



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin September 9, 2009

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning 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

[Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum: Early Bird Registration.](#)

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. Early bird registration is available through September 14th. Confirmed speakers include many regional experts and these national leaders:



- 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

New members

CHE-Washington welcomes these new members:

- Gabriela Carvalho, Seattle
- Rebecca Page, Seattle
- L. M. Preston, Seattle
- Danielle Welliever, Beaverton, Oregon

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

Announcements

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

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

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

[Smart Growth Tool Kit.](#)

The Smart Growth Tool Kit is meant to provide state and territorial health officials with an easily accessible guide for information on different smart growth principles as well as real life examples of what different communities around the country are doing.

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

There is no federal housing code, building code, or health code; states and localities are

left to set standards and fill the gaps. The National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Conference of State Legislatures have partnered to identify and analyze the state laws that impact healthy homes.

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

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

[Report on Carcinogens background document on formaldehyde.](#)

RoC announces the availability of the draft background document for formaldehyde, request for comments and expert panel meeting November 2 - 4, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services National Toxicology Program.

[Lead poisoning prevention video contest.](#)

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

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

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

[Alice Shabecoff articles online.](#)

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

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

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

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

A new national commission, the One Health Commission, has been established to spotlight the connections between human, animal, and environmental health, as well as the benefits of proactive and collaborative approaches toward better health for all.

[EPA seeks comments on new information about geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide.](#)

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA protects underground sources of drinking water from threats related to injection activities. The new information supplements the agency's 2008 proposed rule that, if finalized, would create a new class of injection well and establish requirements under the authority of the SDWA to ensure that geologic sequestration activities do not endanger drinking water sources. US Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

[New report: Cellphones and Brain Tumors.](#)

Groups affiliated with the report include Powerwatch and the EM Radiation Research Trust in the UK, and the EMR Policy Institute, ElectromagneticHealth.org and The Peoples Initiative Foundation in the US. The report is available as a free download.

[Job opening: San Francisco.](#)

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

[Job opening: Chicago.](#)

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

Upcoming Events

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

1) Introduction to Ecological Statistics

Thursday and Friday, September 10 - 11, 2009

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

Seattle, Washington

at NWETC Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Many ecologists and managers often use statistical models that may not be appropriate or that violate basic model assumptions (i.e. independence), which can lead to erroneous conclusions. We will begin with an introduction to ecological statistics and then explore and discuss several methods: Non Metric Multidimensional Scaling, Classification and Regression Trees, and Non Parametric Multiplicative Regression.

Price: \$495, \$395 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

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

2) Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition

Monday through Wednesday, September 14 - 16, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Portland Convention Center

Sponsor: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Resource Agency California Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Hawaii State Department of Health, Washington State Department of Ecology, US Coast Guard

Companies from throughout the oil- and chemical-spill, maritime-security industry and the marine salvage industry will be in attendance. Key professionals from regulatory agencies, the federal and state/provincial government and private industry will address the real issues of cooperation, regulation, preparedness, prevention and response. From planning through final response, the conference remains focused on the real challenges, trends and solutions that affect the energy industry, regulatory community and responders, including open discussion from both a regulator and industry perspective.

Price: see the [registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

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

Tuesday September 15, 2009

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

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

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

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, Laura@aaid.org

4) Healthy Homes Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, September 15 - 17, 2009

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Idaho Healthy Homes Network

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

Price: \$36

[Visit the website](#)

5) Food Matters: The Impact of Food Systems on Public Health

Tuesday September 22, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE as we consider today's food environment or "food system" and how the dysfunction inherent in the system contributes to ill health. There is plenty of evidence to proceed forward with interventions to make a healthier food system, but many in health care seem stuck inside reductionist, rather than systems, thinking. What's the basis for agreeing that there's evidence for broad-scale change? What are some strategies for prioritizing food systems reform, amid all the other environmental health challenges?" Speakers will be David Wallinga, MD, MPH, director of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and Kelly Brownell, PhD, professor in the Department of Psychology and of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University and director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@healthandenvironment.org

6) The Vaccine Seminar

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

8:00 a.m.

