



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin May 19, 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: **CHANGED PRESENTATION FOCUS**

Antioch University, Room 100, in Seattle
 Wednesday May 26, 2010
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The meeting will include a special presentation: **The World Health Organization's Just-released Cell Phone Study: Case For Precaution?** Cindy Sage, coordinator of the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment working group on electromagnetic fields, will be presenting. Cindy gave a fascinating [presentation](#) on issues related to children's exposure to cell phone radiation at our Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum in October 2009.

INTERPHONE, coordinated by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, is a series of studies on cell phone usage and brain tumors in humans. Begun in 2000 and conducted in 13 countries (not the US). It was finally released May 18, 2010. With response headlines ranging from "Heavy mobile users risk cancer" to "No proof of mobile phone cancer link", you would not be alone in wondering what the study means. Our speaker will help us sort through the media hype, understand the science in the study and encourage us to answer questions: What is the right response by our government and our health agencies? What should we do next?

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](#).

Lessons Learned

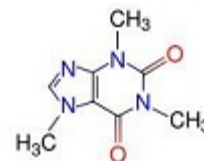
Coca-Cola - Calories & Caffeine

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT



John Stith Pemberton (January 8, 1831 - August 16, 1888), a Confederate veteran and American druggist, invented Coca-Cola in the spring of 1886. It was first sold to the public at the soda fountain in Jacob's Pharmacy in Atlanta on May 8, 1886, and the first advertisement appeared in the *Atlanta Journal* on May 29, 1886. Coca-Cola was initially sold as a medicinal drink; Pemberton claimed it cured many diseases, including morphine addiction, dyspepsia, neurasthenia, headache and impotence. Coke did it all.

Originally, Coca-Cola contained about nine milligrams of cocaine per glass, but in 1903 it was removed. Kola nuts act as a flavoring and a source of caffeine in Coca-Cola, but most of the caffeine is now added.



Coca-Cola contains 46 mg of caffeine per 12 fluid ounces, about 4 mg per ounce. Today, products of the Coca-Cola Company are consumed at the rate of more than one billion drinks per day. Coca-Cola and other caffeine-containing beverages -- some of which contain much more caffeine -- make caffeine the most widely consumed stimulant in the world.

Soft drinks are also a huge source of sugar, contributing to "empty" calories and adding to the obesity epidemic around the world. Excess weight is a risk factor for diabetes and other illnesses. Recently, governments have considered taxing soft drinks in part because of their contribution to disease.

There is now a very large industry that promotes consumption of soft drinks -- in essence calories and caffeine. Children should be encouraged to consume nutritious drinks, avoiding excessive calories and caffeine.

Learn more: John Stith Pemberton - <http://toxipedia.org/x/BZ1b>
Caffeine - <http://toxipedia.org/x/FOE>

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>.

[Use the Community Conversation Toolkit to host a Community Conversation.](#)

Want a nation safe from harmful chemical exposures? Join the effort by hosting a community conversation -- ATSDR is seeking individuals interested in hosting a community conversation between May and June of 2010.

[Evidence growing of air pollution's link to heart disease, death.](#)

The scientific evidence linking air pollution to heart attacks, strokes and cardiovascular death has "substantially strengthened," and people, particularly those at high cardiovascular risk, should limit their exposure, according to an updated American Heart Association scientific statement.

[New report: The Health Risks of Secret Chemicals in Fragrance.](#)

The majority of chemicals found in this report have never been assessed for safety by any publicly accountable agency, or by the cosmetics industry's self-policing review panels. Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

[See related articles: [Perfumes contain hidden harmful chemicals, environmental groups say](#) and [Scented products are so prevalent, potent they are a public health hazard](#)]

[First Nations environmental health guide is now available.](#)

Canada's Ministry of Health announced the launch of the First Nations environmental health guide *Your Health at Home* which provides useful information and practical tips for First Nations to keep their homes safer and healthier.

[Air Quality Awareness Week focuses on reducing exposure to ozone, particle pollution.](#)

EPA, state and local air agencies across the country are marking Air Quality Awareness Week by reminding Americans to stay "Air Aware" to reduce their exposure -- and their contribution -- to air pollution.

[See a related announcement: [EPA promotes Asthma Awareness Month](#)]

[Job opening: New York City.](#)

Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) has an opening for an Enhancing the Field Program Director. The program encompasses both the goal of increasing knowledge about environmental issues within broader philanthropy and serving to inform and encourage members on issues of inclusivity; diversity; and, green practices in the workplace and beyond. Applications are due June 1st.

