



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin July 29, 2009

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 Forum: Registration Is Open.

CHE-WA's Children's Environmental Health Working Group is hosting a Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum October 1-2, 2009, at the Tukwila Community Center. Registration is now open through the [Forum's web page](#), and a draft program and information about accommodations are also posted. Confirmed speakers include these:

- Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science & Environmental Health Network
- Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH, Simon Frazier University
- Michael Skinner, PhD, Washington State University
- Shanna Swan, PhD, University of Rochester
- plus many regional experts

Children's Environmental Health Forum: Call for Poster Abstracts.

We invite all researchers, technical staff, students, and practitioners from educational institutions, government and tribal agencies, nonprofit groups, and the private sector to submit abstracts to the Forum's poster session. More information and a submission form are available on the [Forum web page](#). Poster abstracts must be submitted by September 4th for consideration.

Lessons Learned

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](#).

The Tragedy of Thalidomide and Frances Kelsey

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Frances Oldham Kelsey, PhD, MD, born July 24, 1914, is most famous as the reviewer for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) who refused to authorize Thalidomide for market because she had concerns about the drug's safety. Thalidomide was developed by German company Grunenthal in the 1950s and considered as a wonder drug as an effective tranquilizer and painkiller and even to treat insomnia, coughs, colds and headaches. The drug was prescribed in Canada, Europe, Australia, and parts of Asia in the late 1950s to 1960s to pregnant women in their first trimester to treat nausea and vomiting caused by morning sickness. Tragically, during this period, more than 10,000 children in 46 countries were born with deformities such as phocomelia (limb deformity) as a consequence of thalidomide use during pregnancy.

This incident encouraged the passage of laws strengthening the

FDA's oversight of pharmaceuticals. In 1962, the United States Congress enacted the Kefauver Harris Amendment requiring tests for safety during pregnancy and to establish effectiveness before a drug can receive approval for sale. In the same year, Dr. Kelsey received the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service from President John F. Kennedy for her work and insight. She continued to work at the FDA, retiring in 2005 at the age of 90. In her honor, the FDA established the Dr. Frances O. Kelsey Drug Safety Excellence Award.



Following the tragedy, regulation was enacted to improve drug safety. Is similar safety assessment needed for the many industrial chemicals we are exposed to?

Frances Kelsey: <http://toxipedia.org/wiki/x/IOU>

Thalidomide: <http://toxipedia.org/wiki/x/KgU>

Upcoming Events

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

1) Information Meeting on the Certificate Program in Environmental Law and Regulation

Wednesday July 29, 2009

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington

Sponsor: University of Washington

Participants in this course of study gain an overview of the broad and complex field of environmental regulation, as well as familiarity with key laws that have the greatest influence on the management of natural resources. They also improve their understanding of agencies and organizations that create, enforce, interpret, and work with environmental regulations. The program covers federal, state and local law, with emphasis on the overriding federal and state statutes. This meeting will address questions from potential students.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-685-8936 or use the [online email form](#)

2) Workshop on PCBs in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers

Thursday July 30, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at the Port of Portland, 121 NW Everett

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

The workshop has four purposes: exchange information on PCB characterization, exchange information on current and new monitoring methods, exchange information on future and proposed PCB reduction efforts, and follow up on focus on PCBs in the State of the River Report.

Price: free, but preregistration is requested

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

3) Center for Creative Change Open House

Thursday July 30, 2009

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Antioch University Seattle campus, room 100, 2326 Sixth Avenue

Sponsor: Antioch University Seattle

Join us to find out how the Center's programs can help you learn to lead positive change wherever you are in a community, business or nonprofit organization. Building on Antioch's tradition of working for social justice, the Center's programs bring students from different disciplines together to design and implement solutions to the problems facing society today. What unites all of the programs is a commitment to creating a better world for everyone. Meet faculty, students and alumni for the program that interests you. Financial aid representatives also answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Wendy L. Olsen, 1-888-268-4477 ext. 5208 wolsen@antiochseattle.edu

4) Master Home Environmentalist Training

Three times and locations:

in Spokane on Friday July 31, 2009, at ESD 101, Regal Center, 4202 S. Regal Street

in Yakima on Monday August 3, 2009, at ESD 105, Klickitat Room, 33 S. 2nd Avenue

in Kent on Friday August 7, 2009, at Washington State Department of Health Kent Offices, Creekside Three at CenterPoint, Bldg. 3, 2nd Floor, 20435 72nd Ave. S., Suite 200

