

Highlights include sessions on neurodevelopmental disorders across the lifespan: research to practice; behavioral health and developmental disabilities; and early childhood, school age, and transition to adulthood; plus opportunities for cross-fertilization between researchers, healthcare professionals, educators, caregivers, and family members. Pre- and postconference skill-based workshops are new.

Price: see page 8 of the conference brochure

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: UC Davis Health System, 866-263-4338

### **3) The Hidden Hazards of Coal Development in Alaska: Public Health and Coal Combustion Waste**

Wednesday August 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska and Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Coal combustion waste, or coal ash, is the material that remains after coal is burned. Coal ash may contain heavy metals, radioactive elements, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and particulate matter, all of which contribute to public health and environmental problems. Alaska currently has six coal-fired power plants, all located between Healy and Fairbanks in Alaska's Interior. Coal ash from these facilities is used as fill in local areas, including public spaces, university grounds, and residential neighborhoods, which may pose a health hazard to nearby communities. Improper disposal of this waste in holding ponds or landfill sites may also result in hazardous exposures. Join us for a discussion of the dangerous chemicals in coal ash, how these chemicals may affect our health, air, water and food, and how you can help to protect Alaskans from the health hazards of coal ash.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or [diana@akaction.org](mailto:diana@akaction.org)

**4) CHE Café Call: On the Ground in the Gulf Coast: A Conversation with Wilma Subra and Michael Lerner**

Thursday August 12, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Wilma Subra is one of the foremost resource scientists for low-income communities in the Gulf Coast. This MacArthur Prize-winning chemist has dedicated her career to helping low-income communities get the facts they need about their chemical exposures and the implications for their health. She has worked tirelessly since the BP oil disaster to help communities and disaster workers understand their exposures. This conversation will bring the CHE community up to date on her latest findings. Michael Lerner is vice-chair and co-founder of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment and president of Commonweal, a health and environment institute in Bolinas, California.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

**5) Get a HANDLE on Neurodevelopmental Differences**

Saturday and Sunday, August 14 - 15, 2010

Sarasota, Florida

at the Fountains at Lake Pointe Woods, 7979 South Tamiami Trail

Sponsor: The HANDLE Institute

This hands-on workshop introduces an interactive approach for identifying and addressing underlying causes of learning and social difficulties related to attentional disorders (ADD/ ADHD) brain injury; autism; motor problems and hypersensitivities; learning challenges; dyslexia; OCD, anxiety disorders, and other behavioral or developmental challenges, issues of aging and more.

Price: Please contact the instructor regarding costs for this course.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Carolyn Nuyens, [carolyn.nuyens@handle.org](mailto:carolyn.nuyens@handle.org)

## News and Journal Articles

**[Report: Children's exposure to toxic chemicals costs Michigan billions.](#)**

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Michigan could save billions annually by protecting children from exposure to

environmental hazards, according to a study released today. Detroit News.

**[Line One: Environmental toxins and your health.](#)**

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

On this week's Line One: Your Health Connection, Dr. Woodard hosts Dr. David Carpenter, Director of the Institute for Health and Environment at the State University of New York in Albany. KSKA.

**[Public input sought on plan to clean up Navy contamination at Morris Dam north of Azusa.](#)**

*Sunday, July 25, 2010*

The public can now comment on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) ruling that the Navy's cleanup plan for contamination left near Morris Dam during torpedo tests will not have major adverse effects on public health or the environment. San Gabriel Valley Tribune, California.

**[City, Red Cross both out of cleanup kits -- for now.](#)**

*Sunday, July 25, 2010*

Biedrzycki said it is important to disinfect areas of homes that had flooded or been contaminated with sewage backup within 48 hours to reduce mold growth. Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Wisconsin.

*[See related articles: [Trash picking flood-damaged items 'not a good idea'](#) and [Mould in your home can kill as actress Brittany Murphy's death linked to fungus in LA mansion](#)]*

**[Mental illness risk for non-smokers!](#)**

*Saturday, July 24, 2010*

Exposure to cigarette smoke is one of the reasons many people are likely to suffer from depression or fall into a state of general agitation, researchers warn. Dar es Salaam Citizen, Tanzania.

**[Toxic poultry feed poses health risk.](#)**

*Saturday, July 24, 2010*

The use of tannery waste in poultry and fish feed poses serious health risk for consumers as the hazardous waste has the possibility of directly entering the food chain. Dhaka Daily Star, Bangladesh.

*[See other articles about food concerns: [Tasty salmon, whatever its origins, has PCBs](#); [State takes new look at how much fish is safe to eat](#) and [Contaminants found in Inland fish but not at levels to trigger warnings](#)]*

**[Oil company that 'poisoned 100,000 with toxic waste' is fined £830,000.](#)**

*Saturday, July 24, 2010*

One of the world's biggest oil trading companies [Trafigura] Friday was fined €1million (£830,000) for illegally exporting toxic waste alleged to have killed 16 people and made 100,000 ill. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

*[See another article about legal consequences for polluting: [Bangladesh plans new court to take on polluters](#)]*

**[Toxic legacy of US assault on Fallujah 'worse than Hiroshima.'](#)**

*Saturday, July 24, 2010*

Dramatic increases in infant mortality, cancer and leukaemia in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which was bombarded by US Marines in 2004, exceed those reported by survivors of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, according to a new study. London Independent, United Kingdom.

