



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin May 5, 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 event #18 below or the [CHE-WA Meetings page](#).

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting May 13th

Catherine Karr, University of Washington, will talk about the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU). For more information, please contact Julia Berg: julia.berg@kingcounty.gov.

New members

CHE-Washington welcomes these new members:

- Raphael Anakwue, MBBS, MSc, FWACP, Enugu, Nigeria
- Barbara Frota, San Luis Obispo, California
- Lina Silimkhan, Union, New Jersey

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

Lessons Learned

Mercury - The Tragedy of Minamata Disease

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

May 1, 1956 marks the day a doctor in Japan reported an "epidemic of an unknown disease of the central nervous system," marking the official discovery of Minamata disease.

In the late 1950s, Minamata Bay, Japan, became contaminated with mercury from a nearby factory manufacturing the chemical acetaldehyde. The mercury was biotransformed into methylmercury, organic mercury, that readily moves up the food chain.

Methylmercury bioaccumulates and biomagnifies in the muscle of fish. First the cats that eat the fish began to stagger about and die.

Then the local population that depended on fish were affected, particularly developing fetuses and children, resulting in death and crippling injuries.



We learned that the solution to pollution is not dilution - mercury dumped into the bay

concentrated and returned with tragic consequences. We also learned that the placenta is not a barrier to environmental contaminants and that the fetus is exquisitely sensitive to mercury. Unfortunately we learned these lessons again during the 1970s in Iraq, when people consumed seed grain that had been treated with mercury.

Learn more about Minamata disease: <http://toxipedia.org/x/HgU>

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>.

[New report: Assessment of EM Exposure of Energy-Saving Bulbs & Possible Mitigation Strategies](#)

The Swiss government has released a new report on compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). At the international level, safety guidelines for EM exposure of workers/general public and controlled/uncontrolled environments have been issued by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

[CDC Transportation Recommendations.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified transportation policies that can have profound positive impact on health.

[EPA launches new web tools to inform the public about clean water enforcement.](#)

The new web page provides interactive information from EPA's 2008 Annual Noncompliance Report, which pertains to about 40,000 permitted Clean Water Act dischargers across the country.

[EPA opens access to chemical information.](#)

EPA is releasing a database, called ToxRefDB, which allows scientists and the interested public to search and download thousands of toxicity testing results on hundreds of chemicals.

[Call for comments: EPA to cut mercury, other toxic emissions from boilers, solid waste incinerators.](#)

EPA will hold a public hearing on these rules soon after they are published in the Federal Register and will take comment on these proposed rules for 45 days after publication.

[EPA seeks public comment on aircraft lead emissions data.](#)

The advanced notice of proposed rulemaking being announced today describes the data that are currently available and being collected that would help evaluate health impacts from piston-engine aircraft emissions. This action describes considerations regarding emission engine standards and requests comment on approaches for transitioning the piston-engine fleet to unleaded gas.

[Call for proposals: Urban Watershed Capacity-Building Grant.](#)

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants that address the following two project components: (1) establish and manage a competitive urban watershed subaward program to support urban watershed capacity-building projects for activities that lead to environmental, public health, and related socioeconomic benefits to the surrounding communities and their residents; and (2) provide urban watershed technical services. Proposals are due May 19th.

[Job opening: Atlanta, Georgia.](#)

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Division of Laboratory Sciences (DLS), Office of the Director, is seeking exceptional candidates for the position of Director, Division of Laboratory Sciences who will be responsible for developing,

planning, organizing, managing, and directing complex, comprehensive and successful laboratory science programs. Applications are due by Thursday May 13, 2010.

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

Environmental Defense Fund is looking to hire a full-time Scientist to work on high-priority environmental issues that affect human health. The position requires a graduate degree, preferably at the doctoral level, in chemistry, toxicology, epidemiology, risk assessment, or similar environmental health field.

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

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has an opening for an intern for this summer to assist the director of Environmental Health with activities for federally funded environmental health projects. The Intern will focus his or her work on the built environment and smart growth. A bachelor's degree is required.

