



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin January 27, 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

Additions to CHE's Online Calendar

CHE's searchable [calendar of events](#) now lists upcoming deadlines for funding proposals and calls for conference abstracts. We invite partners to submit events and deadlines for inclusion in the calendar.

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](#).

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.

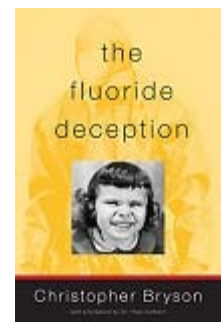
Lessons Learned

Fluoride in Drinking Water

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

On January 25, 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first municipality to add fluoride to drinking water in an effort to prevent tooth decay. Nearby Muskegon was left fluoridation-free as the experiment's control city for comparison purposes. Although adding fluoride to drinking water is supported by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there was no consensus that fluoridating reduced tooth decay in children.

In addition to drinking water, fluoride is also present in a range of consumer products including toothpaste (1,000-1,500 parts per million or ppm), mouthwashes and fluoride supplements. In 2006, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) produced *Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific*



Review of EPA's Standard reviewing the appropriateness of EPA's four ppm maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for fluoride in drinking water. The NAS reports states "the consistency of the results appears significant enough to warrant additional research on the effects of fluoride on intelligence." The report recommended that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) update the risk assessment of fluoride to include new data on health risks and better estimates of total exposure from sources in addition to drinking water, including an assessment of potential neurobehavioral effects of fluoride.

The controversy over adding fluoride to drinking water continues. While there is clear evidence of adverse effects from overexposure, the EPA has yet to review the health effects. The CDC recommends that infant formula not be prepared with fluoridated drinking water and infant exposure from toothpaste be limited.

Learn more - <http://toxipedia.org/x/UT>

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>.

[Conference Highlights: Translating Science to Policy: Protecting Children's Environmental Health.](#) This document summarizes the March 2009 symposium which reviewed 10 years of research findings from the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health and other scientists, discussed interventions stemming from this research, and identified strategies to advance policies that will reduce and prevent environmentally-related diseases such as asthma, developmental disorders and cancer in children living in urban communities.

[Call for comments: 2010 Strategic Planning Superfund Research Program.](#) This plan will direct us in prioritizing the scope of the science, establishing an approach for attaining scientific balance and growth, enhancing translation, community outreach, and training along with developing guidelines for managing the program/decision-making. Questionnaires must be completed by January 29, 2010.

[Call for comments: Reconsideration of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency proposes to set different primary and secondary standards than those set in 2008 to provide requisite protection of public health and welfare, respectively. Written comments on this proposed rule must be received by March 22, 2010.

[EPA strengthens air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide.](#)

This new one-hour standard will protect millions of Americans from peak short-term exposures, which primarily occur near major roads. Short-term exposures to NO₂ have been linked to impaired lung function and increased respiratory infections, especially in people with asthma.

[See related articles: [EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson says nitrogen dioxide rule will help poor communities](#) and [Chicago is the only U.S. metro area that would fail proposed nitrogen oxides limits](#)]

[EPA, Congressional Black Caucus announce joint Environmental Justice Tour.](#)

The joint EPA-CBC Environmental Justice Tour will visit several areas throughout the country to highlight environmental justice challenges faced by Americans in all communities.

[New report: The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act.](#)

In the 34 years since TSCA was enacted, the EPA has been able to require testing on just 200 of the more than 80,000 chemicals produced and used in the U.S., and just five chemicals have been regulated under this law.

[See a related article: [Stricter rules urged on toxic chemicals](#)]

[FDA, health organizations to study safety of medications taken during pregnancy.](#)

About two-thirds of women who deliver a baby have taken at least one prescription medication during pregnancy according to a journal article published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. There are very few clinical trials that test the safety of medications in pregnancy due to concerns about the health of the mother and child.

[Call for comments: Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis of the TVA Kingston site.](#)

The analysis is for the non-time-critical cleanup alternatives for restoration of the Swan Pond embayment area impacted by spilled fly ash and stabilization and closure of the failed dredge cell. Comments will be accepted until February 18th.

[Call for comments: Standards to protect Florida's waters.](#)

The proposed action, released for public comment and developed in collaboration with the state, would set a series of numeric limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen, also known as "nutrients," that would be allowed in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, springs and canals. Three hearings are scheduled for February 16, 17 and 18, 2010, in Tallahassee, Orlando, and West Palm Beach, respectively.