[Job opening: San Francisco.](#)

The Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment is seeking a research assistant who will execute a study investigating the sources and levels of exposure to environmental chemicals in pregnant women and their infants. This position is 100% time for 6 months, although part-time for 6 months may be possible. The closing date is June 4, 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) Green Chemistry and Chemical Policy

May 18 - August 10, 2010

Sponsor: University of California, Berkeley

Learn the current and historical policy context of the regulation of industrial chemicals, as well as the relevance of the concepts and application of green chemistry and green engineering in moving humans collectively toward a more sustainable economy and society. You also study the weaknesses of historical approaches to chemicals management in protecting public and environmental health, and the key challenges that remain in implementing comprehensive chemicals policy reform. This class is designed for environmental managers, sustainability consultants, health professionals, product designers, engineers, chemists, biologists, product managers, materials scientists, and other professionals who are interested in learning and applying the principles of green chemistry in their respective fields of work. The class awards 2 semester units in Public Health.

Price: \$575

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 510-642-4111

2) Environmental Drivers of Chronic Disease

Wednesday May 19, 2010

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

3) Exposures Assessment and the Importance of Compound-Compound Interactions in Mixtures

Thursday May 20, 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, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health

The speaker will be Gunnar Boysen, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) Environmental Links to Breast Cancer and Opportunities for Prevention

Tuesday May 25, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska / Alaska Community Action on Toxics

This call will explore why in the 1940s, a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer was one in 22, whereas today it is one in seven. Many people diagnosed with breast cancer do not fit into a high-risk profile based on the known breast-cancer risk factors. This means other factors - perhaps environmental - are at work. Mounting scientific evidence from laboratory and limited human studies suggests that many of the 85,000 chemicals registered for use in the US may contribute to breast cancer risk by causing breast tumors, hastening their growth, or leaving mammary glands more vulnerable to carcinogens. Indigenous Arctic communities experience greater chemical exposure to some of these chemicals because many industrial and commercial chemicals are long-lasting and persistent in the atmosphere, drifting north on wind and water currents from where they are applied in Southern latitudes. Join us for a discussion of the chemicals associated with breast cancer and discover how learning more can help guide prevention strategies. Find out ways to reduce your exposure and opportunities for prevention. Sarah Dunagan, MA, staff scientist at the Silent Spring Institute, will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or diana@akaction.org

5) Elevating the Issue: The Emerging CDC National Action Plan on Infertility

Tuesday May 25, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Fertility

This call will highlight the emerging Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Action Plan on the Prevention, Detection and Management of Infertility. Speakers on this call will cover the background and impetus for this national action plan, what is currently happening among the working groups, and what the opportunities are for involvement by CHE colleagues in this important endeavor. Featured speakers include Maurizio Macaluso, MD, DrPH, chief of the Women's Health and Fertility Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Linda Giudice, MD, PhD, MSc, professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, The Robert B. Jaffe, MD, Endowed Professor in the Reproductive Sciences, director of the Center for Research on Origins and Biological Consequences of Human Infertility and director of UCSF Women's Reproductive Health Research Career Development Center, University of California, San Francisco; and Steven Schrader, PhD, leader of the Reproductive Health Assessment Team, Biomonitoring and Health

Assessment Branch, Division of Applied Research and Technology, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

6) Spring 2010 TRI Webinar: Using the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to Support Environmental Justice

Tuesday May 25, 2010

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

Sponsor: Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Using TRI to Support Environmental Justice. The purpose of the Webinar is to share experiences and lessons learned using TRI to address environmental justice concerns and expand TRI use among current and potential users who work on environmental justice issues. Speakers will include representatives from EPA headquarters and regions, nonprofit organizations and academia. All are welcome to participate.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer Major, jennifer.major@ross-assoc.com

7) Demystifying Social Media for Public Health Practice: Twitter, Facebook, and Linked-In

Tuesday May 25, 2010

noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

The speaker will be Patrick O'Carroll, MD, MPH, FACPM, regional health administrator, US Department of Health and Human Services Region X. This teleconference is for those working in local or state health departments.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

8) Lessons Learned from REACH - a European NGO Perspective

Wednesday May 26, 2010

11:00 a.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Sustainable Business Council

This call will include presentations and dialogue with our allies in Europe on lessons learned from the REACH campaigns. The REACH campaign was a concerted seven-plus years of organizing and work to change European chemicals policy, and we believe we can gain much good insight from our European colleagues. Ninja Reineke of the World Wildlife Fund and Nardono Nimpuno of ChemSec will give two 15-minute presentations of what worked well, what were specific challenges, and their insights into "what might we have done differently with 20:20 hindsight." We will have 30 minutes for questions and answers, facilitated by Bev Thorpe of Clean Production Action. Depending on the interest from callers and the questions that may not be covered in this initial call, we hope to schedule future follow-up calls. Note that we will try to record the call for those who cannot make the time.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

9) The World Health Organization's Just-released Cell Phone Study: Case for Precaution?