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) Cell Towers Near Schools

Friday May 7, 2010

8:00 a.m. Pacific / 11:00 a.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Trent University of Ontario, Canada

This TeleClass for parents, teachers, and school administrators will present how to prevent EMFs at school and at home. The presentation will feature a new study, "The BRAG™ Antenna Ranking of Schools" which graded schools and children's proximity to cell antennas in US state capitals and Washington, DC. Those who would like to participate are asked to RSVP via email as capacity is limited.

Price: free

Contact: Emily@ElectromagneticHealth.org

2) Communicating Science to Non-scientific Audiences

Friday 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](#)

3) 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

4) 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

5) 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

6) 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

7) 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

8) 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: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CCPH, 206-666-3406 or ccphuw@u.washington.edu

9) 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](#)

10) 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

11) The President's Cancer Panel Report: Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now

Tuesday May 18, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The President's Cancer Panel (the Panel), a three-person, federal advisory committee appointed by the President, was established in 1971 with the passage of the National Cancer Act. The Panel is charged with monitoring the development and execution of the activities of the National Cancer Program. Each year, the Panel holds at least four public meetings to solicit input from a variety of stakeholders and submits an annual report to the President of the United States with recommendations focused on improving the National Cancer Program. The Panel's latest report, *Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk What We Can Do Now*, will be released to the public in early May. Join CHE on a national partnership call to hear from representatives of the President's Cancer Panel and learn more about the report's findings and key recommendations. We will also hear scientists' reactions to the report. Featured speakers will include Nancy Buermeyer, senior policy strategist with the Breast Cancer Fund; Abby B. Sandler, PhD, executive secretary of the President's Cancer Panel and chief of the Institute Review Office, National Cancer Institute; Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH, professor of environmental health at Boston University School of Public Health; and Julia G. Brody, PhD, executive director of Silent Spring Institute. The call will be moderated by Elise Miller, director of CHE.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

12) Just What the Doctor Ordered: Using Medical-Legal Partnerships to Address Home Housing Conditions for Asthma

Tuesday May 18, 2010

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

Sponsor: St. Louis Regional Asthma Consortium

Many people with asthma live in conditions that contribute to uncontrolled asthma, such as pest infestations or mold. In most cases, these conditions violate housing sanitary codes under local, state or federal law. Medical-Legal Partnerships integrate legal services in medical homes and public health programs to address housing conditions,

particularly for those residents with asthma.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

13) EH@Home

May 19, 2010

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

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

14) 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](#)

15) 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

16) 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

17) 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](#)

18) Cell Phones, Electromagnetic Fields and Human Health: The Latest Research

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. Joining Cindy will be Samuel Milham, MD, who was epidemiologist for the State of Washington for more than twenty years. 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 update this information and build upon it to share more critical health research in this field. Dr.

Milham will also contribute perspectives from his own research on occupational health hazards related to electromagnetic exposures. The meeting will cover cell and cordless phones, DECT cordless phones, wireless laptops and wireless routers, WI-FI at work/school/office, and the new PDAs including BlackBerry, Treo and iPhone units. 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: Aimee Boulanger, aboulanger@whidbey.com

19) 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

20) 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

News and Journal Articles

[Mississippi has most obese kids; Oregon the least.](#)

Tuesday, May 04, 2010

The states with bigger childhood obesity problems were -- no surprise -- also the states where kids spent more time watching TV and less time being physically active. Reuters Health.

[Skin cancers rising at an alarming rate.](#)

Tuesday, May 04, 2010

William James, president of the American Academy of Dermatology Association, said statistics show skin cancer now afflicts more Americans than all other cancers combined. Kansas City Star, Missouri.

[Pollution poses recreational hazards.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

Invisible pollutants in both rural and urban areas cause you to run slower, breathe harder and get a second-rate workout. Gannett News Service.

[See another article about a benefit of exercising outdoors: [In the green of health: Just 5 minutes of 'green exercise' optimal for good mental health](#)]

[Studies find remarkably high levels of flame retardants in California's children.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

Two new studies show remarkably high levels of PBDE flame retardants in the bodies of California children. Environmental Health News.

