



## Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin April 21, 2010

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

### CHE-WA Highlights

#### CHE-WA Meeting May 26th

The meeting will include a special presentation, Cell Phones, Electromagnetic Fields and Human Health: The Latest Research featuring Cindy Sage, coordinator of the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment working group on electromagnetic fields. Joining Cindy will be Samuel Milham, MD, who was epidemiologist for the State of Washington for more than twenty years. Those who cannot attend in person and/or who want to reduce their carbon footprint may contact CHE-WA for a telephone number to call. For more information, see the [CHE-WA Meetings page](#).

#### New Practice Prevention Column on PFCs

A new column on perfluorochemicals, including PFOA / C8, is now available on CHE's [Practice Prevention column page](#). Written to make the science and current knowledge accessible to parents and others, this succinct fact sheet summarizes health hazards and methods to reduce exposures.

#### CHE-WA Website Updates

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

#### Children First Symposium October 1st in San Francisco

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

### Lessons Learned

#### April 21st - An Interesting Day in Bioethics

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

"It is our considered professional judgment that this dilemma has no technical solution."

-The Tragedy of the Commons By Garrett Hardin, *Science*, 1968

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-Aldo Leopold



"An ethic, ecologically, is a limitation on freedom of action in the struggle for existence."  
-Aldo Leopold

April 21st is an interesting day in bioethics. On this day in 1915, Garrett Hardin was born (April 21, 1915 - September 14, 2003). Hardin became an influential ecologist most famous for his 1968 paper "The Tragedy of the Commons." Also on this day in 1948 America's first bioethicist died, Aldo Leopold (January 11, 1887 - April 21, 1948), an ecologist, forester and environmentalist.

Garrett Hardin was trained as a microbiologist but was an influential ecologist. His paper "Tragedy of the Commons" outlined his theory as to why commonly-held resources often degrade. The paper was meant to focus attention on the lack of technical solutions to arrest overpopulation, but its explanation for why commonly-held resources such as groundwater, grazing land, and fisheries are prone to inevitably degrade has influenced the development of environmental and economic policies for resource management. The key message was that management, not technology, is essential to preserve and protect the common resources.

Aldo Leopold wrote *A Sand County Almanac*, published in 1949, and was influential in the development of modern environmental ethics and the wilderness preservation movement; he is considered by many to be the first American bioethicist.

Taken together, their writings present powerful arguments that regulation is essential to protect human and environmental health to ensure that all life can reach and maintain its full potential.

Learn more: Aldo Leopold: <http://toxipedia.org/x/CAk>  
Garrett Hardin: <http://toxipedia.org/x/RhM>  
Tragedy of the Commons: <http://toxipedia.org/x/gB>

### **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>.

### **[National Healthy Schools Day.](#)**

Celebrated on Monday, April 26, 2010, National Healthy Schools Day's 2010 campaign will focus on using certified green cleaning products which help reduce pollutants from indoor air.

### **[Environmental health in the 2009 state legislative sessions.](#)**

In every state, some bill related to environmental health was introduced, totaling 1,333 bills in the 50 states. Doug Farquhar at the National Conference of State Legislatures has put together a concise summary of all environmental health bills introduced and enacted in state legislatures in 2009.

### **[New group: ACHEMMIC.](#)**

ACHEMMIC is a newly formed group consisting of physicians, scientists, researchers, indoor air quality experts, advocates and others who are working together to promote the truth in health policy about the adverse effects of mold, microbes and indoor contaminants.

### **[New data added for cancer, reproductive health, birth defects and air.](#)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has added new information to the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network.

**[EPA moves to slash mercury from gold production.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to cut emissions from gold ore processing and production facilities, the sixth largest source of mercury air emissions in the country.

**[Call for submission of manuscripts: International Journal of Nursing in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.](#)**

The Fall 2010 issue of IJNIDD will be focusing on exposures to toxic chemicals in environments where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work, and receive health services and preventing or minimizing exposures that can lead to developmental disabilities. Original manuscripts must be submitted by June 30th to be considered for publication.