*[See a related article: [UK admits using DU ammunition in Iraq](#)]*

**[What's in your makeup?! New video by Annie Leonard shows the 'toxic' side of some cosmetics.](#)**

*Friday, July 23, 2010*

Cosmetics might make people look more attractive, but the ingredients in many personal care products don't add up to a very pretty picture, according to a new video. New York Daily News, New York.

*[See the video: [The Story of Cosmetics](#); related articles: [The ugly side of beauty, some](#)*

[cosmetics can be toxic and Not so sweet: chemicals in fragrances](#) and proposed new legislation: [Safe Cosmetics Act of 2010](#)]

### **Long-form census change worries health researchers.**

Friday, July 23, 2010

Research into the social determinants of health is much more than an academic pursuit - it provides evidence that shapes policies intended to lessen health inequities among Canadians in different socio-economic strata. Canadian Medical Association Journal.

### **UCI study: More toxic exposure for Latinos, Asians.**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Southern California's Latinos and Asians are more likely to live in homes close to toxic chemical sites, including in Orange County, a new UC Irvine study shows -- a finding that is not necessarily tied to income levels. Orange County Register, California.

### **New air quality rules create a stink.**

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Developers worry that new air quality guidelines could delay or kill urban housing projects by adding costs and time to the approvals process and exposing developments to more lawsuits. San Francisco Business Times, California.

[See other articles about air quality: [Urban air pollutants may damage IQs before baby's first breath, scientists say](#) and [Officials push 'Idle Free Zones' at school pickup areas: An ill wind in oil country](#)]

### **Research links phthalates in plastics with inflammation in at-risk babies.**

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Researchers at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) have identified a direct link between phthalates, the substances that make plastics more pliable and durable, and inflammation in newborns -- and are encouraging more limited use of the plasticizers. Newswise.

[See other articles about plastic: [Toxic Living: Dangers of plastics and lead to children](#) and [Environmental impacts from plastic production updated](#)]

### **Doctors link uranium contamination to disabled Punjab children.**

Monday, July 19, 2010

Traces of uranium have been found in a large number of autistic children in India's northern state of Punjab -- and the metal, used for generating nuclear energy and making nuclear bombs, is thought to be the reason behind their autism. Channel News Asia, Singapore.

[See another article about causes of autism: [Genes' role in autism a complicated connection](#)]

### **Furniture to be greener, but pricier.**

Sunday, July 18, 2010

A law signed this month by President Obama limiting the amount of formaldehyde in wood is expected to lead to higher furniture and cabinet prices, but healthier -- and greener -- homes. It's also likely to increase consumer awareness of a little known chemical and its effects. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Are you living in a chemical home?](#)]

### **Some Denver waterways too contaminated for safe summer play.**

Sunday, July 18, 2010

The South Platte River and Cherry Creek deteriorate rapidly as they meander through the Denver area, picking up arsenic, ammonia and fecal contaminants at levels exceeding health standards by up to 50 times, the latest state and city data show. Denver Post.

[See other articles about water contamination and quality: [Counley to county: Test every well; Keep your water well working well; Craft villages leaving water, air severely polluted; Radium in Pemberton water stirs anger, accusations; EPA seeking public input on proposed groundwater cleanup action at Camp Edwards site; Chemical discovery sparks scare; EPA takes new look at gas drilling; Ohio River commission considering allowing more mercury in water; Residents struggle against contaminated water; State blasts San Mateo County for failing to enforce housing codes; Chemicals found in tap](#)



[water](#); [DEP deal doesn't require PPG to stop violations](#); [Special report: Delaware drinking water at risk](#); [Veteran files suit in son's death](#); [Sandpoint drops fluoride from water](#); [Environmental pollution plagues city residents](#); [Pollution in Lake Champlain, Part 3](#); [Treading water: slow clean up continues](#) and [Radioactivity rampant in New Jersey well water](#)]

### **[Assessing children's dietary pesticide exposure -- Direct measurement of pesticide residues in 24-hour duplicate food samples.](#)**

Saturday, July 17, 2010

The frequent consumption of food commodities with episodic presence of pesticide residues that are suspected to cause developmental and neurological effects in young children supports the need for further mitigation. Environmental Health Perspectives. [See an opposing article: [Panel: Environmental Working Group plays dirty with list and others about pesticides](#): [WA \(Western Australia\) farmers using EU banned pesticides](#), [Scientist 'harassed' for exposing pesticide harm](#), [New survey says California's child care centers not notifying parents of pesticide use](#), [Federal suit seeks ban of common pesticide \[chlorpyrifos\]](#), [Alaska Supreme Court upholds railroad weed-killer permit, Indiana](#), [set to approve pesticide rules for schools](#) and [Illegal pesticides found on German produce](#)]

### **[Drilling company says it will list hazardous chemicals used in fracking.](#)**

Friday, July 16, 2010

One of the largest gas drillers in the Marcellus Shale has announced that it will disclose the chemicals it uses in its Pennsylvania wells. ProPublica.

