



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin September 9, 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

Next LDDI Working Group Call, September 29th

This call has been changed from its original date two weeks earlier so that it is now scheduled for Tuesday September 29th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. A reminder and agenda will be sent out for this call one week prior. We look forward to having you on the line!

LDDI Biomonitoring Project Update

The LDDI biomonitoring project is rapidly moving forward! Participants will get their results by the end of September, and personal stories will immediately be compiled. Media outreach and strategy are under way, and soon to follow will be policy outreach and a report release. Please stay tuned for more information as this project moves forward.

Illinois State Policy Outreach Meeting

AAIDD, LDA, and ASA are cohosting a state policy outreach meeting in Chicago on October 2nd. Invited are policymakers, academicians, community members, health professionals and advocates. There will be three participants of the LDDI biomonitoring project at this meeting as well, and the intention is to repeat the same messages in both this meeting and in the biomonitoring report release. For more information please contact Laura Abulafia: laura@aaidd.org

Mental Health Working Group Update

NADD and the Mental Health Working Group out of LDDI are working on developing a mental health trifold pamphlet to be distributed to professionals in the field. For more information please contact Ed Seliger: eseliger@thenadd.org

Educational Pamphlet

AAIDD has finalized an educational pamphlet for expectant moms on neurotoxins and pregnancy. This resource will be disseminated to doctors offices, clinics and beyond. For more information or to receive a copy of this resource please contact Laura Abulafia: laura@aaidd.org

Research and Science Teleconference: September 15th

AAIDD's next research and science teleconference series presentation will be on Tuesday September 15th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. Titled "A Tale of 3 Neurotoxins: Lead, Tobacco, and Maternal Depression", it will feature Dr. Michael Weitzman. Please see event #3 below for more information.

NADD Conference

A preconference symposium on "Mental Health and Environmental Exposures: The

Emerging Evidence" is planned for the 26th Annual NADD Conference and Exhibit Show, which is taking place in New Orleans, October 21 - 23, 2009. Elise Miller, MEd, is the preconference chair, and she is being joined by Theodore Slotkin, PhD, and Cheryl Beseler, PhD. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

New members

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Sally Cargill, MD, Montpelier, Vermont
- A. Craig Frisina, RN, BSN, Erie, Pennsylvania
- Robbie Holden, MA, Newark, New Jersey
- Donna Nelson, MS, RD, Chicago, Illinois

Announcements

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

[World Library of Toxicology, Chemical Safety and Environmental Health.](#)

This free global Web portal provides the scientific community and public with links to major government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, universities, professional societies, and other groups addressing issues related to toxicology, public health, and environmental health. WLT was created by Toxipedia, in partnership with the USA National Library of Medicine (NLM), the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), and the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND).

[New website: State Laws Related to Healthy Homes.](#)

There is no federal housing code, building code, or health code; states and localities are left to set standards and fill the gaps. The National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Conference of State Legislatures have partnered to identify and analyze the state laws that impact healthy homes.

[EPA seeks public input on National Enforcement Priorities through online forum.](#)

The public will be able to provide feedback through the EPA Web site until December 1, giving them a forum to submit ideas for EPA to consider for new areas of enforcement focus. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Lead poisoning prevention video contest.](#)

Create a 30- to 60-second video that will inform and motivate people to take steps that will help prevent lead poisoning. Tell your own story, or show how to take steps to prevent lead poisoning in older homes and schools. Entries must be received by October 1, 2009, at 12 noon EDT.

[EPA hosts five free brownfields workshops in September for 2010 competition.](#)

Each half-day workshop is designed to cover the basics of submitting a proposal to the EPA Brownfields Program and offers guidance for improving the quality of a proposal. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Alice Shabecoff articles online.](#)

Alice Shabecoff, co-author of "Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on our Children", has begun publishing regularly on environmental health issues on a blog on MomsRising.org. This blog, intended for new mothers, covers a wide range of issues, with Alice's postings focused on environmental health.

