



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin April 7, 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

CHE-WA Website Updates

The [CHE-Washington website](#) has been updated with recent meeting notes and new additions to the Training Resources clearinghouse.

Children First Symposium October 1st in San Francisco

This groundbreaking one-day symposium will highlight a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care. Hosted by CHE, the Whole Child Center and the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, the symposium will feature leaders on these topics who will also describe model programs and concrete steps toward creating optimal and sustainable environments in which children can thrive and reach their full potential. Registration opens on April 15th. [Visit the website.](#)

New CHE Blog

CHE has launched a blog to promote dialogue on issues at the intersection of human health and environment. Main blog posts are invited essays from CHE partners. Comments and discussion are welcome from all. <http://ourhealthandenvironment.wordpress.com/>

CHE on Facebook

In addition to a new blog, CHE has also created a Facebook page to be updated several times a week with CHE announcements, important new reports and news and other information that may be of interest to our Partners. We invite you to visit and join the [Facebook page.](#)

Lessons Learned

Teflon - Sticky when it comes to health

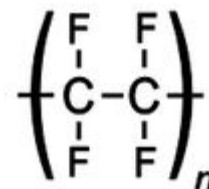
by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Teflon (polytetrafluoroethylene or PTFE) was accidentally discovered on April 6, 1938, by Roy J. Plunkett, PhD (June 26, 1910 - May 12, 1994), a research chemist employed by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company at their Jackson Laboratory in Deepwater, New Jersey. On that date he checked a cooled container of tetrafluoroethylene and found it had polymerized into polytetrafluoroethylene, which was trademarked as Teflon 1945. Teflon, a waxy solid with amazing properties such as resistance to corrosion, low surface friction, and high heat resistance, became ubiquitous in household products such as electrical cable insulation, soil and stain repellent for fabrics, and coating for nonstick cookware. Interestingly, it was first used by the military in artillery shell fuses and in the production



of nuclear material for the Manhattan Project.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA or C8) is used as a surfactant in the emulsion polymerization of PTFE and has been detected in some PTFE. PFOA has been produced since the 1940s in industrial synthesis. PFOA is highly persistent in the environment and a recognized toxicant and carcinogen in animals. In people, it is detected in the blood of general populations in the low parts per billion range where some studies have associated it with infertility, higher cholesterol, and thyroid disease. PFOA has been detected in industrial waste, stain resistant carpets, carpet-cleaning liquids, house dust, microwave popcorn bags, water, food, and PTFE.



This is another chemical with interesting and useful properties, but whose potential hazards were not sufficiently investigated before being brought into our homes.

[Editor's note: Look for a new Practice Prevention column on perfluorochemicals including PFOA in the coming weeks from CHE's [Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative](#).]

Learn more: Plunkett: <http://toxipedia.org/x/oJZb>

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>.

[Consumer representatives needed for FDA Advisory Committees: Learn more at public meeting.](#)

Do you want to voice your opinion to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on its role in protecting and promoting the public health? Do you have ties to a consumer group or community-based organization? Can you analyze scientific data?

[EPA highlights recycling opportunities during National Cell Phone Recycling Week.](#)

Cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) are made of precious metals, copper, and plastics. Recycling or reusing these devices conserves materials, prevents air and water pollution, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions that occur during manufacturing and processing.

[DOT, EPA set aggressive national standards for fuel economy and first ever greenhouse gas emission levels for passenger cars and light trucks.](#)

The rules could potentially save the average buyer of a 2016 model year car \$3,000 over the life of the vehicle and, nationally, will conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil and reduce nearly a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the lives of the vehicles covered.

[Combination effects of chemicals.](#)

The study entitled "State of the Art Report on Mixture Toxicity" was recently completed and will provide input to the Commission work on the recommendations requested by the December Environment Council. Organizations or individuals with interest and relevant experience who would like to comment or ask questions on the report, are welcome to write by April 30, 2010.

[EPA releases public database on risk assessments.](#)

EPA is releasing the Health and Environmental Research Online (HERO) database, a milestone in transparency. HERO provides access to the scientific studies used in making

key regulatory decisions, including EPA's periodic review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six major pollutants.

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

The Northwest Environmental Training Center is seeking workshop instructors for a variety of courses, including "Mercury Effects on Ecosystems and Human Health." This position is contracted per course with flexible dates in major cities across the country.