[See a related podcast: [Human Exposure to PBDEs, with Heather Stapleton](#) and a related article: [PBDE concentrations in women's serum and fecundability](#)]

[10 worst man-made environmental disasters.](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

As environmental calamity for the Gulf Coast appears imminent, GlobalPost looks at 10 other man-made environmental disasters -- both forgotten and infamous -- that could have been prevented. GlobalPost.

[Study: Pregnant women should get more vitamin D](#)

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Pregnant women could -- and probably should -- consume 10 times more vitamin D than experts currently recommend, according to a new study. Health.com.

[To sludge or not to sludge?](#)

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Farmers, governments and environmentalists have different takes on using sewage byproducts as fertilizer. Burlington Times-News, North Carolina.

[DNA referees.](#)

Sunday, May 02, 2010

Scientists are just beginning to understand the effect lifestyle choices and other environmental factors have on altering gene behavior, a rapidly emerging field called epigenetics. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See a related article: [Can you master your own epigenetics?](#)]

[Deepwater Horizon oil spill could affect health.](#)

Saturday, May 01, 2010

According to NOAA, there may be risks for people working as oil spill responders, observers, and in wildlife rehabilitation due to inhalation of fumes. Oysters, shrimp, and crab do not readily clear PAHs and are more likely to accumulate these potentially toxic substances after oil exposure, NOAA states.

[See a related announcement: [EPA establishes web site on BP oil spill / EPA launches site to inform the public about health, environmental impacts of spill](#), an opposing article: [Oil spill has little impact on human health](#) and other articles about sites contaminated by industry: [Human rights in cancer alley](#); [In Bokoshe, ash stirs health debate](#); [A small town's battle with dioxin pollution](#); [Ponds near wells were used as disposal sites for heavy metals from solar manufacturing](#); [EPA to consider cleanup options for Iron King Mine and smelter sites soon](#); [Polluted water spraying is safe](#); [Sinclair flare up](#); [Employees launched health complaints](#); [China's famed Pearl River under denim threat](#); [Challenges in reducing pollution from ships](#); [Study links stream pollution to higher cancer rates](#) and [Study reveals kidney cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma also linked to Pompton Lakes neighborhood](#)]

[Wal-Mart to limit toxic cadmium in kids' products.](#)

Friday, April 30, 2010

The world's largest retailer revealed Monday that it has started to crack down on the use of the toxic metal cadmium in children's jewelry and other kids' products. Associated Press.

[Twins study points to environmental cause for MS.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Genetics can't seem to explain why one twin would have multiple sclerosis while an identical twin doesn't, a new study finds. That leaves scientists still stumped as to what causes multiple sclerosis (MS), although it's clearer than ever that environmental factors play a major role.

[iPad could cause insomnia, researchers say.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Any artificial light source at night, whether it be from a television or a bedside lamp, can mess with the body's melatonin production, Yan-Go said, which rises when darkness falls, then tapers off toward morning as part of a natural cycle called the Circadian rhythm. MSNBC.

[Resetting clock may prevent breast cancer.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Investigators have discovered that a form of a dietary trace element known as selenium can help reset a cell's "biological clock" when it is disrupted by a chemical cancer-causing agent (carcinogen). Laboratory Equipment.

[Behavior problems associated with exposure to phthalates before birth.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

A new study has found an association between children's potential for developing disruptive behavior disorders and exposure before birth to the types of phthalates found in fragrances, shampoos, lotions and cosmetics. Environmental Health News.

[Report: Most Americans still live in unclean air.](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Six in 10 Americans -- about 175 million people -- are living in places where air pollution often reaches dangerous levels, despite progress in reducing particle pollution, the American Lung Association said in a report released Wednesday. Associated Press.