["Eye of the Whale" published.](#)

Douglas Abrams's new novel explores the effects of pollutants on both whale and human health in the format of a thriller novel.

[One Health Commission formed to promote collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sciences.](#)

A new national commission, the One Health Commission, has been established to spotlight the connections between human, animal, and environmental health, as well as

the benefits of proactive and collaborative approaches toward better health for all.

[EPA announces new steps to protect Americans from lead poisoning. Actions to reduce overall exposures to lead.](#)

The steps announced today are 1) additional proposed requirements to protect children from lead-based paint, 2) a new effort to ban the manufacture of lead in tire weights, and 3) a lead poisoning prevention video contest, asking people to submit videos demonstrating steps that can be taken to prevent childhood lead poisoning. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Job opening: San Francisco.](#)

The Women's Foundation of California seeks a development and communications associate as the primary writer of external communications and the steward of their online community.

[Job opening: Chicago.](#)

The Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) is seeking a public policy manager to implement the organization's state and federal policy agenda. The position requires at least five years of post-college experience working on issue advocacy campaigns.

Upcoming Events

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

1) A Critical Link: The Environment and Women's Health

Thursday September 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Burlington, Vermont

at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center

Sponsor: Planned Parenthood of Northern New England with funding from Seventh Generation, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, The John Merck Fund and The Ceres Trust

In recent years there has been an increased awareness of the connections between environmental contaminants, fertility, and health - and a growing body of evidence supporting these concerns that link reduced fertility to pregnancy loss, adverse birth outcomes, reproductive tract abnormalities, learning disabilities in children, and various cancers to environmental contaminants. It is becoming increasingly clear to those of us who work for women's health that we must begin to turn our attention to the environmental toxicants that are affecting the ability of couples to become pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy, and give birth to healthy children. At Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, we feel a responsibility as a health-care organization to help our patients and communities make the link between human health and the products we put in our bodies, and in our homes and schools. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Sandra Steingraber.

Price: \$60, students \$35, \$80 if CEUs are awarded.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

2) Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 - 13, 2009

Newark, New Jersey

at the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey Medical School

Sponsor: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, The Autism Center, The Institute for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Vital Interventions Accessible

Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet is at the forefront of a new movement focused on sustainable living practices and safe and effective methods for preventing and recovering our children from ADHD, autism, allergies, asthma, obesity, diabetes etc. It is a forum where parents, teachers, therapists and physicians gather and learn from leading experts about safe and effective methods for preventing and treating many of the chronic conditions affecting our children today. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door; children 15 and under are free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Maureen McDonnell, RN, 609-240-1315

3) A Tale of Three Neurotoxins: Lead, Tobacco, and Maternal Depression

Tuesday September 15, 2009

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

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

This presentation reviews what is known, and what we recognize that we still do not know, about the effects of low-level lead exposure, prenatal tobacco and postnatal secondhand smoke exposure, and maternal depression on child behavior and development. Although the research and knowledge bases concerning these extremely common childhood exposures with extensive negative effects have developed separately, with different investigators and publications in disparate literatures and fields, their epidemiology (distribution, determinants and consequences) are quite similar, and even more worrisome, they tend to cluster and co-occur in the same children. At the end of this presentation the audience will have a much better appreciation of the risks for being exposed to, and the consequences of each of these exposures, as well as strategies for prevention and treatment. The speaker will be Michael Weitzman, MD, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, Laura@aaidd.org

4) Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 15 - 16, 2009

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Prevention Research Centers, Healthy Aging Research Network

This symposium will address the challenges amenable to environmental and policy change; the evidence that supports specific approaches and their outcomes; and promising strategies for practice.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Gwen Moni, 206-616-1012 or gmoni@u.washington.edu

5) Healthy Homes Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, September 15 - 17, 2009