[Job opening: Atlanta, Georgia.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention seeks an associate director for science with the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Applications are due April 15, 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) Understanding Environmental Risk Factors for Neural Tube Defects

Thursday April 8, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room T-435

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Richard H. Finnell, PhD, Margaret M. Alkek Professor of Medical Genetics, Regents Professor, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, and executive director of the Texas A&M Institute for Genomic Medicine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) An Eye Toward Public Health Adaptation Strategy

Tuesday April 13, 2010

noon - 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), Society for Public Health Education, The National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Public health professionals are facing new challenges as the science linking climate change and human health risks continues to mount. In fact, many US communities as well as those abroad are already facing health, disease and preparedness problems that a changing climate brings to the forefront. Through a diversity of speakers and leading experts, this webinar series explores the impact of climate change on human health, the role public health does and should play in confronting climate change, the challenges of communicating such risks to the public, and much more. This is the fifth webinar in this series. Participants must register to participate in this webinar.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

3) Adaptive Behavior and the School Environment

Tuesday April 13, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In *The School and Society* John Dewey writes: "From the standpoint of the child, the

great waste in the school comes from his inability to utilize the experiences he gets outside the school in any complete and free way within the school itself; while on the other hand, he is unable to apply in daily life what he is learning at school. That is the isolation of the school - its isolation from life." This isolation is even more profound for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In *Schools of To-morrow* John Dewey expands this: "[t]he child is best prepared for life as an adult by experiencing in childhood what has meaning to him as a child." The present method of identifying an appropriate placement for child with a disability within a school frequently ignores the influence that the environment has on the child and instead focuses almost exclusively on the child's disabilities independent of the environmental confounders. Brent Ibata, PhD, JD, will present on this webinar; his talk will explore those environmental influences known to impact the health, behavior and academic achievement of the child. To achieve full societal inclusion and participation for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities reasonable accommodations to the school environment must be considered as part of any placement decision. Only with safe and healthy school environments will a disabled child be able to achieve full adaptive behavior potential as an adult.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) EH@Home

April 14th (West Salem), April 20th (Eugene), May 5th (Oregon City) or May 19th (Portland)

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Oregon State University partnership between the Extension Service and the Environmental Health Sciences Center, funded by the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences

This educational forum is for individuals and professionals who have an interest in environmental health in the home. EH@Home will focus on common environmental health concerns found in residential settings. OSU Faculty will present the latest research findings on key environmental health issues in residential settings. Through engaging, hands-on activities participants will be able to recognize common problems, identify risk reduction strategies, and know when to use specialists for further assistance. These workshops will focus on practical, low- and no-cost solutions to many common environmental health issues in the home. Lunch will be provided along with a Certificate of Attendance.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dave Stone, 541-737-4433 or Dave.Stone@oregonstate.edu

5) Flame Retardants: Emerging Science and Policy Considerations

Thursday April 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Fertility Working Group and Women's Health and Environment Initiative

Since the 1970s, flame retardants have been added to a variety of consumer products including electronics, foam furniture, and children's pajamas. These persistent pollutants are ubiquitous in the environment and accumulate in wildlife, pets, and human blood and breast milk. Animal studies indicate that flame retardants can affect neurological development, thyroid function and reproduction. How might flame retardants impact human health? Are some people disproportionately exposed? Do less toxic alternatives exist? How can the emerging research inform chemicals policy reform? On this call, we will discuss the latest science linking flame retardants to reproductive health and development, plus opportunities for reducing. Featured speakers will include Ami Zota,

ScD, postdoctoral fellow with the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, University of California, San Francisco; Kim Harley, PhD, associate director for health effects at the Center for Children's Environmental Health Research, University of California, Berkeley; Julie Herbstman, PhD, ScM, postdoctoral research scientist at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health, Columbia University; and Arlene Blum, PhD, visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Varshavsky julia@healthandenvironment.org

6) Quantitation of Human Exposures to OP-Nerve Agents and Mycotoxins

Thursday April 15, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

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

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Rudy Johnson, PhD, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

7) One Health Webinar

Thursday April 15, 2010

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

Sponsor: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

According to the CDC, approximately 75% of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are diseases of animal origin, which highlights the need for a more integrated approach to thinking about public health protection. The One Health Initiative recognizes the inextricable link between human, animal and mental health and "seeks to promote, improve and defend the health and well-being of all species" through greater collaboration and cooperation among the different health fields. This webinar will feature three presenters representing different health fields: Dr. Carina Blackmore, chief of the Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine at the Florida Department of Health; Dr. Clifford Mitchell, director of Environmental Health Coordination and Public Health Residency Programs in the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Dr. Ali Khan, deputy director of National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-borne, and Enteric Disease at CDC.