[See related articles about air quality concerns: [Canadian companies near Great Lakes putting more toxins in air than U.S.: report](#); [Lawmakers give tire burning the environmental green light](#); [Health study: Agency urges waiting parents to turn off engines](#); [Ozone and primary pollutants from traffic increase asthma-related emergency department visits in children](#); [Parent stress, air pollution up kids' asthma risk](#); [Oxidative damage to DNA and lipids as biomarkers of exposure to air pollution and Triggering of transmural infarctions, but not non-transmural infarctions, by ambient fine particles](#)]

[Does breastfeeding protect against asthma?](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Sticking to a strict diet of mom's milk during the first 4 months of life may reduce a child's risk of developing asthma by their eighth birthday, according to a new study. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about the interaction of a mother's behavior and the health of her child: [Mothers' obesity tied to newborn heart defects](#), [Rats on junk food pass cancer down the generations](#) and [Sun-shy mothers may raise MS risk in babies: study](#)]

[AACE: Agent Orange ups some thyroid risks.](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Vietnam veterans who came in contact with Agent Orange are more likely to develop Graves' disease than those who avoided exposure, researchers said here. Med Page Today.

[Epidemiologic evidence on the health effects of perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\).](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Epidemiologic evidence remains limited and to date there are insufficient data to draw

firm conclusions regarding the role of PFOA for any of the diseases of concern. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Poor diet, smoking, drinking, sloth can age you 12 years.](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Four common bad habits combined -- smoking, drinking too much, inactivity and poor diet -- can age you by 12 years, sobering new research suggests. The findings are from a study that tracked nearly 5,000 British adults for 20 years. Associated Press.

[Talc link to raised womb cancer risk: Once a week use increases the threat by 24 per cent.](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Using talcum powder just once a week to keep fresh can raise the risk of womb cancer by up to 24 per cent, a study has claimed. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[Cellphone risks and radiation: Is your life on the line?](#)

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

After parsing the NIH database of brain-tumor incidence in the United States, Davis discovered an "increasing incidence of brain tumors in the United States in people under age 30," she wrote in an e-mail. Men's Health.

[See related articles: [MPs hear conflicting evidence on cellphone safety](#), [Could cell phone radiation protect memory?](#) and [Study launched on health impact from mobile phones](#)]

[Qualitative environmental health research: An analysis of the literature 1991-2008.](#)

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

This analysis demonstrates the potential of qualitative data to improve understanding of complex exposure pathways, including the influence of social factors on environmental health, and health outcomes. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[New Yorkers given the skinny on animal fat.](#)

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

The presence of persistent organic pollutants, according to Cancer Action NY Director Donald Hassig, is yet another reason to avoid eating animal fat. Albany Legislative Gazette, New York.

[See related articles about food concerns: [Processed meat linked to higher ovarian cancer risk](#), [California free to ban downer cows in food supply -- for now](#), [The University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study: A follow-up investigation of a case with high serum concentration of 2,3,4,7,8-pentachlorodibenzofuran](#); [Are genetically modified foods harmful?](#), [Cancer detected in many school children](#), [Raw milk: Personal decision or public danger?](#), [No silver lining in restaurant sushi's mercury levels](#), [EFSA sees risks to children from lead in food](#), [Lingering legacies for Earth Day 2010: U.S. food still tainted with old chemicals](#), [State budget cuts may prevent fish testing](#), [Study on lake sparks debate on eating fish](#), [Study: Too much sugar increases heart risks](#), [Regulations issued to tighten supervision of food additives](#) and [Additives: It's time to look on the bright side](#)]

[Vaccinations: A hot debate still burning.](#)

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

There's a delicate question that no scientific study can answer. It involves whether parents' rights to make choices about their children trump the needs of the community. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Research suggests flu vaccine doesn't prevent deaths among the elderly](#)]

[The use of expert elicitation in environmental health impact assessment: a seven-step procedure.](#)

Monday, April 26, 2010

We present a practical yet flexible seven step procedure towards organising expert elicitation in the context of environmental health impact assessment, based on existing protocols. Environmental Health.