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Washington Department of Health, American Lung Association, Washington Healthy Communities Resource Center

This one-day comprehensive workshop is intended to train people to become environmental health advocates for the home environment. The Master Home Environmentalist (MHE) program is an innovative approach to addressing issues of indoor pollution that can damage health and the environment. We spend 90% of our time indoors, and our indoor air can be five times as polluted as outdoor air. The mission of the program is to promote health by reducing pollutants in the home, especially for those most vulnerable -- children, the elders and people with compromised immune systems. There are many ways that people can reduce their exposure to indoor pollutants, both chemical and biological. In this training participants will learn how to identify and remediate hazards in the home. The intended audience includes Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Asthma and Tobacco Prevention and Control (TPC) Program staff and contractors, and any organization/individual providing services to people with asthma. 7.0 continuing education hours are offered. Lunch will be provided. The registration deadline is Wednesday July 29th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sheryl Taylor, 360-750-7500 x266 or sheryl.taylor@esd112.org

5) Model School Siting Guidelines

Wednesday August 5, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the second of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying key components of safe school-siting policies, 2) understanding the type of school-siting policies your own state has passed, and 3) understanding the process that goes into choosing a safe site.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

6) Summer Institute for Public Health Practice 2009

Monday through Friday, August 10 - 14, 2009

Seattle, Washington

at the William H. Gates Hall on the University of Washington Campus

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

Classes cover what's current in public health practice including emergency preparedness, leadership, management and new ways to integrate skills that are practical and provide dual use that address both emergent and everyday issues. You'll hear from leading experts in the field on cross-cutting issues and receive practical, case-based training from nationally renowned faculty. Network with colleagues from across the nation and learn what others are doing to impact public health in their communities. All courses address both the practical application of the subject matter and how to integrate these needed skills in emergency preparedness for planning and response.

Price: \$1200 until June 13th or \$1500 after

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Trudy San Jose White, 206-685-2931 sanjose@u.washington.edu

7) Columbia River Toxics Reduction Watershed Workshop

Wednesday August 12, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wenatchee, Washington

at the Chelan PUD

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 with the Spokane Tribe, Washington Departments of Ecology and Health, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Columbia Riverkeeper, and the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group

The workshop's goals are to 1) exchange information on toxics reduction efforts in the Columbia River Basin; and 2) exchange information with local watershed groups, municipalities and others on toxics-reduction work efforts and concerns. The proposed audience is local watershed and salmon recovery groups; tribal, state, federal and local governments; nonprofits; agriculture/soil and water-conservation districts, industry and other entities. The workshop is open to the public; register in advance on the website.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

8) The Investor Environmental Health Network and Green Chemistry

Wednesday August 12, 2009

12:00 p.m. Pacific / 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The Investor Environmental Health Network is a collaborative partnership of investment managers, advised by nongovernmental organizations, concerned about the financial and

public-health risks associated with corporate toxic-chemicals policies. IEHN, through dialogue and shareholder resolutions, encourages companies to adopt policies to continually and systematically reduce and eliminate the toxic chemicals in their products. As of early 2008, IEHN members managed more than \$41 billion in assets.

Price: free

Contact: Lin Kaatz Chary, 219-938-0209

9) Community Involvement Training Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, August 18 - 20, 2009

Seattle, Washington

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

This eleventh training conference brings together more than 450 people from EPA and its federal, state, tribal and local partners who plan and implement environmental community involvement, partnership, stewardship, outreach and education programs. The theme for the 2009 conference is "Reaching across Boundaries: Sharing Challenges and Opportunities." The theme acknowledges that boundaries exist all around us and can pose challenges to effectively solving environmental problems. However, if stakeholders can move across boundaries, they can identify mutual challenges and opportunities that can lead to sustainable environmental benefits. During the conference we will explore communication skills and processes, organizational/institutional issues and behavioral shifts as ways to reach across boundaries to achieve these environmental benefits.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Community Involvement Conference Coordinator, ciconference@emsus.com

10) Pass a Safe School Siting Policy

Wednesday August 19, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the third of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying different strategies in passing a school-siting policy, 2) understanding the steps toward creating a campaign strategy and media plan, and 3) understanding general best practices in passing policy.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

