



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin January 13, 2010

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning environmental contributors to human health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. They are archived and searchable on our website: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

CHE-WA Highlights

Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting

This CHE-WA working group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on this Thursday morning, January 14th, at King County Hazardous Waste office, 130 Nickerson St., Suite 105 ([get directions](#)). There is an option to call in to the meeting. Anna Davis, field organizer for Washington Toxics Coalition, will provide a 2010 legislative update on children's environmental health issues at 10:30. For a full agenda or the call-in number, please contact Julia Berg, 206-263-3042 or Julia.Berg@kingcounty.gov.

New Autism Working Group

CHE is initiating CHE-Autism, a working group dedicated to exploring the new paradigm of autism research and treatment in Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). CHE and Commonwealth have had a strong interest in ASD for many years. Commonwealth co-hosted a series of conferences over the past decade exploring the new paradigm of autism research and treatment. Two of the co-hosts of these conferences, Martha Herbert and Robert Hendren, have agreed to serve as science advisers to CHE-Autism. Michael Lerner will facilitate CHE-Autism initially with his colleague Sheila Opperman, who has been involved with autism work for years. CHE hopes to identify partners who would like to be candidates for the position of co-facilitators.

To join CHE-Autism contact info@healthandenvironment.org. For more information on the CHE-Autism Working Group, please visit [its web page](#).

Forum Presentations Online

Videos from presentations at the Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum in October have all been added to the Forum web page: www.chenw.org/CEHforum.html.

Exhibit Open through January 30th

An interdisciplinary exhibit featuring visual art, literary art and science, "Particles on the Wall" explores major elements of the nuclear age. The exhibit addresses our history related to the Hanford Nuclear Site, as well as broader nuclear and peace issues. The exhibit is displayed at Café Allegro, NE 42nd Street in Seattle.

New members

CHE-Washington welcomes these new members:

- Carol Carver, RN, MSN, Cathlamet
- Karen Hargus, Lake Tapps
- Sarah Flakus, Bellingham
- Daniel King, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Gene McConnachie, PhD, Seattle
- Jennifer Pere-Alderman, BSN, Kirkland

For a searchable database of organizations with which CHE-WA members are affiliated, please visit the CHE-WA website: <http://washington.chenw.org/members.html>

Lessons Learned

Precautionary Principle - Wingspread Statement

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

On January 15, 1998, the precautionary principle was defined at a weekend meeting at Wingspread, headquarters of the Johnson Foundation in Racine, Wisconsin. Subsequently known as the Wingspread Statement, the precautionary principle was defined: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."



The precautionary principle is increasingly recognized as a foundation for decision making to protect human health and the environment.

Learn more: <http://toxipedia.org/x/KQ8>

Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a CHE-WA bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

Announcements

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

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

[Call for comments: Propoxur: Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption.](#)

Ohio is requesting a Section 18 Exemption for the use of three formulations of Propoxur for the control of bed bugs in residential single or multiple unit dwellings, apartments, hotels, motels, office buildings, modes of transportation, and commercial industrial buildings in Ohio. Comments are due January 21st.

[Draft public health assessment for public comment.](#)

The Tennessee Department of Health's Environmental Epidemiology Program, under a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), has completed a draft Public Health Assessment (PHA) for the TVA Kingston coal ash release and now is accepting public comments through February 9, 2010.

[EPA announces 4th annual Rachel Carson contest.](#)

The categories are poetry, photography, essays and dance. The contest seeks to instill a sense of wonder for the environment among all generations and spur environmental stewardship.

[Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. -- Act now to reduce risk.](#)

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after cigarette smoking. January is the best time to test for radon now that doors and windows are all tightly closed.

[Call for comments: The National Plan for Action Changing Outcomes - Achieving Health Equity.](#)

Initiated by the Office of Minority Health, the National Plan for Action inspires us to move forward to implement the strategies and provides us a roadmap to make an impact in the elimination of health disparities, a costly and undue burden on our country. Comments are due by February 12, 2010.