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Idaho Healthy Homes Network

The Healthy Homes Conference brings together presenters to discuss the connection

between health and housing and how to take a comprehensive approach to identify and resolve problems; new federal regulations requiring control of lead-based paint hazards during renovation, repair and painting; special considerations for children's health; health concerns related to housing, including radon and mold; public and private program funding for health and housing programs; housing code development and enforcement; relationship between green, energy-efficient and healthy housing; collaboration between health, housing and environmental professionals to develop state and local healthy homes programs. The conference is designed for professionals or students working in the areas of affordable housing, community service delivery, and environmental public health; people who provide health or inspection services of any type; agency, department, and division heads; child-care providers; Head Start agencies; community police officers; code officials; builders/renovators and others

Price: \$36

[Visit the website](#)

6) Fifth International Conference on the Impact of Environmental Factors on Health

Monday through Wednesday, September 21 - 23, 2009
New Forest, England United Kingdom
at the Wessex Institute, Ashurst Lodge

Sponsor: Wessex Institute of Technology: Transactions on Biomedicine and Health

Health problems related to the environment have become a major source of concern all over the world. The conference aims to provide a forum for the dissemination and exchange of information on the diverse aspects of the impact of environmental factors on health across different disciplines.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Swinburn, 44-0-238-029-3223 or rswinburn@wessex.ac.uk

7) 2009 Rachel Carson Legacy Conference

Friday September 25, 2009
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
at the Bidwell Training Center, 1815 Metropolitan Street

Sponsor: The Rachel Carson Homestead Association

The conference theme is "When Chemicals Disrupt: Managing Our Risks." This conference will address the dichotomy between critical protection of the environment (and our bodies and those of the next generations) from endocrine disrupting contaminants and the unbridled economic interest of those who produce substances which directly or indirectly act as endocrine or developmental disruptors. We seek an open dialogue with the objective of identifying a set of mechanisms that can have rapid effect on the control of endocrine disrupting substances flowing into the environment as bio-accumulating contaminants. Mounting scientific evidence on a global scale compels immediate and effective action. However, there is widespread disagreement on the best course of action, and in particular, on the role of regulation in accomplishing change. The conference will approach the topic of endocrine disruptors in three parts: policy, science and remedies. Speakers to date include Linda Birnbaum, PhD, MPH; Terry Collins, Ken Cook and many others.

Price: \$90; preregistration and prepayment are required

[Visit the website](#)

8) The Vaccine Seminar

Saturday September 26, 2009 (other dates and locations are available through mid

November)
8:00 a.m.
Bellevue, Washington

Sponsor: The Doctor Within

This 12-hour multimedia presentation covers topics including the history of vaccines, their ingredients, scientific proof of efficacy, exemption laws, new vaccines, the new flu vaccine controversy and more. A detailed course description is available on the website. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$169 advance or \$199 at door for the 12-hour continuing education accredited seminars, \$99 for the general public, spouse or student

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 408-298-1800 doc@thedoctorwithin.com

9) Creating Healthy Schools in Alaska: What You Need to Know to Protect Children from Toxic Exposures

Wednesday September 30, 2009
9:00 a.m. Alaska time / 10:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment -- Alaska

Presenters will be Claire L. Barnett, executive director of the Healthy Schools Network, and Mike Schade, PVC Campaign Coordinator of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. For more information or to join this free call and receive dial-up instructions, please RSVP at the contact number below.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714

10) Illinois Forum on Toxic Chemicals and Public Health

Friday October 2, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Chicago, Illinois
at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 S. Halsted, Illinois Room 'B'

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA), and the Autism Society (ASA), in partnership with the Illinois Public Interest Research Group (IL PIRG), the Illinois Public Health Association, the Association for Individual Development (AID), and Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC

With a theme of "The Learning and Developmental Disability Community Takes Action!", speakers will include policymakers, medical professionals and concerned citizens. Space is limited, so to ensure your spot please preregister. The forum is open to the public.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Brian Imus, 312-291-0441, ext. 210 or brian@illinoispirg.org