Wednesday May 26, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington, and virtual via phone
at Antioch University Seattle, 2326 Sixth Avenue

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington

For this May meeting we are proud to host Cindy Sage, coordinator of the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment working group on electromagnetic fields. Cindy gave a fascinating [presentation](#) on issues related to children's exposure to cell phone radiation at our Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum in October 2009. The May 26th meeting will look at the INTERPHONE study released on May 18th. INTERPHONE, coordinated by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, is a series of studies on cell phone usage and brain tumors in humans. Begun in 2000 and conducted in 13 countries (not the US). With response headlines ranging from Heavy mobile users risk cancer to No proof of mobile phone cancer link, you would not be alone in wondering what the study means. Our speaker will help us sort through the media hype, understand the science in the study and encourage us to answer questions: What is the right response by our government and our health agencies? What should we do next? 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 in to the meeting by phone.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

10) Introduction to the Model Toxics Control Act

Wednesday June 2, 2010

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

Seattle, Washington
at EOS Alliance Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

The objective of this one-day workshop is to introduce environmental consultants, federal, state and local government staff, and members of the general public to Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (WAC 173-340). This workshop will provide an overview of the MTCA administrative requirements and associated cleanup standards. Participants will also learn the MTCA remedy selection process and public involvement requirements. Both instructors have a deep and thorough understanding of MTCA and will welcome questions at the end of each topic. This course is immediately followed by the two-day WAPOL-402: Establishing MTCA Cleanup Levels Workshop.

Price: \$225 until April 16, 2010; \$175 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

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

11) Senate and House TSCA Reform Bills: What Do They Say? Where Are they Going?

Wednesday June 2, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This webinar will discuss two long-awaited bills to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representatives Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) unveiled the Safe Chemical Act of 2010 earlier this spring. Despite earlier attempt to overhaul the way the country manages chemicals, this is the first time that both chemical industry lobbyists and public health advocates agree that we can't delay change any longer - the scientific evidence is too overwhelming; the public outcry too loud. The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition supports the goals of the bill. As always, "the devil is in the details." Join the webinar to learn what the bills say, what the controversial issues are and what the prognosis for the future of toxic chemical policy reform. The webinar features Lindsay Dahl, deputy campaign director at Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, a groundbreaking coalition of diverse groups united by their common concern about toxic chemicals in our homes, places of work, and products we use every day. Members include nurses, parents, cancer specialists, disability advocates, conservationists and concerned citizens from across the nation.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

12) The Promise and Problems of Nuclear Energy

Thursday June 3, 2010

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington HSB T-435

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

The speaker will be Julia Sober, Health Physicist and Compliance Analyst at the University of Washington EH&S, Radiation Safety

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, 206-543-6991
ehadmin@u.washington.edu

13) 26th International Neurotoxicology Conference

Sunday through Thursday, June 6 - 10, 2010

Portland, Oregon

at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront

Sponsor: see the [Sponsors page](#)

The conference theme is "Unifying Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders: Scientific, Translational, and Clinical Implications."

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jackie Jagers, Registrar, The Neurotoxicology Conference, 501-364-1248 or
JagersJF@archildrens.org

14) Catastrophic Risk Reduction through Inherently Safer Approaches

Wednesday June 9, 2010

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

Sponsor: The Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The speaker will be Gerald Poje, PhD, a toxicologist and chemical safety consultant working with government, environmental organizations, trade unions and foundations.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

15) 2010 Seminar Series: A Conversation about Our Food and Eating

Wednesday June 9, 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

Choosing and eating food is a significant personal activity that is common to all of us. The various ways that food is produced, distributed, regulated, marketed and consumed have profound cultural, environmental, economic, political, health and social implications. Is it enough to "vote with your fork"? What would a sustainable food system look like? Join us as Mary Embleton, executive director of Cascade Harvest Coalition, and Britt Yamamoto, a member of the core faculty at the Center for Creative Change at Antioch University, discuss the many dimensions of food and eating.