Price: unknown

Contact: Lindsey Realmuto lrealmuto@astho.org

8) Evaluating the Impact of Cumulative Stressors on Health

Monday April 19, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will explore how cumulative impact science indicates that multiple factors - including social, psychosocial, economic, physical, chemical and biological determinants - may contribute to disproportionate human health or environmental impacts. The risk of many diseases may be moderated by social and environmental factors, and some populations may systematically experience higher levels of these factors. This call on

cumulative impact will present an overview of cumulative risk assessment and the need to incorporate key nonchemical stressors. Featured speakers include Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, of the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley; and Jon Levy, ScD, of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

9) Chemicals and Health: A Toxic Combination

Wednesday April 21, 2010

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

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

Charlotte Brody, director of chemicals and chemical policy for the [Blue Green Alliance](#), will discuss a recent publication of [Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families](#) entitled *The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act*. The report details the growing scientific literature linking chemical exposures to six categories of chronic conditions that impact the daily lives of millions of Americans: 1) certain types of cancer, 2) learning and developmental disabilities, 3) Alzheimer's, 4) Parkinson's disease, 5) reproductive health and fertility problems and 6) asthma. It also incorporates the results of published studies that estimate the portion of our disease burden that is attributable to chemical exposures and the potential health cost savings from improved protection from toxic chemicals. Charlotte is lead author and editor of the report. Registrations are limited and required ahead of the teleconference.

Price: free, but long-distance telephone charges will apply

[Visit the website](#)

10) lecture: PATH Safe Water Project

Thursday April 29, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room T-435

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Kevin Flick, PhD, consumer product officer at PATH. PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

11) CHE Cafe call with Annie Leonard, author of *The Story of Stuff*

Tuesday May 4, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

In December 2007, Annie released *The Story of Stuff*, a hit 20-minute webfilm that takes viewers on a provocative and eye-opening tour of the often hidden costs of our consumer-driven culture. The film has won numerous awards, including a South by Southwest Festival award, and in 2008 Annie was named one of *Time Magazine's* Heroes of the Environment. Annie's films, writing and presentations combine solid information and first-hand investigative reporting with a profound sense of hope that we can, indeed

must, find a more sustainable way to meet our material needs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

12) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Asthma

Tuesday May 4, 2010

noon - 12:45 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Lung Association in Oregon

This webinar series focuses on health outcomes of proactive indoor air quality programs and trigger strategies around the areas of asthma, radon, integrated pest management, and diesel retrofitting.

Price: free, but space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Michelle Cunha, 503-718-6159 or michelle@lungoregon.org

13) Communicating Science to Non-scientific Audiences

Thursday May 7, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington School of Public Health, room T-435

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Deborah Illman, PhD, NSF Senior Fellow, Communication at the University of Washington.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Study identifies hundreds of obscure -- yet persistent -- chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

A new study suggests that hundreds of chemicals used commercially could persist and bioaccumulate, yet next to nothing is known about their actions and levels in the environment. Predicting exposures and if and how chemicals may pose a health threat is incredibly difficult. Now, researchers propose a unique way to screen and identify chemicals that may need further evaluation and monitoring.

[See related articles: [Report: Cosmetic products contain high levels of toxic chemicals](#), [Coalition rallies for more oversight on chemicals](#), [The toxic timebomb: Researchers say gender-bending chemicals are rife but are they just the tip of the iceberg?](#) and [Weak rules on toxins and safety](#)]

[Study reports hint of phthalate threat to boys' IQs.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

You may have a hard time spelling "phthalates," but there's no avoiding them. They're in the air you breathe, water you drink and foods you eat. And this ubiquity may carry a price, particularly for young boys, emerging data suggest. Including a drop in their IQ. Science News.

[Radiation ups risk of breast cancer in young women.](#)

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

Women treated with chest radiation for cancers in childhood or adolescence are at

increased risk for breast cancer at a young age, and their risk does not appear to plateau over time, according to a new study. Reuters Health.

[See related articles: [New evidence that annual mammograms may be overkill](#) and others about other risks of radiation: [Scientists say FDA ignored radiation warnings](#) and [Flying and excess radiation](#)]

[WHO to kick off '1,000 cities' drive for urban health.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

The global campaign starting on World Health Day aims to rally 1,000 cities to "open up public spaces to health", by closing off portions of streets to traffic, to encourage exercise in parks and clean up campaigns. Agence France-Presse.