[See a related article: [EPA floats unique Fla. water quality rule](#)]

[Call for comments: EPA Definition of Solid Waste \(DSW\) rule.](#)

Consistent with EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's commitment to reach out to communities historically underrepresented in EPA decision-making, the agency is requesting public input on a draft plan for assessing the potential impacts of its hazardous waste recycling rule on low-income, minority and tribal populations. Comments are due by March 15, 2010, and public meetings and an online public roundtable are also scheduled.

[Environmental Public Health Tracking: State-to-State Peer Fellowship Program.](#)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) invites applications from interested candidates of non-EPHT funded states and territorial health agencies to serve as an ASTHO Tracking Fellow. Fellows are expected to pursue activities that strengthen their capacity to conduct and collaborate on EPHT activities. The duration of the project will be from March through May 2010. Applications must be received by February 26, 2010. Inquiries can be directed to Abraham G. Kulungara, MPH, director of Environmental Health, 571-527-3154 or akulungara@astho.org.

[Call for proposals: Exploring New Air Pollution -- Health Effects Links in Existing Datasets.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications proposing to use existing datasets from health studies to analyze health outcomes for which the link to air pollution is not well established, or to evaluate underlying heterogeneity in health responses among subgroups defined by susceptibility or extent and/or composition of exposure. Proposals are due by April 27, 2010.

[Call for proposals: Revitalizing Core Environmental Health Programs.](#)

The EHS-Net Research opportunity seeks to improve the practice of environmental health service programs by establishing a network of environmental health specialists (EHS) who collaborate with epidemiologists and laboratorians to conduct research to identify and prevent environmental risk factors contributing to foodborne and/or waterborne illness. Letters of Intent must be received by Friday February 12, 2010.

[Job opening: Tallahassee, Florida.](#)

The Florida Department of Health has an opening for a chief of community environmental health to begin in spring 2010. The closing date for applications is February 14, 2010.

[Job opening: Falls Church, Virginia.](#)

The Center For Health, Environment and Justice has an opening for a coordinator for its Childproofing Our Communities Campaign which works to protect children from exposure to environmental health hazards where they live, learn, play and pray.

Upcoming Events

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

1) 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

2) 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

3) Green Chemistry and Environmental Health

Wednesday February 3, 2010

3:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:00 p.m. Central / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The speaker will be Dr. Linda Birnbaum, director of the US National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) 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

5) 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](#)"

6) 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](#)

7) 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 disenchanted 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

8) Chemicals and Reproductive Health: The Male Predicament

Friday February 10, 2010

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

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

Confirmed speakers will be Theo Colborn, PhD, president of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX) and professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville; Shanna Swan, PhD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, associate chair of research, obstetrics and gynecology; professor of environmental medicine, and professor of community and preventive medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, science director of the Science and Environmental Health Network and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Varshavsky, julia@healthandenvironment.org

9) Incorporating Health Impact Assessment into Community Design and Transportation Decisions

Tuesday February 23, 2010

noon - 1:00 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

The design of the built environment, including land-use and transportation decisions, affects health in many ways, including its impacts on physical activity, air quality, motor-vehicle and pedestrian injuries, social capital, mental health and environmental justice. Health impact assessment is a new tool that can improve communication between public-health professionals and urban planners, transportation planners, and other decision makers so that health issues are more likely to be considered in decisions about community design.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sarah Paliulis, paliulis@u.washington.edu

10) Leadership In Green Health Care Course

February 27 - April 24, 2010

Sponsor: Teleosis Institute

Leadership In Green Health Care prepares health professionals to become leaders in the emerging discipline of Sustainable Medicine. Sustainable medicine recognizes the link between the environment, medicine and human health and seeks to provide better health care while protecting our limited environmental and medical resources. The Leadership in Green Health Care course reviews the most up-to-date theory and research behind sustainable medicine and introduces participants to the best practices for initiating green health care -- from greening their offices, to offering affordable and renewable medical treatments, and promoting community and environmental health. Participants collaborate online to exchange strategies and pioneer ideas for effecting change within their communities and medical practices. The online, interactive dialogue among like-minded professionals creates a supportive and inspiring learning environment. Continuing education credits are available for physicians and nurses.