11) 2nd National Safe Routes to School Conference

Wednesday through Friday, August 19 - 21, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Sponsor: National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Safe Routes to School is an international movement with the goal of making it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school on a daily basis. An increase in walking and bicycling improves community and personal health, benefits the environment, increases safety, and helps to decrease traffic and congestion around schools. The most successful programs incorporate the five E's: education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement and evaluation. The programmatic themes for

this year's conference are 1) transportation infrastructure and safety, 2) Empowering families and youth, 3) education and encouragement program development, 4) health and evaluation, and 5) Growing the SRTS movement.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Bike Transportation Alliance, 503-226-0676 or info@bta4bikes.org

Announcements & Articles

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

[Job opening: ASTHO, Virginia.](#)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) seeks a director of environmental health who will be responsible for directing policy development and analysis, plus program implementation on environmental health issues that may include issues such as climate change, natural disasters, land use, healthy housing, chemical exposure, food safety, safe water, and environmental health infrastructure and capacity.

[Job opening: AmeriCorps, Oregon.](#)

OPSR and OEC seek an event coordinator to provide support for planning, implementation and evaluation of two environmental health education projects. The position is 15 hours per week from September 2009 to June 2010. Applications are due by August 10, 2009.

[Request for comments: Lead Wheel Weights.](#)

The petition requests that EPA establish regulations prohibiting the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of lead wheel balancing weights. Comments must be received on or before July 30, 2009.

[New slide show: Reproductive Roulette.](#)

This presentation is a self-guided slideshow that provides data on reproductive health and dangerous chemicals. Charts and graphs show that reproductive health is declining as human exposure to dangerous chemicals is rising. Center for American Progress.

[New report: State Leadership in Formulating and Reforming Chemicals Policy: Actions Taken and Lessons Learned.](#)

This report examines states' emerging leadership in reforming the way chemicals in commerce are managed and analyzes chemicals policies that have been proposed or implemented at the state level. Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

[New report: WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality: Dampness and Mould.](#)

This document provides a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence on health problems associated with building moisture and biological agents. The review concludes that the most important effects are increased prevalences of respiratory symptoms, allergies and asthma as well as perturbation of the immunological system. World Health Organisation.

[New report: Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls.](#)

This peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

[Call for proposals: Environmental Implications of Emerging Technologies.](#)

Fundamental and basic research is sought to establish and understand outcomes as a result of the implementation of new technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, and information technology. The application closing date is September 17th.

[Call for proposals: Fertility Preservation Research: Advancing Beyond](#)

Technology.

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) solicit grant applications that are designed to: 1) characterize the risks and mechanisms of gonadal damage secondary to exposure to chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or occupational or environmental hazards, 2) elucidate more reliable biomarkers of reproductive capacity, and 3) examine the social, legal, and ethical ramifications of fertility preservation technologies. Letters of intent must be received by September 21st.

Call for proposals: Research on the Economics of Diet, Activity, and Energy Balance.

The major focus of this FOA is to solicit projects that enhance the state of the science on the causes of obesity and to inform federal decisionmaking on effective public-health interventions for reducing the rate of obesity in the United States. This FOA is also intended to promote collaborative activities between researchers trained in economics and researchers specializing in public health, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and other chronic diseases so that the desired goals can be more efficiently, quickly, and successfully attained. The closing date for applications is January 7, 2011. US Department of Health and Human Services.

Call for proposals: Hazmat Training at DOE Nuclear Weapons Complex

The major objective of this solicitation is to prevent work-related harm by assisting in the training and education of workers in the DOE nuclear weapons complex. Safety and health training will transmit skills and knowledge to workers in how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during hazardous waste operations, facility decommissioning and decontamination, hazardous materials transportation, environmental restoration of contaminated facilities or chemical emergency response. Letters of intent must be received by October 23, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services.

Call for proposals: Hazardous Materials Worker Health and Safety Training.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences invites applications for cooperative agreements to support the development of model programs for the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation and emergency response. Letters of intent must be received by October 23, 2009. Department of Health and Human Services.

Lead poisoning prevention: a challenge to local churches.

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Churches that run day care centers, children's ministries and/or nurseries should be sure to test areas in the church that house children related activities for lead poisoning. Examiner.com.

[See a related article: [Deadly dust](#)]

Depressed and confused? Let the sun shine.