**[Study charts path for better protection from harmful "chemical mixtures."](#)**

The EU can and should assess and manage the risks from exposure to chemical mixtures, better known as the "cocktail effect", according to a significant report commissioned by the Environment Directorate General (DG) of the European Commission. DG Environment is inviting comment and questions on the report by April 30, 2010.

[See the report: [State of the Art Report on Mixture Toxicity](#)]

**[Call for comments: EPA's reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency requests comments on the issue of EPA's reassessment of PCB use authorizations. Comments must be received on or before July 6, 2010.

**[Take the Don't Fry Day pledge.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency is asking teachers to pledge to teach about sun safety in spring and summer activities.

**[EPA's Office of Research and Development launches newsletter.](#)**

EPA's Office of Research and Development is now publishing *Science Matters*, a newsletter devoted to sharing the innovative environmental and human health science conducted by EPA scientists and engineers and our partners.

**[Call for comments: Addition of National Toxicology Program carcinogens.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to add 16 chemicals to the TRI list of reportable chemicals. Comments are due by June 6, 2010.

**[EPA proposes adding more chemicals to Toxics Release Inventory list.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to add 16 chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list of reportable chemicals, the first expansion of the program in more than a decade.

**[Job opening: United Kingdom.](#)**

The Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry has several openings for professorships and lectureships in Environment & Human Health. The closing date is April 30th.

**[Job opening: Washington, DC.](#)**

Greenpeace is seeking an up-and-coming campaigner with good writing skills for a position on the Toxics Campaign Chemical Security Project. Applications are due by April 27, 2010.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events, including calls for proposals and for abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.chenw.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>.

**1) Contaminant Chemistry 101**

Monday April 26, 2010  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington  
at Northwest Environmental Training Center Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course provides participants with an overview/refresher of key chemistry concepts associated with environmental contamination and provides a foundation for understanding contaminant transport, fate and remediation. This material is intended for environmental professionals who are not chemists and require a fundamental understanding of chemistry principles for their work. This course is recommended for all environmental professionals working with contaminated soil and water with minimal formal training in the subject. It is also recommended for project managers seeking a review of contaminant chemistry. This course includes a review of chemical naming rules (e.g., understanding what 1,1,1-TCA is) and how to use chemical names to predict molecular geometry and environmental behavior.

Price: \$350 or \$295 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) National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Call**

Wednesday April 28, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The primary topics of discussion will be updates on EPA's response to the NEJAC's Goods Movement Report; and reports from the NEJAC liaisons to the Tribal Operations Commission and the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee School Siting Task Group.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 877-773-0779 or [Meetings@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com](mailto:Meetings@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com)

### **3) PATH Safe Water Project**

Thursday April 29, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

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

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

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

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

Tuesday May 4, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

#### **5) Oregon School Indoor Air Quality Partnership Webinar Series: Asthma**

Tuesday May 4, 2010

noon - 12:45 p.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: American Lung Association in Oregon

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

Price: free, but space is limited

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Michelle Cunha, 503-718-6159 or [michelle@lungoregon.org](mailto:michelle@lungoregon.org)

#### **6) EH@Home**

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](mailto:Dave.Stone@oregonstate.edu)

#### **7) Communicating Science to Non-scientific Audiences**

Thursday May 7, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

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

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

The speaker will be Deborah Illman, PhD, NSF Senior Fellow, Communication at the

University of Washington.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **8) Environmental Drivers of Chronic Disease**

Choose one: Monday May 10th (1:00 p.m. Eastern / 4:00 p.m. Pacific time), Tuesday May 18th (1:00 p.m. Eastern / 10:00 a.m. Pacific time) or Wednesday May 19th (9:00 p.m. Eastern / 6:00 p.m. Pacific time)

Sponsor: Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility

Expand your knowledge of environmental health across the lifespan, and your comfort level on speaking to others on this topic. Join Greater Boston PSR and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, *Healthy Aging* report co-author and a leading expert on environmental health, in a training webinar based on key findings of the *Healthy Aging* report. The 1.5-hour webinar will feature a PowerPoint presentation complete with references and speaker notes, plus time for questions and answers.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [psrmabo@igc.org](mailto:psrmabo@igc.org)