Price: \$945 for nonmembers, \$695 for members of Practice Greenhealth, \$350 for students in the health-care field; register by January 22nd to receive a \$100 discount

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Genes, diet offer new clues to Parkinson's disease.](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Researchers say they've spotted a new genetic risk factor for Parkinson's disease, as well as a link between the illness and two other factors, metabolism and vitamin B6. Business Week.

[Low level arsenic impairs glucose-stimulated insulin secretion in pancreatic beta-cells: Involvement of cellular adaptive response to oxidative stress.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

Our studies suggest that low levels of arsenic provoke a cellular adaptive oxidative stress response which increases antioxidant levels, dampens ROS signaling involved in GSIS, and thus disturbs beta-cell function. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Current and future applications of toxicogenomics: Results summary of a survey from the HESI Genomics State of Science Subcommittee.](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

The survey findings provide valuable information on the current state of the science toxicogenomics (TGx) applications, identifies key areas in which TGx will have an impact, as well as the key hurdles in applying TGx data to address issues. Environmental Health Perspectives

[Officials fear toxic ingredient in Botox could become terrorist tool.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

A speck of botulinum toxin smaller than a grain of sand can kill a 150-pound adult. The multibillion-dollar market for anti-wrinkle drugs has spawned an underground network of online suppliers, who do not ask for prescriptions or identification. Washington Post.

[That new-car smell.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

For many, the new-car smell is a bonus that comes with buying a new vehicle -- an olfactory reward to enjoy each time the owner slides behind the wheel. That smell, however, also could make them -- and their passengers -- sick. AOL Autos.

[Debate over fracking continues.](#)

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Wider use of hydraulic fracturing will help the United States increase its domestic energy

supplies even as the practice draws concern about its possible impact on drinking water, Exxon Mobil Corp. Chairman and Chief Executive Rex Tillerson says. McClatchy Newspapers.

[Radiation offers new cures, and ways to do harm.](#)

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Americans today receive far more medical radiation than ever before. Without a doubt, radiation saves countless lives, and serious accidents are rare. But patients often know little about the harm that can result when safety rules are violated and ever more powerful and technologically complex machines go awry. New York Times.

[PVC, the poison in your home.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic, commonly referred to as vinyl, is one of the most hazardous consumer products ever created. East London Daily Dispatch, South Africa.

[Why Alzheimer's is called 'type 3 diabetes.'](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

The role of insulin in the brain and the link between Type 2 diabetes and Alzheimer's is a multi-faceted one. Studies have shown that diabetics have a 30 to 65 percent higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, and that obesity and diabetes can cause the brain to shrink. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[Lead paint rules require contractor certification.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

New EPA rules for lead paint removal go into effect April 22, adding a bit more time and cost to some home renovations. The agency estimates about 38 million homes and apartment units, or 40 percent of the housing stock, contain lead paint. Associated Press.

[Lead found in women's handbags.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Testing that revealed disturbingly high levels of lead has generated a landmark agreement involving two big retail chains that establishes, for the first time, limits on lead in women's handbags and wallets. ABC News.

[High cholesterol puts teens at risk of heart disease.](#)

Friday, January 22, 2010

One out of every five U.S. teenagers has a cholesterol level that increases the risk of heart disease, CDC officials reported, providing striking new evidence that obesity is making more children prone to illnesses once primarily limited to adults. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Michelle Obama asks mayors to help reduce obesity](#)]

[Industrial chemicals lurking in your bloodstream.](#)

Friday, January 22, 2010

Concern is heating up over whether common industrial chemicals found in plastics and other consumer goods could be harming our kids. BPA is just one of hundreds of industrial chemicals that may be in your blood or urine right now. Forbes.

[See a related article: [Killers in your kitchen: Gender-bending packaging, exploding floor cleaners and toasters more deadly than sharks...](#)]

[Study links Asia to smog component in Western US.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Ozone blowing over from Asia is raising background levels of a major ingredient of smog in the skies over California, Oregon, Washington and other Western states, according to a new study appearing in the journal Nature. Associated Press.

[Mercury pollution a global problem.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Concern about global mercury pollution has been mounting for decades and a recent expert report for the United Nations Environment Programme warned that mercury now

appears to be present all over the world in concentrations that may affect people and wildlife. Durban Mercury, South Africa.