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Rainy days have long been tied to a poor mood, while sunshine often lifts one's spirits. A new study now suggests that a lack of sunlight is associated with reduced cognitive function among depressed people as well. Los Angeles Times.

Soldiers brought sickness from Iraq.

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Dozens of National Guard veterans have sued KBR and two subsidiaries, accusing them of minimizing and concealing the dangers of hexavalent chromium, then downplaying health problems. The debate has rippled to Capitol Hill, raising broader questions about private contractors and health risks in war zones. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

Is sunscreen safe?

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Sunscreen protects us from the harmful rays of the sun. But sunscreen also contains chemicals which can seep into the body, or seep into water and affect aquatic life, as

well as drinking water. Frederick News-Post, Maryland.

[Phytoestrogen in soy impedes egg, embryo growth, finds mouse study.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Women who are having difficulty conceiving may want to cut back on their soy consumption after a mouse study reveals that dietary exposure to genistein, a compound found in soy foods, can reduce the odds of a successful pregnancy in multiple ways. Environmental Health News.

[Childhood cancer survivors face new threats as adults.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Some pediatric-cancer survivors are finding that the same treatments that saved their lives could come back to haunt them in new ways in their 20s and 30s. Wall Street Journal.

[Anticancer effects of phytosterols.](#)

Monday, July 27, 2009

Mounting evidence supports a role for phytosterols in protecting against cancer development. European Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

[NIH seeks genetics and environment breast cancer studies.](#)

Monday, July 27, 2009

The National Institutes of Health plans to issue a request for applications this fall to fund multidisciplinary research into possible environmental influences on breast cancer risk, including studies of how genetics and environmental influences affect disease risk. GenomeWeb.

[Healthy fat link to bowel disease.](#)

Sunday, July 26, 2009

Experts believe a high intake of linoleic acid, found in foods like "healthy" margarines, may be implicated in a third of ulcerative colitis cases. BBC News.

[Dry cleaners leave a toxic legacy.](#)

Sunday, July 26, 2009

Over the years, with little if any notice to the public, the often sloppy use of perchloroethylene has poisoned hundreds of sites in Illinois. As scientists linked perc exposure to cancer, liver damage, neurological problems and other ailments, regulators found problems in virtually every town with a dry cleaner. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Chemical drift a growing concern for rural residents.](#)

Sunday, July 26, 2009

State legislatures throughout the country are grappling with chemical drift from farm fields and the conflict between the rights and pressures of farming and the rights and health of rural residents. Peoria Journal Star, Illinois.

[Hormone replacement therapy tied to ovarian cancer.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

New research suggests that no matter how hormone replacement therapy is given, it increases the risk of ovarian cancer. Reuters Health.

[See a related article about a connection to breast cancer: [Cancer gene link to pill and HRT](#)]

[Wellness 101: What is environmental wellness?](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Environmental wellness is one of the seven dimensions of wellness. By promoting environmental wellness, one can decrease one's risk for chronic illness and other health issues. Examiner.com.

[Poorest more likely to suffer catastrophic health problems.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

People in Milwaukee's poorest areas are much more likely than those in high-income neighborhoods to get lead poisoning, have sexually transmitted diseases or fare poorly

on women's health issues, according to a new study. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[Researchers find possible links between Agent Orange and risks of heart disease, Parkinson's.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Medical researchers say there may be a link between exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War and an increased chance of developing serious heart problems and Parkinson's disease. Associated Press.

[Beware these household chemicals.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Two specific groups of chemicals are the source of considerable concern these days -- volatile organic compounds and phthalates. Here's what you need to know about how they affect your air. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See an article about phthalate exposure: [Phthalate exposure through medication](#) and another about regulating VOCs in paints and finishes: [State rolls out new paint law to reduce harmful fumes](#)]

[How to have healthier air in your home.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

For the most part, the air you breathe while you're at home isn't nearly as clean as the air you breathe while you're outside. Los Angeles Times, California. 25 July 2009.

[See a similar article: [Improve air quality in your nursery and protect your baby's health](#)]

[Report slams FEMA on health hazard in emergency housing.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA was slow to address early signs of formaldehyde problems in emergency housing and overstated actions it was taking to address the problem, according to a report released Thursday by a federal inspector general. CNN.