[Zinc levels in Poligrip scrutinized.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

Until very recently, the denture adhesive Super Poligrip contained high levels of zinc -- enough, scientists say, to cause neurological damage in people who used too much of it. All Things Considered, NPR.

[Dirty air makes for wheezy kids, says study.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

Small particles from traffic and heating oil combustion may cause children younger than two to wheeze and cough, according to a new study. Reuters.

[See related articles: [Measures across the United States target port pollution](#), [UN tightens ship fuel rules along North American coast](#) and [Acute adverse effects of fine particulate air pollution on ventricular repolarization](#)]

[Breast milk 'teaches' immune system to ward off allergens in mice.](#)

Monday, April 05, 2010

A new study in mice shows that exposure to an allergen through breast milk can actively program a pup's immune system to prevent asthma later in life. Environmental Health News.

[IC scholar wages impassioned fight against carcinogens.](#)

Saturday, April 03, 2010

The PERC-contaminated water Sandra Steingraber grew up drinking in her hometown of Peoria, Illinois may not have caused her cancer, but it certainly caused somebody's. Ithaca Journal, New York.

[The hazards lurking at home.](#)

Saturday, April 03, 2010

With so many scary-sounding, potentially toxic compounds turning up in our household products, it's hard to know which agents are really worth worrying about. Here is a guide to some of the most commonly found toxins. Time Magazine.

[Cell phone use and cancer.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

Public health advocates say there's enough information linking cell phone use to cancer to warrant warning labels. Living on Earth.

[Chew on this: Persistent organic pollutants may promote insulin resistance syndrome.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

The authors conclude that dietary exposure to POPs may be a risk factor for insulin resistance and associated metabolic disorders. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Brain drain? PBDEs alter development of human brain cells.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

A new laboratory study demonstrating that polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) can alter human fetal brain cells may explain at least in part the neurotoxicity recently documented in epidemiologic studies of young children exposed to PBDEs and previously shown in animal models. Environmental Health Perspectives. [See a related article: [Polybrominated diphenyl ethers induce developmental neurotoxicity in a human in vitro](#)]

[model: Evidence for endocrine disruption\]](#)

[White House proposes Healthy Food Financing Initiative.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

The Obama administration announced in February a \$400 million initiative it hopes will lure retailers of healthy foods into the so-called food deserts of America. The program, proposed as part of the fiscal year 2011 budget, aims to boost public health by eliminating urban and rural food deserts within 7 years. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Toxic legacy for tribes.](#)

Friday, April 02, 2010

Beyond the still-intractable problems of waste disposal, security, and proliferation, does this vision of a nuclear-powered bright future account for the egregious harms wrought by the uranium extraction industry on indigenous peoples of the Western United States? High Country News.

[Study links chemical exposure to breast cancer.](#)

Thursday, April 01, 2010

Exposure to certain chemicals and pollutants [synthetic fibers and petrol products] before a woman reaches her mid-30s could treble her risk of developing breast cancer after menopause, Canadian scientists said on Thursday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Could multivitamins raise breast cancer risk?](#)]

[The perils of plastic.](#)

Thursday, April 01, 2010

Chemicals in plastics and other products seem harmless, but mounting evidence links them to health problems -- and Washington lacks the power to protect us. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Hormones, plastics and paradigms](#); [Plastic nanoparticles can move from mom to baby through placenta](#) and [Assessment of metal contaminations leaching out from recycling plastic bottles upon treatments](#)]

[What the frack? Natural gas from subterranean shale promises U.S. energy independence -- with environmental costs.](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Natural gas from subterranean shale promises U.S. energy independence -- with environmental costs. Natural gas cracked out of shale deposits may mean the U.S. has a stable supply for a century -- but at what cost to the environment and human health? Scientific American.

[Farm pesticides linked to deadly skin cancer.](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Workers who apply certain pesticides to farm fields are twice as likely to contract melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer, according to a new scientific study. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: ["Greening" conference focuses on overuse of pesticides](#)]

[Silent danger at the rinks.](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Ice grooming equipment, like the Zamboni, leaves behind more than a smooth skating surface. It also creates a potentially hazardous trail of carbon monoxide and nitrous dioxide that lingers in indoor arenas. Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota.