[See a related article from Australia: [Poison seepage could shut down gasification sector and others about effects of drilling](#): [EPA takes new look at gas drilling](#); [Information from gas-drilling companies isn't coming easily, congressmen say](#); [Drilling down on fracking](#) and [No letup in battle over natural gas drilling](#)]

### **[Groups denounce plan to use coal ash on levees.](#)**

Friday, July 16, 2010

A federal plan to use ash waste from coal-fired power plants to shore up some Mississippi River levees drew objections Thursday from environmentalists who are worried that toxins in the ash might seep into the river and public water systems it serves. Associated Press.

### **[S.A. scientists find smoking actually influences gene function.](#)**

Friday, July 16, 2010

San Antonio scientists have sobering news about the effects of smoking. A new study says exposure to cigarette smoke actually impacts the way your genes work, putting you at risk for a number of serious health problems. San Antonio KENS TV, Texas.

[See another article about smoking: [Queensland motorists fined \\$200 for smoking in cars with children](#)]

### **[EPA finds more problems at California toxic dump.](#)**

Friday, July 16, 2010

For the second time in four months, federal investigators have found problems at a central California landfill [near Kettleman City] that local residents blame for birth defects, and ordered the West's largest toxic waste dump to clean up soil tainted with a cancer-causing chemical. Associated Press.

[See related articles about toxic waste: [More health fears near closed toxic dump](#) and [Trash truth: What a waste](#)]

### **[Ministers tackle environmental damage.](#)**

Friday, July 16, 2010

At the 2nd Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries held in the southern island of Jeju, Minister Jeon stressed that environmental and health issues should be tackled by the global community through close coordination. Korea Times.

### **[Duke and African partners to study sustainable malaria control.](#)**

Friday, July 16, 2010

A team of Duke University researchers and African colleagues will be studying strategies to curb the spread of malaria while protecting human and environmental health. EurekaAlert!

### **[Green Party calls for investigation of shooting ranges as contamination sites.](#)**

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

The Green Party of P.E.I. has requested that the provincial government test all former and existing outdoor shooting ranges for lead contamination and to add those contaminated properties to the Contaminated Sites Registry. Charlottetown Guardian, Prince Edward Island.

*[See other articles about lead contamination: [EPA may ban lead gas that fuels aircraft](#), [Hundreds of Inland children exposed to high lead levels](#), [Teens to spread word on dangers of lead](#), [Lead poisoning hits 84 Chinese kids near smelters](#) and [Calif. reaches settlement to remove lead from turf](#)]*

### **[Suicide tied to air pollution and asthma.](#)**

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

According to Taiwanese researchers, as many as 1 in 14 suicides among Taiwanese youth may have been caused by asthma, a condition that affects about 10 percent of children. Asthma has been linked to suicide before, but researchers say this is the first time the role of air quality has been tested. Reuters Health.

### **[Gaps give incomplete picture of North America's environmental health: Study.](#)**

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

The amount of pollution in North America is not fully known because national reporting exemptions and incomplete data provided by some industries give an inaccurate picture of environmental health in Canada, the United States and Mexico, according to a report released Wednesday. Postmedia News.

### **[Mercury poisoning, the dark side of Colombia's gold boom.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Colombia's gold bonanza has a dark side, U.N. experts said on Tuesday: mercury poisoning spreading from miners to the population of a northwest state where they use mercury to extract the precious metal. Reuters.

*[See another article about health effects of mining: [Mine pollution ravages farmland in south China's Guangdong Province](#)]*

### **[Oil's impact on Gulf seafood remains uncertain.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

As the spill reaches more of the food supply, the government steps up monitoring to try to keep the local seafood industry from collapsing. New York Times.

*[See other articles about fallout from the Gulf oil disaster: [How has BP's oily waste escaped 'hazardous' label?](#), [Oil in the air](#) and [The effects of the oil spill on human health](#)]*

### **[Another cadmium jewelry recall: 137K tween pieces.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

About 137,000 pieces of imported children's jewelry sold at two stores popular with preteen girls -- Justice and Limited Too -- were recalled Tuesday for high levels of cadmium, the latest in a series of recalls involving the toxic metal. Associated Press.

### **[A lesson in reading sunscreen labels.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

But what exactly are you putting on your skin? It's a question more and more people are asking after reports from an environmental group have raised health concerns about some sunscreen ingredients. New Orleans Times-Picayune.

### **[Vitamin D may slash Parkinson's risk: Study.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

High blood levels of vitamin D may reduce the risk of developing Parkinson's disease by 67 per cent, compared with low levels of the sunshine vitamin, says a new study from Finland. NutraIngredients.



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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