Bellevue, Washington

Sponsor: The Doctor Within

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

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

[Visit the website](#)

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

7) Sustainable Ballard Festival

Saturday and Sunday, September 26 - 27, 2009

noon - 5:00 p.m.

Ballard, Washington

at Ballard Commons Park, corner of NW 56th & 22nd NW

Sponsor: KBCS FM, Chinook Book, Goodfunds Wealth Management and others listed on the [Sponsors page](#)

The Sustainable Ballard Festival is a community fair and the culmination of all of our hard work - a showcase for the activities and initiatives our neighbors have engaged in throughout the year. The 2009 Festival will feature live music, how-to workshops, fun & educational activities, local and sustainable businesses and much more. Learn about transportation options, local eating, clean energy, waste and water reduction, and much more through activities such as Undriver Licensing, Chef and Gardening Demos, Green Home and Urban Farm Zones, test driving e-cars, ebikes and scooters, creating new fashions from old clothing, and lots of kids activities. Please browse our festival pages for information on volunteering, sponsoring, and festival speakers and schedules as they develop.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@sustainableballard.org

8) CHE Cafe: A Conversation with Author Doug Abrams

Wednesday September 30, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE Director Elise Miller for a conversation with Doug Abrams, author of the newly released novel *Eye of the Whale*. The novel weaves science throughout the story, addressing important issues of endocrine disruption and toxins. Abrams will talk about his writing process, how he included leading scientists, physicians and others in his research and why he chose to address the issues of endocrine disruption in his work.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@healthandenvironment.org

9) Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum

Thursday and Friday, October 1 - 2, 2009
Tukwila (near Seattle), Washington
at the Tukwila Community Center

Sponsor: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Public Health - Seattle & King County, Washington State Department of Ecology's Hazardous Substance Information and Education Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10, the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Through policy-making, research and individual action, governments, nonprofit organizations, private business, educational institutions and individuals can work together to protect our children and our future. To highlight the importance of children's environmental health and to foster such new partnerships and initiatives, the Washington chapter of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE-WA) is planning a two-day Children's Environmental Health Forum. Thursday will primarily focus on science, and Friday will feature policy and practice.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Berg, Julia.Berg@kingcounty.gov

10) Community Indicators Consortium 2009 International Conference

Thursday and Friday, October 1 - 2, 2009
Bellevue, Washington
at the Meydenbauer Center

Sponsor: Community Indicators Consortium

The theme is "Community Indicators as Tools for Social Change," and the conference itself is organized into four focus areas and six topic areas. The focus areas are aspects of successful indicator initiatives that are important whenever indicators are used. The topic areas are specific areas of public planning and policy in which indicators are useful.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Community Indicators Consortium, 860-808-7487 or ED@communityindicators.net

News and Journal Articles

[Inhaling a heart attack: How air pollution can cause heart disease.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

University of Michigan tests show short-term exposure to fine particle air pollution can drive up high blood pressure, raise risk of heart attack. Reuters.

[See related articles: [Carbon monoxide linked to heart problems in elderly](#), [Air pollution killing 24,000 every year](#), [No safe harbor: The shipping industry's pollution problem part 1: Low-hanging fruit](#), [Residential exposure to traffic and spontaneous abortion](#), [Cutting city traffic may improve kids' lung health](#), [Idling parents risk fines this school year](#), [Signs prod bus drivers to turn off engines](#) and [Feds, Illinois sue Midwest Generation to stop air pollution](#)]

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

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

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

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

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

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

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

[Climate change boosts ultraviolet risk.](#)

Monday, September 07, 2009

Climate change will disrupt Earth's precious ozone layer, boosting ultraviolet radiation in the deep southern hemisphere and reducing UV in far northern latitudes, a study warns. Agence France-Presse.