### **9) The Information Age and EMF/RF Illness: The Potential for EMF and Radiofrequency/Microwave Radiation Illnesses and How Smart Choices in New Technologies Can Reduce Potential Risks**

Tuesday May 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. Pacific / noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

As wireless technologies expand exponentially the potential impact on health is of great concern. On this call we will explore what the consequences might be of global wireless technologies on various health endpoints - including cancer, Alzheimers and other neurodegenerative diseases - and how new science can impact institutional shifts in policy and precautionary measures. Featured speakers will include Cindy Sage, MA, co-coordinator of CHE-EMF; Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, professor in oncology and cancer epidemiology at the University Hospital in Orebro, Sweden; Sam Milham, MD, epidemiologist for Washington State Department of Health; and Michael Segell, senior editor of *Prevention* magazine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **10) 2010 Seminar Series: A Conversation about a Green Economy**

Tuesday May 11, 2010

Reception 5:30 - 6:30; Program 6:30 - 8:30; Post Seminar Networking 8:30 - 9:00

Seattle, Washington

Downstairs at Town Hall, Eighth and Seneca

Sponsor: Sustainable Path Foundation

The terms green economy and green jobs are often used, but what do they really mean? What does a truly green economy look like at local and national levels? Can local changes catalyze large scale change? How do we reconcile the demand for economic growth with the goal of sustainability? Join Joel Magnuson, internationally recognized economics professor and author of *Mindful Economics* and the forthcoming book *Beyond Destruction*, and Michelle Long, executive director of Business Alliance for Local Living

Economies (BALLE), a network of over 21,000 socially responsible businesses across the US and Canada, as they discuss these important issues.

Price: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-443-8464 or [info@sustainablepath.org](mailto:info@sustainablepath.org)

### **11) Coal's Threats to Health in Alaska**

Wednesday May 12, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

Coal exploration and proposed development throughout Alaska threaten human health with potential hazardous emissions. At every stage - mining, transportation, washing, combustion and disposal of post-combustion wastes - coal development is a threat to human and environmental health. Pollutants from coal adversely affect all major organ systems in the human body and contribute to four of the top five causes of death in the United States: heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory diseases. Join us for a discussion of the dangerous chemicals associated with coal development, how these chemicals may affect our health, the status of coal-related projects in Alaska, and potential impacts to communities statewide. Find out about community-based advocacy efforts to address coal development in Alaska and how you can help protect the health of Alaskans from coal.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics at 907-222-7714 or [diana@akaction.org](mailto:diana@akaction.org)

### **12) Joining the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposure**

Wednesday May 12, 2010

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

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The speaker will be Ben Gerhardstein, MPH, public health analyst and presidential management fellow at the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Heckl, 716-951-0971 or [rheckl@glu.org](mailto:rheckl@glu.org)

### **13) Community-Campus Partnerships for Health 11th Conference**

Wednesday through Saturday, May 12 - 15, 2010

Portland, Oregon

Sponsor: Community-Campus Partnerships for Health and Northwest Health Foundation

This conference will nurture a growing network of community-campus partnerships that are striving to solve our most pressing health, social and economic challenges. With its focus on Creating the Future We Want to Be, the conference seeks to empower individuals and partnerships to create a just and sustainable future, so that we need not be passive participants in the status quo or mere witnesses to the change determined by others. With its focus on Transformation through Partnerships, the conference seeks to highlight the power of partnerships to lead and inspire transformation at all levels.

Price: unknown; registration opens January 2010

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CCPH, 206-666-3406 or [ccphuw@u.washington.edu](mailto:ccphuw@u.washington.edu)

**14) Parental Pesticide Exposure and Child Development in the Fresh-cut Flower Industry in Ecuador**

Thursday May 13, 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 Jose Ricardo Suarez, MPH, MD, PhD(c), from the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

**15) No Family History: The Environmental Links to Breast Cancer**

Thursday May 13, 2010

7:00 - 9:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at Kaiser Permanente Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Avenue

Sponsor: Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition

The film will be followed by a discussion with director Sabrina McCormick, PhD. Please RSVP by May 7th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 503-774-4200 or [rachelsfriendsbcc@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsfriendsbcc@gmail.com)