[EPA to hold public listening sessions on potential stormwater rule.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold five listening sessions to provide information to the public about a potential rule to strengthen stormwater regulations and to establish a comprehensive program to reduce stormwater from new development and redevelopment. Sessions will be held throughout January in EPA offices in Chicago, San Francisco, Denver, Dallas and Washington, DC.

[EPA seeks public input on interim guidance for dioxins in soil cleanup goals.](#)

Dioxins are contaminants that are very widespread in the environment that have been of concern to EPA and the public health community for decades. This action would strengthen EPA's preliminary remediation goals at dioxin contaminated sites.

[EPA announces actions to address chemicals of concern, including phthalates: Agency continues efforts to work for comprehensive reform of toxic substance laws.](#)

For the first time, EPA intends to establish a "Chemicals of Concern" list and is beginning a process that may lead to regulations requiring significant risk reduction measures to protect human health and the environment. In addition to phthalates, the chemicals EPA is addressing today are short-chain chlorinated paraffins, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and perfluorinated chemicals, including PFOA.

[See related articles: [What the EPA's "chemicals of concern" plans really mean](#) and [Use of potentially harmful chemicals kept secret under law](#)]

[EPA requests grant applications to fight climate change.](#)

Grant proposals should support feasibility studies, technology transfer, deployment of technology, training, methane emissions inventories, and other activities that promote methane capture and use.

[Call for proposals: Health Impact Project.](#)

Government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply to undertake health impact assessment (HIA) demonstration projects. The application period is rolling and there are no deadlines for letters of interest.

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

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) seeks an articulate, creative and experienced grassroots organizer to server as chapter development and student program manager, coordinating and strengthening PSR's network of state, local and student chapters. The application deadline is January 22, 2010.

Upcoming Events

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

1) CHE-Fertility Call: Disinfectants Overkill

Thursday January 14, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group

This call will highlight the recently released Women's Voices for the Earth report, [Disinfectants Overkill](#). Featured speakers include Erin Switalski, executive director of Women's Voices for the Earth; Alexandra Gorman Scranton, MS, director of Science and research for Women's Voices for the Earth; Patricia Hunt, PhD, Meyer Distinguished Professor at the School of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University; and Ann Blake, PhD, Environmental & Public Health Consulting.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Varshavsky, julia@healthandenvironment.org

2) CHE Science Cafe Call: A Conversation with Elizabeth Grossman, Author of *Chasing Molecules*

Tuesday January 19, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Known for her book *High Tech Trash*, an exposé of the electronic waste industry, Elizabeth Grossman's new book, *Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health, and the Promise of Green Chemistry*, reveals the dangers and the extent of the chemicals that are found in everyday products such as BPA, perfluorinated compounds, brominated flame retardants and phthalates, and offers up hope for a future without them. With *Chasing Molecules*, Grossman reveals that we can do better; that we can make materials that we have come to rely on with chemicals that have been tested to be safe and are in fact "benign by design." In a radical departure from how synthetic chemistry has been practiced, Grossman suggests that green chemistry should be used to create new materials for use in everything from sippy cups to carpets.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

3) CHE Partnership Call: Upstream: Complex Chemical Contributors to Thyroid Function and the Potential Impacts on Policy

Thursday January 21, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will involve a discussion of the complex array of chemical contributors to thyroid function. Presenters will cover chemicals linked to thyroid function, upstream biological impacts to thyroid hormones during pregnancy that can lead to a variety of health problems later in life, and the policy implications given all the complexity. In particular, speakers will address perchlorate, which inhibits the uptake of iodide into the thyroid gland, an essential part of the process of making thyroid hormone. Small changes in maternal thyroid hormone are associated with significant decreases in IQ.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, 360-331-7904 or info@healthandenvironment.org

4) Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners Course

Tuesday and Wednesday, January 26 - 27, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Ravenna Training Room, UW Tower, 4333 Brooklyn Avenue NE

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

If you visit homes to provide health or inspection services of any type, you will benefit from the Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners Course. The training will help you understand the connection between health and housing and how to take a holistic approach to identify and resolve problems which threaten the health and wellbeing of residents. The training complements hazard-specific training in lead-based paint, radon, mold, pests and asbestos. It identifies root causes of health problems in a home and links them to seven principles of healthy housing: keep it dry; keep it clean; keep it pest-free; keep it ventilated; keep it safe, avoid contaminants; and maintain the house.