[See related articles: [Hijacked by climate change?](#) and [National Wildlife Federation, Physicians for Social Responsibility say global warming will affect minorities, the poor in cities the most](#)]

[Hello baby, goodbye chemicals.](#)

Monday, September 07, 2009

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

[Preventing breast cancer: Largest-ever review completed.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

The largest review of research into lifestyle and breast cancer ever conducted has confirmed that women can reduce their risk by maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active, drinking less alcohol and breastfeeding their children. Medical News Today.

[See related articles: [Obesity, alcohol and smoking increase second breast cancer risk: research](#), [Breast cancer intervention reduces depression, inflammation, Healthy lifestyle could prevent 40% of breast cancer cases, charity says](#) and [Associations of serum concentrations of organochlorine \(OC\) pesticides with breast cancer and prostate cancer in U.S. adults.](#)]

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

Saturday, September 05, 2009

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

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

Saturday, September 05, 2009

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

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

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

Saturday, September 05, 2009

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

[Study: Higher cancer rates for Hanford workers.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

Former construction workers at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state have an increased risk of certain cancers, according to a new study. The study showed that Hanford workers were 11 times more likely to develop mesothelioma than the general population. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Study: Cancer in workers elevated at SRS](#)]

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

Friday, September 04, 2009

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

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

Thursday, September 03, 2009

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

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

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

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

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

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

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

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

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

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

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

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

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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

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

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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

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

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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

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

[Independent analysis shows granite countertops pose no health risk.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Two new studies published in the scientifically peer-reviewed Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology show that granite used in countertops poses no radon or radiation threat to consumers. Reuters.

[See a related story: [Study: Granite countertop cutters at risk of deadly radiation exposure](#)]

[Finding smells that repel.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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

[Cigarettes boost MS risk, but not through nicotine.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Smoking cigarettes increases the risk of multiple sclerosis, but the substance that makes cigarettes addictive, nicotine, doesn't seem to be at fault, Swedish researchers say. Reuters Health.

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

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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

[Now it IS safe for your child to use a mobile: After years of warnings, official leaflet drops safety guidance.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

The draft of a new advisory leaflet for parents by the Department of Health removes safety advice to impose strict limits on youngsters' use of the handsets. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See a related story: [Higher cancer rates in under-18 cell phone users](#)]

[You can avoid hazardous chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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

[Report maps out solutions to child obesity.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

To make it easier for children to eat healthfully and move more, local governments in towns and cities across the country need to help create a better environment, a new report says. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Obesity surgery's benefits extend to next generation](#)]

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

Monday, August 31, 2009

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

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

[Pipes may leak lead.](#)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Santa Clarita Valley water agencies said they don't use PVC pipes, which recent studies

have shown to leech lead into the water they carry, but the inexpensive plastic piping has become popular in the construction of new homes, officials said. Santa Clarita Signal, California.

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

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

Friday, August 28, 2009

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

[Nitrous oxide: A necessary evil of agriculture.](#)

Friday, August 28, 2009

Scientists are surprised to discover that a gas produced mainly in agriculture is doing more to damage the Earth's ozone layer than synthetic chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons. Morning Edition, NPR.

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

Friday, August 28, 2009

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

[Cancer in wildlife, normally rare, can signal toxic dangers.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Wild animals normally are killed by cancer only in rare cases. But scientists have found that some deadly cancers in animals -- including Quebec's belugas, California sea lions and North Sea flounder -- seem to be triggered or accelerated by environmental contaminants. The tumors highlight the dangers that industrial activities pose -- not just to animals, but to people in the same areas, exposed to the same chemicals. But lack of research and environmental obstacles mean most cancers in wildlife remain undetected. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Scientists fish for answers on the Passaic](#)]

[Choking on freshness.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

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

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

Thursday, August 27, 2009

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

[Chemical-safety costs uncertain.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

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

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

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

Thursday, August 27, 2009

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

Hookah no less harmful smoke.

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

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

Antioxidants encourage cancer in some cases.

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Antioxidants, often praised for their reported cancer-fighting power, could in fact be aiding the growth of cancer in some situations, a new study says. National Geographic News.

Youth's vigor makes a strong impression in environmental hearings.

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

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

Lead-laden paint still widely sold around the world.

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

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

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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