



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin March 24, 2010

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

CHE-WA Highlights

Children 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. [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.](#)

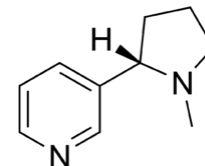
Lessons Learned

Tobacco - "Doubt Is Their Product"

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

"Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the mind of the general public."

- A 1969 quote from an executive at Brown & Williamson owned by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (from "Doubt Is Their Product" by David Michaels in *Scientific American*, June 15, 2005, or see [his book](#)).



On April 1, 1970, President Richard Nixon signed the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act into law. The act required surgeon general's warnings on tobacco products and banned cigarette advertisements on American television and radio beginning January 1, 1971. Nicotine is one of the most potent, toxic and readily available drugs today. The history of tobacco use dates back over two millennia; its psychoactive and medicinal properties were discovered by indigenous peoples of the Americas, who considered it sacred and leading to divine inspiration when used ceremonially. Nicotine is also a potent natural insecticide. Many millions of pounds were produced and used in the 1940s and 1950s before an extensive array of synthetic pesticides was developed.

On March 21, 2000, the US Supreme Court ruled that the US Food and Drug Administration lacked the authority to regulate tobacco. On June 22, 2009, President Obama signed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, landmark legislation giving the US Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the manufacturing and marketing of tobacco.

It took decades to begin the regulation of an industry that purposefully marketed a deadly product to children. When scientific information is available, action must be taken to protect public health - even when some people focus on the uncertainty.

Learn more: Nicotine: <http://toxipedia.org/x/FgE>

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>.

[Join the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.](#)

The agenda will outline how the United States can meet public health goals and achieve the National Conversation's vision that the United States will use and manage chemicals in ways that are safe and healthy for all people.

[Call for comments: Task Force on Childhood Obesity.](#)

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Education and Health and Human Services are asking the public for ideas to help the Task Force on Childhood Obesity come up with recommendations for public and private sector actions to solve the problem of childhood obesity. Comments are due by March 26th.

[See a related article: [US child obesity problem worse than thought](#)]

[The Researcher's Perspective podcast series.](#)

Each month, Environmental Health Perspectives publishes a new podcast. Listen to environmental health science's foremost researchers as they discuss the motivation and vision behind their research as well as the implications for human health.

[EPA launches web forum on how to best protect America's waters.](#)

For a two- week period, EPA is holding a web discussion forum on how the nation can better manage some of the most significant water pollution problems facing our nation.

[EPA makes chemical information more accessible to public for the first time, TSCA chemical inventory free of charge online.](#)

EPA is providing web access, free of charge, to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory. This inventory contains a consolidated list of thousands of industrial chemicals maintained by the agency.

[National Public Health Week, April 5 - 11, 2010](#)

The week's theme is "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time."

[Protect yourself and family when working in areas exposed to contaminated flood water - Website available with flooding information.](#)

EPA cautions the public and all responders about the potential hazards associated with flood waters. Every effort should be made to limit contact with flood water due to potentially elevated levels of contamination associated with raw sewage and other hazardous substances.

[Keep pesticides and household chemicals out of children's reach.](#)

"Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons" is the message the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency is sending in conjunction with the Poison Prevention Week Council to keep poisonous substances out of the hands of children.

[EPA's 48-Hour Burn Wise Video Contest - Help protect your community from wood smoke pollution.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a video contest for professional and amateur filmmakers on Burn Wise, the agency's campaign to help citizens reduce pollution from their fireplaces and other wood-burning appliances.

[U.S. makes progress toward cleaner air: National trends show improvements in the nation's air quality.](#)

Since 1990, nationwide air quality has improved significantly for the six common air pollutants: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, lead, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide.

[EPA seeks public comment on the 15th Annual U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory.](#)

The inventory tracks annual greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2008 at the national level. The gases covered by this inventory include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

[See a related article: [Calif. GHG emissions law will cost jobs in short term, state analysts find](#)]

[Call for proposals: Pollution Prevention Grant Program.](#)

The Pollution Prevention (P2) grant program supports state and tribal technical assistance programs which help businesses identify better environmental strategies and solutions for reducing or eliminating waste at the source.

[Call for proposals: Environmental Health Science Innovation Fund.](#)

Passport Foundation provides modest support for US-based scientific research projects that demonstrate strong potential for significantly advancing the environmental health science needed to promulgate effective chemicals regulation, public health policies and clinical care policies/practices. Proposals are due May 3rd.