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

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-443-8464 or info@sustainablepath.org

News and Journal Articles

[Toxicology smackdown: The Paracelsian paradigm versus hormesis.](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Edward Calabrese...and others then began to look at what happened at many low-dose levels and found that it often matches not with the dose-equals-poison theory, but with a 19th century theory formally known as hormesis. CBC News.

[Can dirt do a little good?](#)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Are we too clean, with our preoccupation for hand-sanitizers, disinfectants and anti-microbial products? Wall Street Journal.

[Caffeine may slow Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, restore cognitive function, according to new evidence.](#)

Monday, May 17, 2010

Substantial evidence from epidemiological studies and fundamental research in animal models suggests that caffeine may be protective against the cognitive decline seen in dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AD). Science Daily.

[See another article about dementia: [Dementia risk higher if your spouse has dementia](#)]

[Few people know their name, but these chemicals have become EPA priority.](#)

Monday, May 17, 2010

An obscure family of chemicals [short-chain chlorinated paraffins] -- important to the metalworking industry but virtually unknown to the public -- is suddenly the subject of scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Health News.

[Study links mobile phone use to brain tumours.](#)

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A major international study has found a link between mobile phone use and certain brain tumours. Leading scientists have called for restrictions on children's access to mobiles. Edinburgh Scotsman, United Kingdom.

[See an opposing article based on the same report: [Mobile phone study finds no solid link to brain tumours](#), an analysis: [Cell phone cancer study shows problems with method](#), and another article about concerns over cell phone infrastructure: [Framingham town meeting approves six-month halt on cell towers](#)]

Research links pesticides with ADHD in children.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A new analysis of U.S. health data links children's attention-deficit disorder with exposure to common pesticides used on fruits and vegetables. Associated Press.

[See related articles about pesticide concerns: [Agencies pledge to curb child farmworker abuse](#), [Preservatives under fire](#), [Childhood exposures to pesticides may contribute to obesity and diabetes in adults](#), [Choosing fair trade can change the world](#), [Judge hears evidence as Dole Food Co. seeks to overturn pesticide verdict](#), [The environmental cost of keeping golf courses green](#) and [Keeping your lawn from bugging you](#)]

Obesity, a chemical reaction?

Sunday, May 16, 2010

A new study found overweight young girls had significantly higher levels of phthalates, a chemical found in plastics. Los Angeles Times.

[See related articles about concerns with plastics: [The perils of household plastics](#), [Another plastics ingredient raises safety concerns](#) and [Regulators fear ban on BPA in bottles would make matters worse](#) and others specifically about BPA: [Exposure to bisphenol A may alter hormone levels in men](#), [BPA exposure in the womb alters key mammary gland proteins \[in rats\] at puberty](#) and [Fungi take a bite out of BPA](#)]

Faster, stronger, deadlier: the MRSA superbug.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus -- or MRSA for short -- is the subject of journalist Maryn McKenna's new book *Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA*. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Hospitalizations of children with drug-resistant staph infections increases tenfold](#) and another about growing antibiotic resistance in hospitals: [Growing dangers of infections](#)]

Scientist taught world to get the lead out.

Friday, May 14, 2010

During his time in El Paso, Landrigan found his calling. He is now director of the Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. He's also a principal investigator with the National Children's Study, a 21-year, federal project just getting under way designed to give the most detailed picture to date on how the environment affects health. CNN.

[See other articles about lead: [Toss out kids' jewelry if you suspect it contains lead](#), [cadmium: Health Canada](#); [Lead in your dishes](#); [Blood lead levels tied to ALS risk](#) and [Get the lead out](#)]

Neighborhood violence may raise kids' asthma risk.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Children who live in neighborhoods plagued by violence may have a higher risk of asthma than those who grow up in more peaceful surroundings, a new study hints. Reuters Health.

[See another article about environmental impacts on asthma: [Fatty foods bad for asthmatics, block effects of inhalers: study](#)]

Some good environmental news: Hole in ozone over the Antarctic has stabilized.

Friday, May 14, 2010

The hole in the ozone over the Antarctic has stabilized, and it could disappear for good later this century if we continue to refrain from using chlorofluorocarbons and related compounds. Minneapolis MinnPost, Minnesota.

[See a related article: [The chance discovery that averted ecological disaster](#)]

Protection with a price.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Sunscreen can help prevent those painful episodes of childhood sunburn, a risk factor for skin cancer later in life. But there's growing concern that some of the chemicals in the products are endocrine disruptors and may pose risks to children. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[A burning issue: Gasping for breath - Fires are like a smoke bomb for vulnerable people.](#)

Friday, May 14, 2010

For some residents, especially those with respiratory problems, each breath can be an effort, especially when the air they breathe is polluted by car and truck exhaust or smoke from local wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Oroville Mercury-Register, California.