Course participants will have a better understanding of how to collaborate to make healthy homes a reality in their community. The Healthy Home Specialist Credential Exam can be taken as an optional addition to the course at the Lung Association Office, 2625 Third Avenue, on January 28th.

Price: \$100, plus an additional cost of \$205 to take the optional credentialing exam

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Trudy San Jose White, 206-685-2931 or sanjose@uw.edu

5) Report from the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen: Implications for Human Health

Thursday January 28, 2010

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

Sponsor: SeaTrust Institute, IGI Global, Collaborative on Health and the Environment

According to the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change in Stepping up International Action on Climate Change: The Road to Copenhagen, "Climate change is today widely recognized as one of mankind's greatest challenges in the 21st century. If left unchecked, climate change can seriously harm economies, societies and ecosystems all around the world, especially in developing countries." Dr. Lynn Wilson returns from participating in the international climate change meetings in Copenhagen to engage webinar participants in what is being called "the forgotten discussion" in the climate-change equation: human health. Besides offering reflections as representative for an admitted civil society organization in the official negotiations, Lynn will share insights from participation in working groups on climate and health, informal discussions and side events to present a picture of international collaboration and conflict, knowledge and progress in this critical scientific and policy arena.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: SeaTrust Institute, 360-961-3363 or lwilson@nasw.org

6) The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health

Thursday January 28, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, HSB D-209

Sponsor: University of Washington School of Public Health, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Andrew L. Dannenberg, MD, MPH, clinical professor of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, 206-543-6991 or ehadmin@u.washington.edu

7) A Conversation with Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Thursday February 4, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

We will hear from Birnbaum on the priorities and challenges facing the NIEHS in the

coming years as well as discuss other pressing environmental health concerns.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

8) 9th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

Thursday through Saturday, February 4 - 6, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in downtown

Sponsor: The Rockefeller Foundation, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HDR, National Association of Realtors, Smart Growth Network, US Environmental Protection Agency and others listed on the website

"Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities" is the conference theme. Presentations topics include environment and health, housing, transportation, climate change, walkability and more.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the "[Contact page](#)"

9) Mercury Exposure, Nutritional Deficiencies and Metabolic Disruptions May Affect Learning in Children

Tuesday February 9, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The speaker will be Renee Dufault, MAT, of United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

10) Facilitation Skills for Scientists and Resource Managers

Tuesday through Thursday, February 9 - 11, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at NWETC Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Facilitation skills are used by scientists and resources managers to form productive teams, to plan programs and projects, and to implement controversial projects and programs. Facilitators help groups to communicate productively, honoring diverse points of view and respectfully creating options that provide the richest suite of benefits for all. The success or failure of programs and projects often depends on the support of a variety of interested parties -- staff, management, agencies, environmental groups, the general public and other stakeholders -- with diverse perspectives. Productive communication among project stakeholders is essential for successful implementation. In some cases, worthy projects have been blocked by disenchanting stakeholders who felt they had no voice or had been treated badly by public officials. Perhaps as bad is a missed opportunity because of the loss of meaningful participation that could have improved a project's design and implementation. This course is intended to be a practical approach to improving group meetings. It is oriented specifically to the needs of scientists and resource managers. After core facilitation skills are practiced, the class will be tailored to the students' development needs. Participants will be asked to complete a

pre-workshop skills profile. Students are presented with a wide array of tools and opportunities to practice new facilitation skills.

Price: \$795 or \$695 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

News and Journal Articles

[Top environmental health stories of 2009.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Environmental Health News has compiled a list of stories that we consider the year's most important when it comes to informing the public about the array of issues related to environmental health. Environmental Health News.