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

Group Health has an opening for a research associate for the Center for Community Health and Evaluation (CCHE) team to manage the scientific program evaluations in the design, implementation, operations and dissemination of findings from community health evaluations through data analysis and report writing.

[Job openings: Washington, DC; California; Washington state; Colorado; Florida and New York.](#)

Earthjustice, a nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the earth's natural resources and defending the right of all people to a healthy environment, has several openings for attorneys, office managers, interns and law clerks.

[Job opening: Portland, Maine.](#)

The Environmental Health Strategy Center has an opening for a development and marketing associate to manage the small donor fundraising program and large donor prospect identification and research. She/he will create and execute marketing campaigns, manage the website and contact database, and participate in other direct fundraising and development activities. Please submit a resume and cover letter by March 31, 2010, to jrothmann@preventharm.org.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Environmental Impacts on Reproductive Health: Pesticides

Thursday March 25, 2010
noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to 1) discuss how pesticide exposure can affect the reproductive health of both women and men, 2) identify the critical windows of susceptibility during which pesticide exposures can affect both female and male reproduction and reproductive outcomes, 3) counsel patients about their specific risks and the steps they can take to reduce their risks, and 4) refer patients for additional information about pesticide exposure and reproductive health risks. Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH, will lead the webinar. One continuing education credit is available for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and others.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Confluences: Water & Justice

Friday through Sunday, March 26 - 28, 2010

Portland, Oregon

at the University of Portland

Sponsor: see the [Sponsors page](#)

This symposium will bring together some of the nation's leading experts to examine various perspectives on water, including environmental justice, protection, science, theology, business, history, law, and the Native American perspective. Maude Barlow - author, activist, and senior advisor on water to the president of the UN General Assembly - gives the keynote address on Saturday night.

Price: The conference is free; tickets for Maude Barlow's keynote are \$10 per person or free for ILLAHEE season ticket holders, conference hosts and sponsors, and University of Portland faculty, staff, and students.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Amy Leisher, 503-943-7864 or leisher@up.edu

3) Pulmonary Exposure to Manganese: An Exposure Assessment Study of Welding Fume and Biomarkers of Internal Dose

Thursday April 1, 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 Julie Richman, PhD.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) EPA Grants Award Process Webinar

Thursday April 1, 2010

2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider attending this one hour webinar. The webinar will cover grants topics, including how to find and apply for grant opportunities, an update on the status of Grants.gov, and preparing a proper budget detail.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Elizabeth January, 617-918-1315 or janeuary.elizabeth@epa.gov

5) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Diesel Retrofitting

Monday April 5, 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

6) First National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Web Dialogue

Monday through Wednesday, April 5 - 7, 2010

Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in collaboration with the American Public Health Association (APHA), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

You're invited to discuss your views, concerns and ideas regarding public health and chemical exposures as part of the two-year National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures. The National Conversation aims to strengthen the nation's approach to protecting the public from harmful chemical exposures. Everyone who has an interest in this subject is welcome to join the conversation. Your ideas will help the National Conversation Leadership Council create an action agenda for achieving the National Conversation vision that the United States will use and manage chemicals in ways that are safe and healthy for all people. This is the first of three National Conversation web dialogues.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

7) Slow Death By Rubber Duck Webinar

Tuesday April 6, 2010

5:00 p.m. Pacific time / 8:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Studies show that harmful toxic chemicals are common in household items, including rubber ducks and bubble bath, and that many of these chemicals are also found inside of our bodies. Over a four-day period, *Slow Death By Rubber Duck* authors Rick Smith and Bruce Lourie used everyday household products suspected of causing harm to our ecosystem and to human health. By revealing the pollution load in their bodies before and after the experiment, Rick and Bruce tell a unique inside story of common toxins and body burden. On the April 6th Webinar, author and Executive Director of Environmental Defence Canada Rick Smith will read from *Slow Death By Rubber Duck*, and we'll discuss toxic chemicals found in products as common as hand soap and what you can do to protect your family and the planet. Preregistration is required. The

recorded webinar will be available on the Safe Cosmetics website after the event.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

8) Public Relations Training for Environmental Professionals - Perfecting Environmental Communication with the Public, Press, and Industry

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 6 - 7, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at EOS Alliance (NWETC) Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

A well-designed public relations program can supercharge your organization's image, reputation and success. During this intensive two-day course, you will obtain a fundamental background on the key issues, concepts and practice of effective communications and media relations, with the focus on environmental projects. The course is designed to provide participants with an insight on fundamentals and practicalities behind public-relations practice in the context of protocol functions and communications planning.