11) 4th International Public Conference on Vaccination

Friday through Sunday, October 2 - 4, 2009
Reston, Virginia
at the Hyatt Regency Hotel

Sponsor: National Vaccine Information Center with an educational grant from the Albert

and Claire Dwoskin Family Foundation

This conference seeks to arm participants with facts from vaccine and health experts, to instruct about vaccine science, policy, law, ethics and politics, and to allow participants to meet fellow vaccine safety and choice activists in each state. The conference encourages participants to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: National Vaccine Information Center, 703-938-5768 or contactNVIC@gmail.com

News and Journal Articles

[How cigarette smoke in your carpet could harm your baby.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

Is that nasty ash-tray tang that lingers on car-seat fabric, curtains in homes and the clothes of the nicotine addict strong enough to damage other people's health? According to some experts, third-hand smoke, as it is known, is dangerous. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Epigenetic changes associated with prenatal tobacco exposure](#)]

[US, Vietnam begin 4th annual meetings on eradicating Agent Orange.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

Vietnam urged the U.S. to do speed funding for Agent Orange victims Tuesday at the start of the fourth annual meeting on joint efforts to clean up areas that American forces contaminated with the toxic herbicide during the Vietnam War. Associated Press.

[Risk from mercury in 'silver' fillings still prompts dental debate.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

In 2005 alone, dentists in the U.S. plugged 52 million holes in our teeth with "silver" -- which is mostly mercury. Scientists know that vigorous chewing releases small amounts of mercury vapor from amalgam fillings. But can long-term exposure to these low levels of mercury lead to health problems? Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio.

[Hello baby, goodbye chemicals.](#)

Monday, September 07, 2009

My Toxic Baby is a lyrical account of one woman's journey down the rabbit hole of the chemically saturated world we inhabit, even in utero. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[NAACP hold rally; claims toxic well poisoned black families.](#)

Sunday, September 06, 2009

For years, the Holt family has claimed poisons from a local landfill have been causing deadly diseases, including cancer. The NAACP is rallying behind them in a fight they say is really for all Americans. Nashville WTVF TV, Tennessee.

[PCB risk feared at older N.E. schools.](#)

Sunday, September 06, 2009

Window and masonry caulking in hundreds of older schools in New England probably contain very high levels of now-banned toxins that can gradually be released into the air, posing a potential health risk to students and staff, environmental specialists say. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

[The Pine River Statement: Human health consequences of DDT use.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

Although we provide evidence to suggest that DDT and DDE may pose a risk to human health, we also highlight the lack of knowledge about human exposure and health effects in communities where DDT is currently being sprayed for malaria control. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Ford settles N.J. toxic waste lawsuit.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

The Ford Motor Co. has settled a lawsuit filed by residents of a northern New Jersey town over toxic waste dumped there nearly 40 years ago. Associated Press.

[Lead-tainted toys linger on shelves despite law.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

At many discount toy stores in this country, products that test at dangerously high levels for lead are still on the shelves -- despite a new federal law to protect children. National Public Radio.

[See related articles: [Toys 'R' Us offers discounts in exchange for used items](#), [Critics hit Mattel over lack of 3rd-party tests](#) and [Is there lead in this soother?](#)]

[Chemical found in baby shampoos not toxic: Health Canada.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

Health Canada on Friday concluded that a chemical considered a possible carcinogen and commonly found in trace amounts in baby shampoo, bubble bath and liquid soap should not be listed as toxic to human health. Canwest News Service.

[N.J. teaching safer way to dry-clean.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

New Jersey's push to make dry cleaners use fewer toxic chemicals is continuing with officials holding training sessions throughout the state on converting to greener cleaning methods. Bergen County Record, New Jersey.