[See related articles: [A Burning Issue: Scientists take a hard look at wood-stove emissions](#), [A burning issue: Three case studies...](#) and others about health effects of air pollution: [Destination brain](#), [Lung cancer in Chinese women: Evidence for an interaction between tobacco smoking and exposure to inhalants in the indoor environment](#), [Impact of environmental chemicals on lung development](#), [Traffic-related particulate matter and acute respiratory symptoms among New York City area adolescents](#) and [Indoor air kills 2.2 million young Chinese: report](#)]

[Too many vitamin tablets could be bad for your health.](#)

Thursday, May 13, 2010

New research shows that far from protecting us, antioxidant supplements, such as vitamins C and E, may actually increase the chance of developing cancer. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[FDA needs new tools to check food, drugs - US experts.](#)

Thursday, May 13, 2010

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is stuck using crude tools to measure the benefits of food, drugs and supplements and needs a whole new set of standards, a panel of experts said on Wednesday. Reuters.

[See other stories about food and health: [Doubt is cast on many reports of food allergies](#), [US schools add fresh food without busting budgets](#), [Butter-flavor substitutes also raise alarms](#) and [Coffee and sodas not tied to colon cancer](#)]

['They're killing us anyway.'](#)

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Citing health complaints they link to alleged pollution by Ecoltec, a toxic waste processing plant run by a Swiss company, the people of Apaxco [Mexico] and neighbouring communities are trying to permanently close down the plant. Inter Press Service.

[See other articles about use, releases and regulation of toxics: [Reforming toxic chemical regulation](#); [Trafigura faces £105m legal bill over dumping of toxic waste](#); [Virginia must regulate toxic chemicals](#) and [Recycled computers, televisions still ending up in dumps](#)]

[Evaluation of spatial relationships between health and the environment: The Rapid Inquiry Facility.](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

The RIF offers a tool that allows epidemiologists to quickly carry out ecological environmental epidemiological analysis such as risk assessment or disease mapping.

[Should nanomaterials be regulated?](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Nanomaterials are being used these days in a wide variety of consumer items, from cosmetics to flat-screen TVs to baseball bats, and are the focus of a three-day national conference at Notre Dame University. South Bend Tribune, Indiana.

[Natural way to control arsenic.](#)

Monday, May 10, 2010

Researchers have found a completely natural solution for people living in regions with widespread arsenic contamination of ground water. New Delhi Hindustan Times, India.

[See other articles about arsenic: [No association between arsenic exposure from drinking and diabetes mellitus: A cross-sectional study in Bangladesh](#) and [Playground arsenic dose relatively low](#)]

[The infertility timebomb: Are men facing rapid extinction?](#)

Monday, May 10, 2010

One in five men could suffer from fertility problems. And scientists have warned that it's just going to get worse. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See articles about impaired fertility in women: [Air pollution 'can stop woman getting pregnant through IVF'](#) and [Organochlorine pesticides and endometriosis](#)]

[Exercise can forestall osteoporosis.](#)

Sunday, May 09, 2010

The stage for osteoporosis is set well before menopause -- but exercise can help rewrite the script, according to Medical College of Georgia researchers. Science Daily.

[See an article about caution regarding exercise: [Pollution poses recreational hazards](#)]

[Making choices for the kids' sake.](#)

Sunday, May 09, 2010

The environment is playing a big role these days in the decisions parents make about what they bring into their homes. Victoria Times Colonist, British Columbia.

[Stress early in pregnancy increases risks to babies.](#)

Sunday, May 09, 2010

Stressful situations in early pregnancy can lead to the birth of babies who are underweight or born too early, new research from China shows. Timing of the stress, the researchers found, was the key. Reuters Health.

[See related articles about preterm births: [Pre-term births fall in US, government finds](#)]

[Study confirms link between environmental exposure and allergy.](#)

Saturday, May 08, 2010

New findings by NIEHS-funded researchers at the University of Cincinnati (UC) indicate that environmental exposures and prolonged breast-feeding are critical determinants of childhood allergic rhinitis. Environmental Factor.

[Mammograms before 40: Few cancers, many callbacks.](#)

Friday, May 07, 2010

As controversial as mammograms are for women in their 40s, some get them even younger - and new research casts doubt on their usefulness. USA Today.