Price: \$495/*\$395 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and AFS, NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members; a \$50 early-bird savings applies to registrations received by March 5, 2010

[Visit the website](#)

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

9) 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](#)

10) 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](#)

11) 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

12) 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

13) 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](#)

14) 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

News and Journal Articles

[U.S. bolsters chemical restrictions for water.](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency announced on Monday that it would overhaul drinking water regulations so that officials could police dozens of contaminants simultaneously and tighten rules on the chemicals used by industries. New York Times. [See related articles: [It's the water](#); [EPA Administrator Jackson outlines new vision for clean, safe drinking water](#); [Tougher standards to affect missile site cleanups](#), [Bad water more deadly than war](#), [Military finally admits fault in water contamination case](#), [Rising pollution puts water source at risk](#) and [Regulators OK disposal of wastewater into Great Salt Lake](#)]

[On the waterfront: International Maritime Organization is voting on clean-fuel laws.](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Four years after the Golden State began pushing for clean-fuel shipping regulations, the globe's governing maritime body is set to adopt rules affecting the entire U.S. and Canadian coastline. Long Beach Press-Telegram, California.

[FDA asks doctors to temporarily halt use of Rotarix vaccine.](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Officials at the FDA advised physicians Monday to temporarily stop using Rotarix, a

vaccine commonly given to children to protect them against the stomach bug rotavirus, because it is contaminated with traces of a second virus. Washington Post.

'Greening' your own family.

Monday, March 22, 2010

According to her research, for example, ubiquitous in products like creams, shampoos, detergents, cleaners and soaps are parabens and phthalates, synthetic chemicals that she writes "have been linked to a long list of health issues ranging from reproductive toxicity to cancer." Portsmouth Herald, New Hampshire.

[See related journal articles: [Influence of a five-day vegetarian diet on urinary levels of antibiotics and phthalate metabolites: A pilot study with "Temple Stay" participants](#) and [Investigation of relationships between urinary biomarkers of phytoestrogens, phthalates, and phenols and pubertal stages in girls](#) and a news article: [Phthalates exposure may double breast cancer risk ... or not](#)]

Exposure to environmental contaminants can be minimized.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

The air we breathe, the food we eat, the house we live in, the grass we walk on -- all contain toxic substances that could be harmful to our health. Harrisburg Patriot-News, Pennsylvania.

Common pesticide tied to development delays in kids.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

The pesticide chlorpyrifos is associated with delays in the physical and mental development of young children, a new study shows. The product is banned in U.S. households but is widely used as an agricultural pesticide on fruits and vegetables. Business Week.

[See a related article: [Poisoned](#)]

Toxic bodies.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Author Nancy Langston talks about the history of the chemical DES and what it could mean for future regulation of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Living On Earth.

High-fructose corn syrup consumption may push fatty livers to the brink.

Friday, March 19, 2010

A new study suggests that for those with nonalcoholic fatty liver, drinking a lot of beverages sweetened with fructose may do the same thing as liquor. Los Angeles Times, California. [See a related article: [A sweet problem: Princeton researchers find that high-fructose corn syrup prompts considerably more weight gain](#)]

FDA cracks down on tobacco marketing to youths.

Friday, March 19, 2010

The agency uses its new authority to impose a nationwide ban on selling cigarettes and other products to those under 18 and to put new restrictions on sales methods. Los Angeles Times, California.

Bauer recalls 100,000 children's hockey sticks.

Friday, March 19, 2010

One of Canada's largest sports equipment manufacturers is recalling 100,000 children's hockey sticks around the world after Health Canada warned the company of the sticks' high lead content. Canwest News Service.

GAO report scolds EPA.

Thursday, March 18, 2010

During the past decade, the Environmental Protection Agency's commitment to keeping children safe from toxic chemicals has lapsed, according to a report released Wednesday by the Government Accountability Office. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Senate considers methods to protect children from toxins](#)]

Most power plants still spewing toxic mercury, report says.

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Many of America's coal-fired power plants lack widely available pollution controls for mercury, and mercury emissions recently increased at more than half of the country's 50 largest mercury-emitting power plants, according to a report Wednesday. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See a related article: [Coal's toxic sludge](#)]

[U.S. youth likely to face greater health issues.](#)

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Despite public health messages about exercise and eating healthfully, many children are acquiring what used to be considered "adult diseases," like diabetes and high blood pressure. All Things Considered, NPR.