[Study: More daily TV use contributes to increased risk of death, disease.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

A new study has found that each hour of daily TV watching was linked with an 18 percent greater risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, an 11 percent greater risk of all causes of death and a 9 percent increased risk of death from cancer. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Stronger controls urged on chemicals in water.](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

An environmental group filed a legal petition Monday for tighter federal standards on pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants that can disrupt the hormones of animals and wildlife. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Methylmercury exposure in a subsistence fishing community in Lake Chapala, Mexico: an ecological approach.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Consumption of carp appears to contribute significantly to body burden in this population. Environmental Health.

[Air quality key to good health.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Canadians spend 90 per cent of their time indoors, but not all think about the health risks of indoor air quality. Belleville Intelligencer, Ontario.

[See a related article: [Health district raising carbon monoxide awareness](#)]

[Beware dangerous cling wrap.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

Of concern are materials containing polycarbonate - used to make food storage containers and bottles - and epoxy resins, used to line tin cans, Choice said. Australian Associated Press.

[Teaching green, beyond recycling.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

At the Green School in Brooklyn, the students are encouraged to delve into local issues that may affect them and their families, like contamination in waterways like the Gowanus Canal, water quality, or the razing of low-scale housing. New York Times.

[Chernobyl nuclear accident: figures for deaths and cancers still in dispute.](#)

Monday, January 11, 2010

The UN's World Health Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency claim that only 56 people have died as a direct result of the radiation released at Chernobyl and that about 4,000 will die from it eventually. But other reputable scientists are not convinced. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Irrational fears give nuclear power a bad name, says Oxford scientist](#)]

Popular kids' trinkets loaded with toxic metal.

Monday, January 11, 2010

Barred from using lead in children's jewelry because of its toxicity, some Chinese manufacturers have been substituting the more dangerous heavy metal cadmium in sparkling charm bracelets and shiny pendants being sold throughout the US, an AP investigation shows. Associated Press.

[See related articles: [China will look into report of cadmium in children's jewelry](#), [US consumer chief warns Asian firms on cadmium use](#) and [U.S. to develop safety standards for toxic metals](#)]

Beverages obtained from soda fountain machines in the U.S. contain microorganisms, including coliform bacteria.

Sunday, January 10, 2010

These findings suggest that soda fountain machines may harbor persistent communities of potentially pathogenic microorganisms which may contribute to episodic gastric distress in the general population and could pose a more significant health risk to immunocompromised individuals. International Journal of Food Microbiology.

Atrazine getting new scrutiny from EPA.

Sunday, January 10, 2010

As soon as February, the federal environmental regulator expects to seek a scientific peer review of its proposed plan for adding new health studies into its atrazine risk assessment. Lincoln Journal Star, Nebraska.

Prenatal and postnatal tobacco exposure and behavioral problems in 10-year-old children: Results from the GINI-plus Prospective Birth Cohort Study.

Saturday, January 09, 2010

Prenatal exposure to tobacco smoke is associated with behavioral problems in school-age children. Although our findings do not preclude the influence of postnatal exposure, prenatal exposure seems to be more important. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Smoking, drinking up risks of gut, throat cancers](#); [North Carolina sets curbs on smoking](#) and [Disease-causing bacteria found in tobacco and smoke](#)]

Why genes aren't destiny.

Saturday, January 09, 2010

It is through epigenetic marks that environmental factors like diet, stress and prenatal nutrition can make an imprint on genes that is passed from one generation to the next. Time Magazine.

[See a related article: [This just in: More research needed](#)]

Girls with prenatal exposure to bisphenol A more aggressive, hyperactive: Study.

Saturday, January 09, 2010

Daughters of women who were exposed to bisphenol A while they were pregnant are more likely to show aggressive and hyperactive behaviors as two-year-olds, a new study shows. Canwest News Service.

[See a related article: [Phthalates may play a role in ADHD symptoms](#)]

Plastic not fantastic.

Saturday, January 09, 2010

With something like 80,000 synthetic chemicals around us and 1000 new chemicals created every year, endocrine disrupters are everywhere and often turn up where you least expect them. Auckland New Zealand Herald.

Ecologist guide to detox.

Friday, January 08, 2010

We live in a world surrounded by synthetic man-made compounds, found in everything from cleaning products to pesticides, which can make their way into our food, water, air and our bodies. Wherever you live you are likely to be carrying a wide range of chemicals that shouldn't be there. Ecologist.