[Incinerators 'do not pose health risk' say Government scientists.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

A Health Protection Agency (HPA) report said there was an "exceedingly low" chance of incinerators causing cancer, giving a huge boost to councils across the country wanting to build facilities close to homes. Oxford Times, United Kingdom.

[EPA shows 30 percent drop in release of toxics.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

Production slowdowns are the likely reason Northwest Indiana polluters released 30 percent less toxics in 2008 compared to the year before, according to a Post-Tribune analysis of preliminary data from the U.S. EPA. Merrillville Post-Tribune, Indiana.

[State targets pregnant smokers.](#)

Thursday, September 03, 2009

Health officials are "going gangbusters" with smoking cessation efforts as more than a quarter of pregnant West Virginians smoke, a state tobacco prevention official says. Charleston Daily Mail, West Virginia.

[How little PVC is too much?](#)

Thursday, September 03, 2009

The Canadian public interest group Environmental Defence, working with the Center for Health, Environment and Justice in the U.S., has released a back-to-school buyer's guide for parents wanting to ensure their children return to class with products that won't harm their health or the planet's. CBC Canada.

[See a related article: [Lunch box? Check. Safe lunch box? Hmmm...](#)]

['Pacific Garbage Patch' expedition finds plastic, plastic everywhere.](#)

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Scientists returning from an expedition to the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" found a nearly inconceivable amount of tiny, confettilike pieces of broken plastic. They also discovered tiny jellyfish eating bits of the plastic debris. The jellyfish are, in turn, eaten by fish like salmon or tuna which people eat. San Jose Mercury News, California.

[Images suggest childhood lead exposure causes faulty brain wiring.](#)

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Exposure to low to moderate levels of lead before birth and as a child can permanently change the brain's structure in a way that may alter if and how it transmits messages, a new study finds. Environmental Health News.

[Keeping chemicals out of the classroom.](#)

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Richard Pressinger's pitch to parents is simple: build a school free of harmful chemicals and fragrances and watch how much more a child can learn -- and with fewer sick days, too. Chapel Hill News, North Carolina.

[FDA study: Lead levels in lipstick much higher than previously reported.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

A study by the Food and Drug Administration found lead in lipstick at levels much higher than those detected by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (CSC) in a 2007 study that received international attention. Reuters.

[Silver impairs neurodevelopment: Studies in PC12 cells.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Our results show that silver has the potential to evoke developmental neurotoxicity even more potently than known neurotoxicants like chlorpyrifos, and that the spectrum of effects is likely to be substantially different at lower exposures that do not show signs of outright toxicity. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Prenatal exposure to organohalogens, including brominated flame retardants, influences motor, cognitive, and behavioral performance at school age.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Our results demonstrated for the first time that transplacental transfer of polybrominated flame retardants is associated with the development of children at school age. Due to the widespread use of these compounds, especially in the USA where concentrations in the environment are four times higher than in Europe, these results cause serious concern. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Dust, not food, main source of lesser known flame retardants](#) and [Playing with fire: Chemical industry extinguishes effort to curb toxic fire retardants](#)]

[Finding smells that repel.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Researchers have identified some of the body's chemical odors -- some of which may be related to stress -- that are present in significantly larger concentrations in people that mosquitos avoid. That might translate into an all-natural mosquito repellent that is more effective and safer than products currently available. Wall Street Journal.

[A bad mix: exposure may be 'safe' only with one chemical at a time.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

New experiments with combinations of contaminants shows that mixtures can cause harm even when the level of each chemical in the mixture would cause no effect by itself. Environmental Health News.

[You can avoid hazardous chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Everyday products can expose you to potentially hazardous chemicals, some of which can accumulate in your body. As revealed in a published study by the CDC, 212 of those chemicals were found in the blood or urine of some 2,500 volunteers. Washington Post.

[Blood mercury levels rising among U.S. women.](#)

Monday, August 31, 2009

A study involving more than 6,000 American women suggests that blood levels of mercury are accumulating over time, with a big rise noted over the past decade. US News & World Report.