[Consumer products could be major C8 source, study says.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

Everyday consumer products such as stain repellants and paper coatings may be a "significant source" of the toxic chemical C8 [also called PFOA], according to a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[Ozone exposure tough on kids with asthma.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

Even in rural areas, exposure to ozone appears to have a harmful impact in kids with asthma, researchers report in the journal Allergy. Reuters Health.

[See related news articles: [Asthma increasing among Pittsburgh-area kids](#) and [Parent stress, air pollution up kids' asthma risk](#) and a related journal article: [Traffic related air pollution, oxidative stress genes and asthma \(ECHRS\)](#)]

[Swine flu may cause seizures in children.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

Public health experts expect to see more cases of children who develop swine-flu-related neurological complications, because flu-related brain complications are more common in children than adults and swine flu seems to infect children more often than adults. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Fears that swine flu can attack unborn](#)]

[U.S. withheld data on risks of distracted driving.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

On Tuesday, the full body of research is being made public for the first time by two consumer advocacy groups, which filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit for the documents. New York Times.

[Infant inhalation of ultrafine air pollution linked to adult lung disease.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Early exposure to environmentally persistent free radicals (present in airborne ultrafine particulate matter) affects long-term lung function. Science Daily.

[EPA vows to examine hazardous waste impact on poor communities.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency vowed Tuesday to home in on the impact of hazardous waste recycling plants on minorities and low-income communities. Los Angeles Times, California.

[FDA: Electronic cigarettes contain toxic chemicals.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Federal health officials said Wednesday they have found cancer-causing ingredients in electronic cigarettes, despite manufacturers' claims the products are safer than tobacco cigarettes. Associated Press.

[Red meat and poultry: two major sources of PBDE exposure in the US.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

People who eat meat and poultry have significantly higher levels of common flame retardants compared to vegetarians. The findings indicate that food may be a more important source of the contaminants, known as PBDEs, than previously thought.

[Oregon cuts program to track pesticide use.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

The second annual report on Oregon pesticide use is likely to be the last. Just as the report from the Department of Agriculture went to press, the program was cut as a casualty of state budget problems. Seattle Times.

[Companies with operations in Washington illegally export electronic waste to Hong Kong.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

In April the companies allegedly prepared for shipment and sent to Hong Kong a container holding over 500 used color computer monitors of assorted makes and models. The Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department notified EPA of the hazardous waste and returned it to the Port of Tacoma in May. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[U.N. report pinpoints cancer risk from radon in homes.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

New studies have found direct evidence of a lung cancer risk from the presence of colorless, odorless radon gas in many homes, a United Nations committee said in a report released Tuesday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Environmental health 101: How do I test my home for radon?](#)]

[The complexities of greening your lawn.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Lawn and garden products are marketed as thoroughly tested, registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, and safe to use -- with an important caveat: If used properly. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Kicking the habit in pregnancy better for babies.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Moms-to-be who smoke but quit early in pregnancy can sharply reduce their risk of having a premature or too-small baby, new research in the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology shows. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Fewer in state smoke while pregnant](#)]

[Children more vulnerable to pesticides until age 7 due to lower enzyme level.](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

A new study finds that young children have significantly lower levels of a key enzyme that protects against the toxic effects of certain pesticides. The youngsters' enzyme

levels do not catch up to an adult's until after age seven -- far longer than previously thought. Environmental Health News.

[Find 'could cut allergy deaths.'](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Scientists have made a breakthrough which could reduce the risk of children suffering serious allergic reactions to peanuts and other food. It is hoped the discovery could lead to a huge reduction in the number of fatal anaphylactic shock cases. BBC.

[Drugs expose many premature babies to chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Premature babies are often exposed to additives in their medications that could put them at risk of brain and lung damage, according to a new study. Reuters Health.

[See a similar article: [IV tube chemical linked to premie liver woes](#)]

[Isotopes finger fertilizer's perchlorate legacy.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Perchlorate-contaminated groundwater could be a widespread legacy of the U.S.'s agricultural past, according to researchers who have pioneered perchlorate forensics. Environmental Science & Technology.

[Healthy neighborhoods: Walkability and air pollution.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Increased concentration of activities in urban settings yields both health costs and benefits. This research identifies neighborhoods that do especially well (and especially poorly) for walkability and air pollution exposure. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Exposure to aircraft noise and saliva cortisol in six European countries.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Results suggest that exposure to aircraft noise increases morning saliva cortisol levels in women, which could be of relevance for noise related cardiovascular effects.

Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Asbestos threat 'underestimated', say scientists.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

A report by scientists from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) this summer reclassified certain cancers and concluded that more than previously thought are related to asbestos fibres. London Guardian, England.

[Food safety in the age of recalls: What the government is doing to protect us, and what you can do.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

While consumers are becoming aware of how to cook and store food safely, federal legislation may ensure that government agencies play a more pivotal role in protecting the nation's food. New York Daily News, New York.

[Study links kids' lower IQ scores to prenatal pollution exposure.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Researchers for the first time have linked air pollution exposure before birth with lower IQ scores in childhood, bolstering evidence that smog may harm the developing brain. Associated Press.

[Do contaminants play a role in diabetes? Evidence is growing.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

A Great Lakes study linking a pesticide in fish to diabetes adds to the growing chorus of studies suggesting that environmental contaminants may play a role in the widespread disease. "The science has been growing very, very rapidly, and to my mind, it's one of the most exciting developments in the study of diabetes," said David O. Carpenter, director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the University of Albany. Environmental Health News.

[State, Alcoa still in landfill talks.](#)

Saturday, July 18, 2009

An old unlined landfill, containing industrial waste consolidated throughout Alcoa's former 218-acre property, is leaching pollution into groundwater. Clark Columbian, Washington.

[Warning sounded on heart scan law.](#)

Saturday, July 18, 2009

A new study offers the most definitive estimate yet of the cancer risk from the radiation exposure that comes with increasingly popular CT scans, which provide pictures of the heart's arteries and quantify the risk of heart attack in people without symptoms. Houston Chronicle, Texas.

[Autism: It's the environment, not just doctors diagnosing more disease.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

California's sevenfold increase in autism cannot be explained by changes in doctors' diagnoses and most likely is due to environmental exposures, University of California scientists reported Thursday. San Francisco Chronicle.

[Is organic food more nutritious?](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The truth is, the belief that organic produce is nutritionally superior to conventionally farmed is only mildly supported by scientific evidence. Vancouver Courier, Canada.

[Should racial profiling play a role in cancer prognosis?](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

African-Americans are more likely to die from cancer than patients of other races, and studies have long implicated socioeconomic and environmental factors. Two research teams, however, have recently suggested that the genetics of race itself is likely to be a contributor. Scientific American.

[Pesticides may raise Alzheimer's risk.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Exposure to pesticides may have long-term effects on the nervous system, increasing the risk of Alzheimer's disease in late life, a new study suggests. WebMD.

[See a related article: [Vitamin D, curcumin may help clear amyloid plaques found in Alzheimer's Disease](#)]

[Israeli study sees link between oral cancer, cell phones.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

A recent study documents a sharp rise in the incidence of salivary gland cancer in Israel that researchers believe may be linked to the use of mobile phones. Haaretz, Israel.

[California panel decides against requiring warning labels for products containing bisphenol A.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

A state panel will not require warning labels on metal cans, plastic bottles and other products that contain bisphenol A, despite more than 200 studies that have linked the chemical to cancer and reproductive problems. Los Angeles Times.

[Scavenging hazardous 'e-waste' for a few redeemables.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Agbogboshie's growing mountain of hazardous electronic waste, is also a stark example of the West's continued abuse of Africa, critics say: The rich world not only extracts resources from the continent, it also uses it as a trash bin. Washington Post.

["Glycemic load" of diet tied to breast cancer risk.](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

The amount of carbohydrates a woman eats, as well as the overall "glycemic load" of her diet, impact her chances of developing breast cancer, Swedish researchers report. Reuters Health.

[Smoking may speed progress of multiple sclerosis.](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Multiple sclerosis patients who smoke have a speedier progression of the disease, a new study in the Archives of Neurology suggests. Reuters Health.

[Dust contributes to exposures of three common contaminants.](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Chemicals heavily used in everyday products can end up in dust and increase people's exposure to the contaminants, reports a study by Belgium researchers who calculated exposure to bisphenol A, an antibacterial agent and a flame retardant through dust. Environmental Health News.

[11 surprising facts and myths about microwave ovens.](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Microwaves are energy efficient and convenient. But what does the radiation do to our food, and can it affect our health? The prevailing consensus is that microwave ovens are safe when used as directed. However, there may be some legitimate questions about their safety. The Daily Green.

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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