## News and Journal Articles

**[Manganese and Parkinson's disease: A critical review and new findings.](#)**

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

The overwhelming evidence shows that Mn-induced parkinsonism does not involve degeneration of midbrain dopamine neurons and L-dopa is not an effective therapy. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See a related article: [Environmental factors and Parkinson's disease: a case-control study in Belgrade, Serbia](#)]

**[Weigh the points of view against the actual risks.](#)**

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

What appears to be true on television may not always be so. Statistics are a tricky thing to discuss, and even more difficult to comprehend. Augusta Kennebec Journal, Maine

**[Sunbed tans are addictive warn researchers.](#)**

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Around a third of people who use sunbeds may become addicted to the tanning effects, a study suggests. The US researchers said tackling these underlying problems may be the key to encouraging people to quit using sunbeds and cut their skin cancer risk. BBC.

**[Well-done meat doubles bladder cancer risk.](#)**

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Eating lots of meat, especially if it is overcooked, increases the risk of bladder cancer, say experts. Frying, grilling and barbecuing until meat is charred can form cancer-

causing chemicals, research shows. BBC.

[See other articles about a connection between diet and cancer: [Fruits and veggies help just a little in decreasing cancer risk](#) and [Dangerous waters -- Warning: Fishing can be hazardous](#) and between diet and other diseases: [Alzheimer's risk cut by a third eating veggies, fish, poultry](#), ['High GI' carbohydrates increase women's heart risk](#) and [CDC: E. coli illnesses on decline, but other foodborne infections increasing](#)]

### **[Prenatal PCB exposure linked to children's ADHD symptoms.](#)**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

A study of children born near a PCB-contaminated harbor in Massachusetts finds that prenatal exposure to banned persistent organic pollutants -- specifically PCBs and DDT -- may be linked to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Environmental Health News.

### **[BPA battle makes way to Senate.](#)**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has introduced legislation to ban the chemical BPA from being used in food and drink containers and has signaled that she plans to offer a similar amendment when the food safety bill is debated on the Senate floor. Politico.

[See related articles: [Experts split on 'toxic' plastic ban](#), [BPA raises uterine gene activity in mice exposed before birth](#) and [BPA makes mice anxious, forgetful](#)]

### **[Children may develop asthma from breathing traffic-related air pollution.](#)**

Monday, April 19, 2010

Some children who breathe air pollution from cars and trucks may develop asthma and its related symptoms, finds a unique long-term study that followed the children for eight years. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about air quality and health: [Study: Asthma more likely in kids in schools near roadways](#), [Study on climate change law cites 5 local refineries for negative health effects](#), [Prenatal exposure to airborne polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and children's intelligence at age 5 in a prospective cohort study in Poland](#), [Traffic's soot elevates blood pressure](#), [Ports propose plans to cut diesel emissions by 85 percent in next decade](#), [Researchers name top 100 corporate air polluters](#), [Edinburgh tram project 'drags down air quality'](#) and [An estimate of the global burden of anthropogenic ozone and fine particulate matter on premature human mortality using atmospheric modeling](#)]

### **[Drinking water safe, but threats remain.](#)**

Sunday, April 18, 2010

In the 40 years since the first Earth Day, the Dayton area has made great strides in containing and even reversing environmental degradation due to toxic industrial chemicals. But as another Earth Day approaches on Thursday, the impact of pollution is still evident. Dayton Daily News, Ohio.

[See related articles about water quality issues: [Agricultural runoff has harsh impact on environment](#); [Growing concern in the water](#); [As pharmaceutical use soars, drugs taint water and wildlife](#) and [Are water filters worth it?](#)]

### **[Experts differ on health risk of volcanic ash.](#)**

Saturday, April 17, 2010

WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein said the microscopic ash is potentially dangerous for people when it starts to reach the Earth because inhaled particles can enter the lungs and cause respiratory problems. Seattle Times.

### **['The Story of Stuff' by Annie Leonard.](#)**

Saturday, April 17, 2010

In "The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff Is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health -- and a Vision for Change," Leonard connects the dots between the trash we accumulate from the "stuff" we accumulate and its direct impact on the global environment. Good Morning America.

[See related event #4 above.]