[See a related article: [Michelle Obama urges grocery manufacturers to focus more on healthy foods in her anti-obesity drive](#), [Obesity's role in cancer](#), [Baby fat may not be so cute after all](#), [The obesity-hunger paradox](#), [PepsiCo pulling sugar out of schools](#), [US soft drinks firms say sugary sodas cut in schools](#) and [China battling with lifestyle-related diseases](#)]

[Depleted and enriched uranium affect DNA in different ways.](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Meticulous research identifies for the first time how two main types of uranium -- enriched and depleted -- damage a cell's DNA by different methods. Environmental Health News.

[Adding iron to sea boosts deadly neurotoxin: Study.](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Adding iron to the world's oceans to capture carbon and fight global warming could do more harm than good, as the mineral appears to boost the growth of a plankton that produces a deadly neurotoxin, a study published Monday shows. Agence France-Presse.

[Florida company builds a safer C.F.L. bulb, but does it matter?](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

The motivation to create the new ArmorLite compact fluorescent light bulb came to Tom Irvine, the chief executive of Florida-based Clear-Lite Holdings, after a lamp was knocked over in his 5-year-old son's bedroom, breaking the C.F.L. bulb. New York Times.

[Arsenic in apple juice: How much is too much?](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Independent testing commissioned by the St. Petersburg Times has found levels of arsenic that have caught the attention of scientists and parents. St. Petersburg Times, Florida.

[Medicare gets tough on unnecessary CT scans.](#)

Monday, March 15, 2010

The Medicare watchdog has expressed "alarm" over the widespread and unnecessary ordering of high-radiation CT scans that can trigger cancer, after a near-trebling in the number of doctors and other health workers referred to the agency for investigation. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See related articles: [V.A. is fined over errors in radiation at hospital](#) and [Moms post-birth bleeding tied to early radiation](#)]

[Hazardous designer clothes.](#)

Monday, March 15, 2010

China has impounded shipments of imported designer clothing from famous labels such as Hermes and Versace after finding they contained potentially hazardous chemicals [including formaldehyde], authorities said on Monday. Agence France-Presse.

[Study suggests lead-poisoning risk could lurk in spices.](#)

Monday, March 15, 2010

According to a new study published Monday in Pediatrics, lead may lurk in less expected sources in the home -- like in the kitchen pantry. Time Magazine.

[See a related article: [Indian spices, powders linked to lead poisoning](#)]

[FEMA's sale of Katrina trailers sparks criticism.](#)

Sunday, March 14, 2010

In a giant auction, the federal government has agreed to sell for pennies on the dollar most of the 120,000 formaldehyde-tainted trailers it bought nearly five years ago for Hurricane Katrina victims. Washington Post.

[Rice expert explains health effects of daylight saving.](#)

Sunday, March 14, 2010

You may curse daylight saving time upon losing an hour of sleep, but what you might not realize is its potential effect on your health. Houston Chronicle, Texas.

[Addiction, poor diet bedevil Alaskans.](#)

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Addictions and substance abuse play a role in nine of the state's top 10 causes of death, the researchers found. Poor diet and nutrition and exposure to harmful pollution are the next most significant factors in Alaska deaths. Tacoma News Tribune, Washington.

[See a related article: [Dramatic decline of male births in indigenous communities tied to industrial pollution](#)]

[Randomized trial of vitamin D supplementation to prevent seasonal influenza A in schoolchildren.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

This study suggests that vitamin D(3) supplementation during the winter may reduce the incidence of influenza A, especially in specific subgroups of schoolchildren. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

[Tobacco cleans up deadly pond scum.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Tobacco can save lives, scientists at St. George's Hospital in London have found. Researchers have created a strain of tobacco that sucks up deadly pond scum that poisons water used for drinking, swimming and bathing. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[Eureka! Less poison really is more -- deadly.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

For 500 years, science has believed that we can tolerate a little bit of almost kind of any poison. Those days may be gone. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[Study shows chemistry has not made for better living.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

DuPont's slogan in the 1950s was "Better Things for Better Living Through Chemistry." But today, many living near DuPont's plant outside Parkersburg, West Virginia have found that chemistry has not made for better living. Murray WKMS, Kentucky.

[Autism and toxins.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

People are beginning to connect the dots and realizing that there exists at least the potentiality or possibility that certain untested chemicals in children's environments may be contributing to neuro-behavioral problems in children -- and the possibility exists that autism is among those. Living On Earth.