[See related articles: [Mountains of mercury](#) and [Ceremonial candles possible source of mercury contamination](#)]

H1N1 flu's impact on pregnant women, children in Oregon.

Thursday, January 21, 2010

The pandemic H1N1 strain of influenza continues to cause more trouble for pregnant women and children than typical flu, but its overall impact remains moderate, according to data released Tuesday by Oregon Public Health's Emerging Infections Program. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

Rickets on the rise due to change in children's lifestyles, say North-East medics.

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Changing lifestyles among children is leading to a Vitamin D deficiency and a rise in cases of rickets, North-East medical experts said today. Priestgate Northern Echo, United Kingdom.

Shedding light on why omega-3 fatty acids may help the heart.

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

The more omega-3 that patients with coronary heart disease consumed, the slower their telomeres shrank. HealthDay.

Prenatal exposure to flame-retardant compounds affects neurodevelopment of young children.

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Prenatal exposure to ambient levels of flame retardant compounds called polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) is associated with adverse neurodevelopmental effects in young children, according to researchers at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH) at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Science Daily.

[See a related article: [Younger mothers' breast milk has highest levels of flame retardants](#)]

Are carpets and cookware toxic to your liver?

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

A chemical used in carpets, cookware, food wrappers and many other consumer goods may cause liver damage, according to a recent study. The chemical, perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, is used to make fluoropolymers. Scotchgard and Teflon are made from PFOA. Fox News.

[See related articles: [Non-stick chemical linked to thyroid illness](#) and [Association between serum perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\) and thyroid disease in the NHANES study](#)]

What's in a cigarette? US to study ingredients.

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

The Food and Drug Administration is working to lift the smokescreen clouding the ingredients used in cigarettes and other tobacco products. In June, tobacco companies must tell the FDA their formulas for the first time, just as drugmakers have for decades. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Study: Smokers with early lung cancer could double survival chances if they quit](#)]

Smoke, sleep problems linked.

Monday, January 18, 2010

More secondhand smoke exposure means less sleep for children with asthma, according to new research from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Cincinnati Enquirer, Ohio.

[See related articles: [Blood pressure harm from smoke 'may explain cot death'](#) and [High blood pressure link to smoking by mothers](#)]

Chemicals coat apples decades after Alar scare.

Monday, January 18, 2010

In 2005, the last year results were available, the U.S. Department of Agriculture found

pesticide residues on 98 percent of the apples it tested. All the residue was at levels within federal guidelines. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Cholinesterase depression and its association with pesticide exposure across the agricultural season among Latino farmworkers in North Carolina](#)]

[Johnson & Johnson expands Tylenol recall.](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Johnson & Johnson expanded a recall of over-the-counter medications Friday, the second time it has done so in less than a month because of a moldy smell that has made users sick. Associated Press.

[OSR#1: Industrial chemical or autism treatment?](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

An industrial chemical called OSR#1 that was developed to help separate heavy metals from polluted soil and mining drainage is being sold as a dietary supplement by a luminary in the world of alternative autism treatments. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Venison a la plomb.](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Deer hunting season is over in the West. And if you were a good aim, your freezer is chock full of venison. But be warned, new research suggests that eating game shot with lead bullets may expose you and your family to lead, a poisonous heavy metal. High Country News.

[Keeping kids too clean may do more harm than good.](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

A growing body of scientific evidence is pointing to links between hypersanitary lifestyles and health problems. Columbus Dispatch, Ohio.

[Report calls for research on nanoparticles in food.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

A global scarcity of scientific research on using nanotechnology in foods means food safety authorities are unable to properly regulate products that may be beneficial or harmful, a British science panel said on Friday. Reuters.

[UN report paints grim picture of world's indigenous peoples.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

The world's 370 million indigenous peoples suffer from disproportionately, often exponentially, higher rates of poverty, health problems, crime and human rights abuses, the first ever United Nations study on the issue reported Friday. Afrique en ligne, Africa.

[Vets: Burn pits are killing us.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

The president's promise -- and the military's approach -- won't change a fundamental challenge with the way the government responds to its warriors' wounds. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

[Residence near power lines and mortality from neurodegenerative diseases: Longitudinal study of the Swiss population.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

The relation of living in the proximity of 220-380 kV power lines and the risk of death from neurodegenerative diseases was studied, and an increased hazard ratio for Alzheimer's disease was found to increase with the number of years of residence within 50 m. American Journal of Epidemiology.