### **[Arsenic increases breast cancer growth.](#)**

Friday, April 16, 2010

Levels of arsenic that are observed in many people around the world alter cell signals and damage DNA in early stage breast cancer cells, according to new research.

Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about breast cancer risk: [Supplements might reduce breast cancer risk](#), [Is cancer risk higher for skinny girls?](#) and [Veterans' input needed on environmental breast cancer study](#)]

#### **[New research theorizes link between autism and toxic chemicals.](#)**

Friday, April 16, 2010

During the last decade the reported cases of autism and other illnesses related to brain development have dramatically increased not just in the U.S. but around the world. Some scientists believe the increase is linked to toxic chemicals in the environment. Voice of America.

#### **[Flouridation may not do much for cavities.](#)**

Friday, April 16, 2010

A new study examining the controversial issue of water fluoridation shows the process makes little difference on dental health, suggesting the risks may outweigh the benefits. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

#### **[Lautenberg bill seeks to overhaul U.S. chemical laws.](#)**

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) will introduce legislation Thursday to remake the nation's chemical laws by requiring manufacturers to prove the safety of chemicals before they enter the marketplace. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [States support reform of federal toxic law](#)]

#### **[Excessive cleanliness may boost allergies.](#)**

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Put away the hand sanitizer. It's not necessarily the grime, dust bunnies, cat dander or pollen causing those miserable springtime allergies. The culprit actually may be too much cleanliness. Washington Times, District of Columbia.

[See a related article: [Children 'should be exposed to dust to build immunity to asthma'](#) and one with an opposing message: [Shoes off, please! More homes aim for clean floors indoors](#)]

#### **[New study confirms HRT helps ward off colon cancer.](#)**

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Long's team found that women who had ever used HRT were at half the risk of this type of colon cancer compared to women who'd never used hormone replacement, and the longer a woman was on HRT, the lower the risk. Reuters.

#### **[A niche for infectious disease in environmental health: Rethinking the toxicological paradigm.](#)**

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Funding and program mandates for environmental health studies should be expanded to include pathogens in order to capture the true scope of overlapping risks.

[See a related article: [Hospital infection rates continue alarming rise](#)]

#### **[Mercury linked to immune changes seen in autoimmune disease.](#)**

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

A study in people adds to the growing evidence and concern that mercury can alter the immune system in ways that may promote autoimmune diseases such as arthritis and lupus. Environmental Health News.

#### **[Graveyard shifts may raise disease risk, studies say.](#)**

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Evidence is mounting that so-called graveyard shifts may be aptly named because they're an under-recognized health hazard, increasing a person's risk of developing cancer, heart disease and other life-threatening illnesses. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

### **[Do your part: Is your home making you sick?](#)**

*Monday, April 12, 2010*

You may be surprised to find out that the air we breathe inside our homes every day can be several times more polluted than the air outside. It makes sense when we take stock of the many chemicals we bring into our homes. Sacramento Bee, California.

*[See related articles about indoor air quality: [Be careful, formaldehyde is everywhere](#) and [Are flame retardants putting us at risk?](#)]*

### **[The Vietnam War's sad legacy.](#)**

*Monday, April 12, 2010*

Millions of Vietnamese still bear the brunt of the horrid scars of the war for generations due to the use of toxic chemicals as a "weapon of mass destruction." Kuala Lumpur Malay Mail, Malaysia.

*[See another article about health effects of armed conflict: [Review confirms PTSD, other syndromes in Gulf vets](#)]*

### **[Smoking campaign targets women as deaths increase.](#)**

*Monday, April 12, 2010*

High smoking rates among women in the 1970s and '80s are taking their toll, with lung cancer claiming more lives than ever before. Australian Associated Press.