Scientists say mountaintop mining should be stopped.

Friday, January 08, 2010

The study also linked mountaintop mining to threats to human health, citing potentially toxic dust in the air, well water contaminated with chemicals from mines and fish tainted with toxic metals. Washington Post.

EPA seeks stricter rules to curb smog.

Friday, January 08, 2010

The EPA proposed a stricter new standard for smog-causing pollutants on Thursday that, if adopted, will impose large costs on industry and local governments but will also bring substantial health benefits to millions of Americans. New York Times.

Toxic dust from roads travels into homes.

Thursday, January 07, 2010

A widely used type of asphalt sealant derived from coal tar appears to be making its way into the house dust of homes nationwide, according to new research. Young children may actually be playing on coal-tar-sealed driveways and playgrounds, potentially raising their exposure to harmful chemicals. Discovery News.

[See a related article: [Study sees parking lot dust as a cancer risk](#)]

Low selenium tied to throat, stomach cancers.

Thursday, January 07, 2010

Low selenium levels may increase risk of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and gastric cardia adenocarcinoma, as well as esophageal adenocarcinoma in women, never-smokers, and people with low antioxidant intakes. Reuters Health.

Radiation risk low with whole-body airport scanners.

Thursday, January 07, 2010

The radiation risk from full-body scanners used to improve airport security is low and unlikely to raise an individual's risk of cancer, U.S. experts said on Wednesday. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Cancer risks debated for type of x-ray scan](#)]

Cell phone use may fight Alzheimer's, mouse study says.

Thursday, January 07, 2010

The study found that if cell phone exposure began before the genetically engineered mice started showing signs of Alzheimer's, they were less likely to develop symptoms later on in life. National Geographic News.

Unsafe toys seized and crushed.

Thursday, January 07, 2010

Thousands of toys have been seized and crushed in Victoria to stop them from being sold to children. The state government destroyed the toys on Thursday after they were seized during raids in 2009 because they failed safety standards. Australian Associated Press.

Even low exposure to lead poses risk.

Thursday, January 07, 2010

According to a review of studies in the December Journal of Environmental Health, adult health impacts are occurring at lead exposure levels far below those regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's standards, and those standards, set in 1978, are no longer protective of human health. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

[See related articles: [Lead damages child kidneys, even low levels: study](#) and [Blood lead levels and major depressive disorder, panic disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder in US young adults](#)]

Genetic effects on toxic and essential elements in humans: arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium and zinc in erythrocytes.

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Although environmental exposure is a pre-condition for accumulation of toxic elements, individual characteristics and genetic factors are also important. Identification of the contributory genetic polymorphisms will improve our understanding of trace and toxic

element uptake and distribution mechanisms. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[E-waste still being exported, says watchdog.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

As more people replace their old televisions with flat-panel screens, a toxic-waste watchdog is warning that many e-waste recyclers are still illegally shipping old TVs to developing nations. CBC Canada.

[Obesity tops tobacco as biggest health threat.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Obesity has surpassed smoking as North America's greatest health risk, a U.S. study and Canadian experts say. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[See related articles: [Weight gain from quitting smoking linked to diabetes](#) and [Children with ADHD linked to obese mothers](#)]

[Fighting formaldehyde exposure dangers.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar is co-sponsoring a bill to establish national health standards for formaldehyde in composite wood. Twin Cities Daily Planet, Minnesota.

[Autism clusters found in California, linked to highly educated parents.](#)

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

California scientists have discovered clusters of autism, largely in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, where children are twice as likely to have autism as children in surrounding areas. Environmental Health News.