[DEP tests show prescription drugs leaching from landfills.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection says it now has enough evidence to prove that unwanted prescription drugs being tossed into local landfills pose a threat to surface and groundwater supplies around the state. Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

[Do TETRA \(airwave\) base station signals have a short-term impact on health and](#)

[well-being? A randomized double-blind provocation study.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Our findings suggest that the adverse symptoms experienced by electrosensitive individuals are due to the belief of harm from TETRA base stations rather than due to the low-level EMF exposure itself. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Indoor air quality.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Air quality is often much worse inside our homes than outside. That's because tens of thousands of chemicals, some synthetic and some found in nature, are used to make products commonly found in buildings. Environmental News Network.

[F.D.A. ordered to stop blocking imports of e-cigarettes.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

A federal judge on Thursday ordered the Food and Drug Administration to stop blocking the importation of electronic cigarettes from China and indicated that the devices should be regulated as tobacco products rather than drug or medical devices. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Proof lacking on e-cigarettes' safety, experts warn](#)]

[Estrogen in birth control diminishes sex organs in male rats.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

A number of permanent oddities -- such as deformed penises and smaller reproductive organs that were caused by exposure to the same estrogen found in birth control pills -- contributed to the infertility seen in adult male rats exposed during the time when their reproductive organs were forming. Environmental Health News.

[Alcohol during pregnancy chemically alters fetal DNA.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Drinking too much during pregnancy can harm offspring permanently. Now experiments in mice suggest this may be because alcohol chemically alters the fetus's DNA, affecting how genes are expressed. New Scientist.

[Adults' breathing troubles may begin in childhood.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

New research hints that how well your lungs function in adulthood and your risk of developing chronic breathing problems is partly determined in childhood. Reuters Health.

[Poor neighbourhoods can kill.](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Results from the collaboration indicate that social isolation and a fear of crime cause an overload of stress hormones that can change cell biology, sending tumours into overdrive. New Scientist.

[See a related article: [Marginalised communities 'more prone to environmental hazards'](#)]

[New FDA deputy to lead food-safety mandate.](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

In July, Michael Taylor became an adviser to the commissioner of the FDA, and last Wednesday, he was named deputy commissioner for foods, a new position that elevates food in an agency long criticized for placing greater emphasis on drugs and medical devices. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Sample of Nestlé cookie dough has E. coli bacteria](#)]

[Top product safety regulator warns parents to take cheap jewelry from kids.](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

The nation's product safety agency issued an unprecedented warning Wednesday to parents: Don't give your children cheap metal jewelry. And if they already have some, toss it because it could contain hazardous levels of heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Majority of toys in Indian market toxic: Study](#)]

[Elevated amount of BPA can increase cardiac risk by 45%, study finds.](#)

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Elevated exposure to bisphenol A has been linked in a new study to a significantly increased risk of cardiovascular disease, the second time researchers have made a connection between the widely used plastic-making compound and heart ailments. Toronto Globe and Mail.

[See related articles: [FDA does about-face on exposure to BPA](#), [FDA says it's unable to regulate BPA](#), [The high cost of plastic convenience](#) and [Obesity now a growing problem for babies](#)]

Exercise may aid cognitive function.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Almost any amount of moderate physical activity in mid or late life reduced the odds of mild cognitive impairment by 30% to 40% in an ongoing cohort study, researchers reported. Medpage Today.

[See related articles: [Start running and watch your brain grow, say scientists](#) and [Exercise: In women, training for a sharper mind](#)]

Zinc blamed for denture-wearers' problems.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Zinc in denture adhesives has been blamed in dozens of cases of nerve damage, including that of a North Carolina man who says 20 years of using the glues caused him to become disabled. McClatchy Newspapers.

Report links vehicle exhaust to health problems.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Exhaust from cars and trucks exacerbates asthma in children -- and may cause new cases as well as other respiratory illnesses and heart problems resulting in deaths, an independent institute that focuses on vehicle-related air pollution has concluded. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Environmental health news: Pollution linked to uncontrolled asthma, Revealed: 21 hotspots for air pollution, with traffic worst offender](#), [Research finds link between air pollution, school absences in Texas](#), [Traffic fumes increase the risks of child pneumonia](#) and [City touts cut in school bus exhaust](#)]

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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