[President's Cancer Panel: Environmentally caused cancers are 'grossly underestimated' and 'needlessly devastate American lives.'](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

The President's Cancer Panel on Thursday reported that "the true burden of environmentally induced cancers has been grossly underestimated" and strongly urged action to reduce people's widespread exposure to carcinogens. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles: [U.S. panel criticized as overstating cancer risks](#); [Cancer, cancer everywhere](#); [Environmental health risks: Not just cancer](#) and [Report to president links cancer, Lejeune contamination](#)]

[Low dose of some persistent organic pollutants predicts type 2 diabetes: A nested case-control study.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Several POPs at low doses similar to current exposure levels may increase the risk of diabetes, possibly through endocrine disruption. Certain POPs may play a role in the current epidemic of diabetes, which has been attributed to obesity. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Report warns of global warming costs.](#)

Thursday, May 06, 2010

The health risks of global climate change read like a chapter out of the Book of Revelation: plagues from mosquitoes and other insects; floods and droughts that cause sickness and mental anguish; food-borne scourges and malnutrition. Charlotte Observer, North Carolina.

[See a related article: [Global warming is the biggest threat to human health](#) and an announcement from the US EPA: [EPA sets thresholds for greenhouse gas permitting requirements/Small businesses and farms will be shielded](#) plus an article about mosquito

control: [People can reduce risk of a mosquito bonanza](#)]

Vaccine may trigger early start of infant epilepsy.

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Childhood vaccines may trigger early onset of a severe form of infant epilepsy, but researchers say the disorder is ultimately caused by defective genes and lifesaving vaccines should not be withheld from these children. Reuters Health.

[See another article about vaccine controversy: [Despite test results, FDA urges vaccine use](#)]

Alcohol in pregnancy may boost child's leukemia risk.

Thursday, May 06, 2010

Women who drink alcohol while pregnant raise the risk that their child will develop a rare type of blood cancer called acute myeloid leukemia, or AML, a new study suggests. Reuters.

Two-year study finds no brain benefit for fish oil.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Fish oil may be good for your heart, but it doesn't seem to help preserve your smarts, a new two-year study shows. Reuters.

[See another article about environmental influences on heart health: [Deli meats increase risk of heart disease](#) and [Effects of weight on kids' heart rate vary by income](#)]

EPA proposes new rules on coal ash.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Coal ash -- like the millions of tons Duke Energy disposes of each year -- could be classified as hazardous waste under rules the Environmental Protection Agency proposed Tuesday. Charlotte Observer, North Carolina.

Stomach-cancer rate rises in young adults.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

The type of stomach cancer the study focused on has been linked with diets high in salt and salt-preserved foods, and low in fruits and vegetables. Associated Press.

[Read other articles about the incidence of cancer: [Skin cancer may be an epidemic: doctors warn that sunscreen use is spotty](#), [A review of pesticide exposure and cancer incidence in the Agricultural Health Study cohort](#) and [Map tracks incidences of cancer throughout New York state](#)]

Cancer risks prompt doctors to try to lower imaging scan radiation.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Doctors are exploring ways to reduce the amount of radiation exposure from medical imaging tests in light of renewed concerns about the cancer risk, according to research presented at a radiology conference this week. USA Today.

[See an article about concern over another source of radiation: [Scientists question safety of new airport scanners](#)]

Does working nights cause breast cancer?

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, and so far only one country (Denmark) has awarded compensation to shift workers who develop the disease. If more were to follow suit, it could have far-reaching economic consequences. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about breast cancer: [Link between farming and breast cancer in women studied](#), [New concerns about radiation and breast cancer raised in study](#) and [Growth hormone causes breast cancer, says study](#)]

Exposure to smoke in the womb may lead to psychiatric problems, study shows.

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

It's well known that smoking while pregnant isn't good for the baby, but new research shows it could also lead to psychological problems for that baby later in life. Vancouver Sun, British Columbia.

[See related articles about parental smoking: [Smoking moms tied to lasting kids' sleep](#)

[woes and Smoking while driving with kids could lead to fine\]](#)

[FDA ties Tylenol recall to contamination.](#)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Raw materials that were to be used to make several lots of the Tylenol products for children and infants that were recalled over the weekend were contaminated, the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday. Wall Street Journal.

[See a related article: [Fear of metal in children's medication prompted recall: company official](#) and more about other recalls: [FDA says lay off asthma supplement - too much lead](#) and [More kids' jewelry recalls in works](#)]

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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