*[See related articles: [Smoking may increase risk of multiple sclerosis: Study](#); [Second-hand smoke ups risk of sinus, nasal problems](#); [Mothers-to-be who smoke 'can harm son's fertility,' say scientists](#); [Public housing goes smoke free](#) and [Smokeless tobacco use rising among teens](#)]*

### **[Green chemistry is becoming a red-hot field.](#)**

*Sunday, April 11, 2010*

Green chemistry is red hot these days, as it should be. What is it? Simply stated, it is "the invention, design and application of chemical products and processes to reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances." Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

### **[Association between residences in U.S. northern latitudes and rheumatoid arthritis: A spatial analysis of the Nurses' Health Study.](#)**

*Saturday, April 10, 2010*

Spatial analyses suggest women living in higher latitudes may be at greater risk for rheumatoid arthritis. Further, rheumatoid arthritis risk may be greater for locations occurring earlier in residential histories. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Concerns grow over chemical used in toiletries, toys.](#)**

*Saturday, April 10, 2010*

New research on a chemical [triclosan] found in everyday consumer products ranging from soaps to toothpaste to toys raises concerns about its possible health effects.

Canwest News Service.

*[See related articles: [FAQ: Triclosan and your health](#), [FDA, EPA to review safety of antibacterial ingredient, triclosan](#) and [Our antibacterial overload](#)]*

### **[The most contaminated site in the Western Hemisphere: WA's Hanford Nuclear Site.](#)**

*Friday, April 09, 2010*

The Department of Energy wants to dump more nuclear waste at Hanford before cleaning up what's already there. The proposal doesn't sit well with watchdog groups or the public. Seattle Post.

### **[Dioxin exposure linked to infertility, difficulty conceiving.](#)**

*Friday, April 09, 2010*

In the first study to examine the relationship between dioxin and likelihood of conception, researchers report that higher dioxin levels are associated with difficulty in conceiving and higher rates of infertility. Environmental Health News.

### **[Curious about harmful effects of cell phones.](#)**

*Friday, April 09, 2010*

Almost all of us own cell phones, and a lot of people seem to have them glued to their

ears. That's why there's a continuing concern about the tiny amount of radiation that cell phones emit. Boston WBZ TV, Massachusetts.

### **Obesity is now more deadly than smoking.**

*Friday, April 09, 2010*

Obesity has overtaken smoking as the leading cause of premature death and illness in Australia, as experts say the federal government is woefully unprepared for a tsunami of weight-related health problems. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

*[See a related article: ['Fatness' gene may thin your brain](#)]*

### **Rule on lead safety set to take effect.**

*Friday, April 09, 2010*

After almost two decades of delays, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that it was on track to implement a regulation requiring the construction industry to help prevent cases of lead poisoning among children. New York Times.

*[See related articles: [High lead content in paints](#) and [Blood lead levels tied to timing of puberty in boys](#)]*

### **Huge rise in MRSA linked with childhood antibiotics.**

*Thursday, April 08, 2010*

A dramatic rise in the prescription of antibiotics for childhood skin infections has been linked with a surge in GP consultations and hospital admissions for serious MRSA infections. Pulse Today.

### **Scans giving off unnecessary radiation.**

*Thursday, April 08, 2010*

CT scans carried out in Australia generate up to a third more radiation than is needed to yield a clear diagnostic image, exposing patients to an increased risk of cancer. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

*[See related articles: [FDA turns attention to radiation therapy devices](#) and [Caution: Radiation -- Weighing the risks of over-screening](#)]*

### **China warns jewelry makers against using cadmium.**

*Thursday, April 08, 2010*

Product safety officials in China are investigating jewelry makers and warning them against using cadmium after high levels of the cancer-causing metal were found in Chinese-made children's trinkets sold in the United States. Associated Press.

### **Report: EPA office not protecting kids fully.**

*Wednesday, April 07, 2010*

The EPA's Office of Inspector General issued the report Tuesday. It says the EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education hasn't set up a strategic plan, identified goals or listed major accomplishments over the last six years. San Jose Mercury News, California.

*[See related articles: [Kids still exposed to toxins, pediatrician says](#) and [Babies tainted by many toxins, report says](#)]*

### **Food can chemicals 'could be linked to early puberty in girls.'**

*Wednesday, April 07, 2010*

Chemicals [phenols, phthalates and phytoestrogens] found in food cans, nail varnish and shampoos could be triggering early puberty in girls, putting them at greater risk of cancer and diabetes. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

*[See a related article: [Dietary intake is associated with phthalate body burden in a nationally representative sample](#)]*

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](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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