[See related articles: [Feds consider taking lead on mercury emissions](#) and [Hold the sushi](#)]

[China faces 3rd case of kids' mass lead poisoning.](#)

Monday, August 31, 2009

Two hundred children are suffering from lead poisoning in southwest China, the country's third such case of mass sickening in the past month, an official newspaper said Monday. Associated Press.

[Pipes may leak lead.](#)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Santa Clarita Valley water agencies said they don't use PVC pipes, which recent studies have shown to leech lead into the water they carry, but the inexpensive plastic piping has become popular in the construction of new homes, officials said. Santa Clarita Signal, California.

[See a related story: [Chemicals leach from packaging](#)]

[India's generation of children crippled by uranium waste.](#)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Their brains never grew, speech never came and their lives are likely to be cut short; these are the children it appears that India would rather the world did not see-the victims of a scandal with potential implications for coal-fired power plants. London Observer, United Kingdom.

[Prenatal exposure to organochlorine compounds and neonatal thyroid stimulating hormone levels.](#)

Friday, August 28, 2009

Prenatal exposure to beta-HCH may affect neonatal thyroid hormone status and its function in neurological development. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.

[U.S. finds water polluted near gas-drilling sites.](#)

Friday, August 28, 2009

U.S. government scientists have for the first time found chemical contaminants in drinking water wells near natural gas drilling operations, fueling concern that a gas-extraction technique is endangering the health of people who live close to drilling rigs. Reuters.

[The Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Program launches new online portal.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announced today the launch of the Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, a collaborative effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help eliminate the effects of environmental hazards on human health. The Gov Monitor.

[Local shrimpers cite dangers from imports.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

At Monday's protests in Delcambre, several shrimpers cited potential health risks to consuming imported shrimp. A 2008 report by the nonprofit Food & Water Watch cites pesticides, antibiotics and disinfectants as dangers associated with imported shrimp. The Daily Iberian, Louisiana.

[Choking on freshness.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

If air "fresheners" clear the air, why are we gagging? According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commissions, some air fresheners "release pollutants more or less continuously." Reno News and Review, Nevada.

[Judge denies request for mercury-free vaccines.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

A judge on Wednesday denied an advocacy group's bid to prevent the government from giving pregnant women flu vaccines with a preservative that contains mercury. Associated Press.

[Arsenic in groundwater threatens millions in Uttar Pradesh.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Water is the elixir of life. But in thousands of villages across Uttar Pradesh it is causing death and diseases. Mumbai Daily News and Analysis, India.

[Chemical-safety costs uncertain.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Europe's chemical regulator has questioned a study suggesting that industry will have to spend €9.5 billion (US\$13.6 billion) -- six times more than expected -- on toxicity testing over the next decade, to comply with European Union legislation on chemical safety. Nature.

[See a related article: [EU chemicals law "spells surge in animal testing"](#)]

[Study finds high patient exposure to radiation.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Every year, about four million Americans under age 65 undergo medical imaging procedures that bombard them with more radiation than the safety limit set for workers in the health-care and nuclear industries, a new study concludes. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Hookah no less harmful smoke.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Called the first new tobacco trend of the 21st century, hookah use is especially popular among 18- to 24-year-olds. But don't write this off as just a harmless fad. The poisonous smoke one inhales during a typical 45-minute session is equal to four to five packs of cigarettes. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

[Youth's vigor makes a strong impression in environmental hearings.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

15-year-old Otana Jakpor has attended dozens of air-quality meetings and EPA hearings, presenting data from her experiments and advocating for tighter restrictions to improve public health. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Lead-laden paint still widely sold around the world.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Paint with dangerously high lead levels is still being sold for household use worldwide, putting hundreds of millions of young children at risk of permanent brain damage, research out this month in the journal Environmental Research shows. Reuters.

Most of the news articles above come from [Environmental Health News](#).

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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