[Mothballs deserve respect.](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The active ingredient in many, para-dichlorobenzene, can poison the liver, skin, and central nervous system -- and is a "possible human carcinogen," according to the U.S. EPA. Huh? Isn't the whole idea of using mothballs to have their vapors permeate clothing? Science News.

[VA to cover more illnesses from Agent Orange exposure.](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The federal government wants to make free medical care and disability payments automatic for veterans with certain medial conditions linked to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Boston Patriot Ledger, Massachusetts.

[See other articles related to health effects of war: [Iraqi children's growth stunted by war, says study](#) and [Toxic exposure risk low for troops in Haiti](#)]

EPA to intensify its study of BPA.

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday that it is intensifying its look at how BPA affects the nation's wildlife and water supply and will designate the compound as a "chemical of concern." Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[See related articles: [Bad chemistry: The poison in the plastic that surrounds us](#); [Urinary circulating and tissue biomonitoring studies indicate widespread exposure to bisphenol A](#); [Gender-bender chemicals 'putting everyone at risk'](#); [Flushed away: BPA-free babies](#); [Revealed: the nasty secret in your kitchen cupboard](#) and [BPA found beached and at sea](#)]

Maternal well-being and its association to risk of developmental problems in children at school entry.

Monday, March 29, 2010

Risk factors for developmental problems at school entry are related to maternal well being and history of abuse, which can be identified in the prenatal period or when children are preschool age. BMC Pediatrics.

[See a related article: [Multivitamins during pregnancy may boost infant health](#)]

Smokin' entrees: Charcoal grilling tops the list.

Monday, March 29, 2010

A study presented at the American Chemical Society meeting confirmed what my nose has observed: that commercial grilling can release relatively huge amounts of pollutants. Science News.

What's in the water?

Monday, March 29, 2010

Understanding chemical contamination can be confusing, particularly if you're not up to speed on acronyms like DCE, TCE or Cis. Here is a run-down on the chemicals found in 47 residential wells in Limerick and recorded in the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Pottstown Mercury, Pennsylvania.

[See related articles: [Pharmaceuticals in water -- an interdisciplinary approach to a public health challenge](#) and [Students say they have solution to removing pharmaceuticals from wastewater](#)]

Personal care products and ADHD.

Monday, March 29, 2010

There's been a rise in reports of behavioral disorders in kids over the past decade or so. Some researchers say genetics, lack of sleep, and chaotic households all contribute to things like ADHD. Now researchers say another cause could be personal care products. Environment Report.

Organic: What it means on different products.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Some consumers are more than willing to pay higher prices for organically grown food and other products. But is the extra dollar worth it? The answer may depend upon personal priorities. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See a related article: [Is it really natural?](#) and another about toxics in food: [Making your family's food safer just by washing](#)]

Amid nanotech's dazzling promise, health risks grow.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Nanotechnology has long been hyped for its potential to cure diseases, ease energy problems, supercharge our computers and more. But increasing evidence shows that the engineered particles could pose a giant risk to the environment and human life. AOL News.

[See a related article: [Why nanotech hasn't \(yet\) triggered 'the yuck factor'](#)]

[Is there an obesity tipping point in infancy?](#)

Saturday, March 27, 2010

How early in life that prevention efforts need to target children is quickly becoming a central question to childhood obesity research. One intriguing notion is that there exists an obesity threshold -- or tipping point -- in infancy. Time Magazine.

[Wal-Mart spurs sustainable toy animals into \\$1 billion market.](#)

Friday, March 26, 2010

Sales of green toys may balloon to \$1 billion, or as much as 5 percent of toy sales in the next five years, according to Earthsense, an environmental research firm. Bloomberg News.

[NU study: Dirt's good for kids.](#)

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Analyzing data collected from thousands of children over two decades in the Philippines, researchers have concluded that a healthy dose of germs and pathogens during infancy reduced cardiovascular inflammation in adulthood. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Report: States struggle to tally foodborne illnesses.](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

State and local reporting of foodborne illnesses is the first line of defense against national outbreaks. Yet a study by the Center for Science in the Public Interest finds that almost half of states do a poor job of tracking outbreaks. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Health issues are at heart of raw milk debate](#)]

[Parents' smoking gives 15,000 children a year asthma, doctors warn.](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Tens of thousands of children in the UK every year get asthma, chest infections and ear problems because they are exposed to smoke from their parents' cigarettes, doctors reveal today. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[See related articles: [Outdoor smoking bans](#), [Is this proof smoking lowers your IQ? Study suggests 20 a day drastically reduces mental capacity](#)]

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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