[Urinary concentrations of four parabens in the U.S. population: 2005-2006.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

The general U.S. population was exposed to several parabens during 2005-2006. Differences in the urinary concentrations of methyl and propyl parabens by sex and race/ethnicity likely reflect the use of personal care products containing these compounds. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Prenatal exposure to PBDEs and neurodevelopment.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

This epidemiologic study demonstrates neurodevelopmental effects in relation to cord blood PBDE concentrations. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Economic activity and ambient air pollution trends.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

This new approach outlines an alternative method to reconstruct historical exposures that may greatly aid epidemiologic research on specific causes of health effects from urban air pollution. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[School lunches: Push for healthier foods faces barriers.](#)

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

Parents find the rules stacked against them as they try to remove entrees such as pancakes. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Deadly animal diseases poised to infect humans.](#)

Monday, January 04, 2010

The world is facing a growing threat from new diseases that are jumping the human-animal species barrier as a result of environmental disruption, global warming and the progressive urbanisation of the planet, scientists have warned. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[Fake pharmaceuticals.](#)

Monday, January 04, 2010

Of the chemicals he uncovered in various counterfeit malaria pills, Facundo M. Fernandez did not expect to find sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra. He also didn't expect to find one of the building blocks for the street drug ecstasy, or metamizole, banned in the U.S. because it may cause serious bone marrow disorders. Chemical & Engineering

News.

[Many misunderstood dangers to those who smoke water pipes.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

Would you enter a room if someone told you that you would be breathing a cocktail of carbon monoxide, polyhydrocarbons, formaldehyde, nitrogen, nitric acid, arsenic, chromium, lead and volatile aldehydes? Abu Dhabi National, United Arab Emirates.

[See a related article: [Health officials discourage use of e-cigarettes](#)]

[Organic ... or not.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

These foods are not always what consumers think they are. Some are not chemical or pesticide free. Health benefits are questionable. Only certain thing? They cost more.

Lancaster Sunday News, Pennsylvania.

[Findings point new path for dealing with Vietnam War's poisonous legacy.](#)

Sunday, January 03, 2010

Results showed that levels of the cancer-causing poison dioxin were far greater than guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for residential areas. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See related articles: [VA to ease access to Agent Orange disease care](#), [Vet's daughters cope with toxic inheritance](#) and [The environmental consequences of war](#)]

[Groundbreaking plan to tighten reviews of toxic air pollution stirs debate over development.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

Under proposed new air-quality guidelines, for the first time in the country, the developer would be told to study the health effects of the freeway pollution on the people who will live in the homes if extra cancer risk meets a specific threshold. Contra Costa Times, California.

[Another study finds no MMR-autism link.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

A new study finds that children who had received the MMR vaccine actually had a lower risk of autism than their unvaccinated peers. Nor was there any evidence of an increased autism risk with the measles-only vaccine. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Panel: No proof of autism, diet link](#)]

[Allergy epidemic may start in womb.](#)

Saturday, January 02, 2010

After years of seeing a dramatic rise in children coming to hospitals with severe allergies and asthma, researchers believe the environment of expectant mothers may be to blame for health problems. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[Studies find heavy heating oil has severe effect on air quality.](#)

Friday, January 01, 2010

When it comes to finding a major culprit for the tainted air in a wintry New York, one often needs to look no farther than out the window to see a big building spewing black smoke. New York Times.

[Early menstruation linked to heart disease risk.](#)

Friday, January 01, 2010

British researchers found that among nearly 16,000 middle-aged and older women followed for more than a decade, those who'd started menstruating before age 12 were more likely to die early and more likely to develop cancer, heart diseases, and to suffer strokes. Reuters Health.

[Dust: Tiny particles with a big impact.](#)

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Scientists are beginning to have new respect for the way dust alters the environment and affects the health of people, animals and plants. As global warming raises temperatures and forests are cleared, the amount of dust swirling through the Earth's

atmosphere is expected to grow. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See related articles: [Latest cancer rates show we're gasping for air](#) and [Coal linked to cancer in Chinese province](#)]

Safety of beef processing method is questioned.

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Government and industry records show that in testing for the school lunch program, E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims about the effectiveness of their novel ammonia treatment. New York Times.

J&J expands recall of Tylenol arthritis caplets.

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

The FDA said the unusual moldy odor consumers brought to their attention was believed to have been caused by the breakdown of a chemical used to treat wooden pallets that transport and store packaging materials. It said the health effects of the compound have not been well studied. Reuters Health.

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 and learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.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 Washington State Regional 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 Washington State regional group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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