[See related articles: [Three rulings find no link to vaccines and autism](#), ['Clean room' Pittsburgh study could shed light on autism](#) and [Testosterone in girls' brains offers clue to autism's cause](#)]

[Formaldehyde exposure among children: A potential building block of asthma.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

A new study reports the results of a meta-analysis of the literature examining a potential link between formaldehyde exposure and the prevalence of asthma in children.

Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Formaldehyde exposure and asthma in children: A systematic review](#) and [Stress during pregnancy may increase offspring's risk of asthma](#)]

[Painting indoors can be less toxic experience.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

The EPA ranks painting as one of the easiest ways to contaminate your indoor air. But today, homeowners have lots of environmentally friendly options when painting indoors, including paints with zero VOCs that are virtually odorless. Detroit News, Michigan.

[See related articles: [Lung cancer risk in painters: A meta-analysis](#) and [Children to receive lead paint compensation](#)]

Sewage compost stirs ire.

Friday, March 12, 2010

The problem, say groups like the Organic Consumers Association and the Center for Food Safety, is the EPA only requires testing for nine metals, when there are potentially thousands of chemicals in the compost. Associated Press.

The Pill 'cuts cancer risk and prolongs life.'

Friday, March 12, 2010

Taking the contraceptive pill can help women live longer and reduce their risk of serious diseases, according to a major new study by Scottish researchers. Edinburgh Scotsman, United Kingdom.

Washington State restricts BPA, including in baby bottles.

Friday, March 12, 2010

Washington's Legislature has approved a statewide ban on the chemical in baby bottles, water bottles and other containers. The state Senate voted 38-9 Monday in support of the ban, which already won House approval. Everett Herald, Washington.

[See a related article: [Daily intake of bisphenol A and potential sources of exposure: 2005-2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#)]

Researchers gain new insights into the mystery of thalidomide-caused birth defects.

Friday, March 12, 2010

A new study published in the March 12 issue of Science has identified one primary target of thalidomide's teratogenicity (potential to cause fetal malformations) -- a protein called cereblon. Scientific American.

[See a related article: [Thalidomide's partner in crime](#)]

Fears over toxic sunscreen.

Friday, March 12, 2010

Nanoparticles used in some sunscreens to make them transparent might also be toxic, according to Australian research that adds to uncertainty about the safety of some sunscreens. Melbourne Age, Australia.

Feds recall more children jewelry in cadmium probe.

Friday, March 12, 2010

Federal safety regulators recalled a line of Christmas-themed bracelets Thursday, expanding their effort to purge children's jewelry boxes and store shelves of items containing high levels of the toxic metal cadmium. Associated Press.

Smoking years key factor in lower Parkinson's risk.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Several studies have shown that smokers have a lower risk of developing Parkinson's disease. A new study shows that it's how many years of smoking a person has under their belt -- rather than how much they smoke every day -- that matters. Reuters.

Tracing tainted food grueling.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Food director Jackie Anderson didn't get word last month until it was too late. Students in the Arlington, Texas, Independent School District already had eaten tacos filled with beef that should have been destroyed as part of 5.8 million pounds of beef recalled since January by Huntington Meat Packing. USA Today.

[See related articles: [Questions raised about gap in food inspection standards](#), [Missouri has first case of Chronic Wasting Disease](#) and [Canada suffers 17th case of mad cow and is categorized as "controlled risk"](#)]

[PCBs alter key brain chemical that stops nerve-to-nerve signals.](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Certain types of PCBs can affect the way a brain chemical responsible for halting signals sends its chemical messages from nerve to nerve, according to research conducted on frog egg cells Environmental Health News.

[Exposure to weed killer associated with lower birth weight.](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Babies born to women with higher levels of the herbicide metolachlor in their babies' umbilical cord blood weighed less than babies born to women with lower measured levels of the pesticide. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about another pesticide: [Is herbicide atrazine bad for you?](#) and [Federal herbicide review worries sugar farmers](#)]

[The most toxic home products.](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

You expect to find toxic chemicals in cleaning products and pesticides. But you wouldn't think toxins could be in your bed -- or worse yet, your infant's crib. Forbes.

[See related articles: [Toxic make-up](#) and [Saving face](#)]

[How safe is your cell phone?](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

A number of scientists are worried that there has been a dangerous rush to declare cell phones safe, using studies they feel are inadequate and too often weighted toward the wireless industry's interests. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Maine panel nixes cell phone warnings](#) and [Cellular worries](#)]

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.

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Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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