[Out for the count: Why levels of sperm in men are falling.](#)

Monday, April 26, 2010

Levels of 'viable' sperm in human males are falling -- and scientists believe they now understand the cause. Infertility can begin in the womb. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[Study warns of climate health threats.](#)

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Climate change poses a growing threat to health, from heart disease to heatstroke and from illness carried by water to bug-borne sickness. Associated Press.

[See the report: [A Human Health Perspective on Climate Change](#) and related articles: [Can global warming give you kidney stones?](#) and [Globalisation helps spread 'exotic' diseases](#)]

[There's no 'Plan B' for nuclear waste, so it stays local.](#)

Sunday, April 25, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that spent fuel stored at New Jersey's four nuclear power plants will remain dangerous to humans for at least 10,000 years. But the problem of storing spent fuel continues to plague lawmakers. Atlantic City Press, New Jersey.

[See related articles: [Ukraine marks Chernobyl disaster while still struggling with legacy](#), [Plan for nuclear waste dump faces backlash](#), [New study to assess whether there is higher cancer risk for residents near nuclear plants](#) and [Mixed messages on nuclear power?](#)]

[Study finds pharmaceuticals in wastewater widespread.](#)

Sunday, April 25, 2010

In the most comprehensive study of a variety of chemical compounds coming from municipal sewage plants, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency confirmed widespread, but low concentrations of water contamination from human medications and antibiotics. Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota.

[See a related article: [Drugs in the environment: Do pharmaceutical take-back programs make a difference?](#) and other articles about water quality concerns: [Shampoo, cosmetics may form cancer-causing substance in water supplies](#); [Metro storm-water ponds are chemical soups](#) and [Dangerous levels of arsenic found in drinking water](#)]

[EPA reviews arsenic toxicity.](#)

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Federal environmental officials appear on the verge of changing threshold levels at which arsenic, a known carcinogen, is unsafe. Lewes Cape Gazette, Delaware.

[Parkinson's protection without caffeine or nicotine.](#)

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Decaf coffee and nicotine-free tobacco aren't just for the health-conscious. Giving them to flies with a form of Parkinson's disease has revealed that although coffee and cigarettes protect the brain, caffeine and nicotine aren't responsible for the benefit. New Scientist.

[No link between infertility, rare infant cancer.](#)

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Children conceived with the help of infertility treatment are no more likely than those conceived naturally to develop infant leukemia, according to the largest study to date to investigate the relationship. Reuters Health.

[Autism debate focuses on question of epidemic.](#)

Saturday, April 24, 2010

In the politically-tinted scientific world, there is what might be called a spectrum of causality, a sweep of beliefs about autism yielding two opposing viewpoints - those who believe the globe is engulfed in an autism pandemic constituting a major public health crisis, and those scientists who say it is all a myth. Minocqua Lakeland Times, Wisconsin.

[Strong associations between low-dose organochlorine pesticides and type 2 diabetes in Korea.](#)

Friday, April 23, 2010

In this exploratory study with small sample, low-dose background exposure to OC pesticides was strongly associated with prevalent type 2 diabetes in Koreans even though absolute concentrations of OC pesticides were no higher than in other populations. Environment International.

[See a related article: [Organochlorine pesticides are called 'persistent' for a reason](#) and others about potential approval for methyl iodide in California: [Controversial fumigant advances](#) and DDT: [New book urges reversal of DDT ban to fight malaria](#)]

Fungal disease spreads through Pacific Northwest.

Friday, April 23, 2010

A rare and dangerous fungal infection named *Cryptococcus gattii* has been quietly spreading from British Columbia southward to the U.S. Pacific Northwest. And it's changing as it goes. Morning Edition, NPR.

New EPA rule could curb lead poisoning in children.

Friday, April 23, 2010

A new Environmental Protection Agency rule could cut down the number of lead poisoning cases in Baltimore's children. Annapolis WJZ TV, Maryland.

El Toxic Hell Toro Part Two: A death sentence for marines and school kids?

Friday, April 23, 2010

A number of Marines are now sick and dying from their contact with toxins at MCAS El Toro, such as TCE (trichloroethylene) a chemical used to clean jet fighters; but Marines aren't the only victims. School children, whose small bodies are less resistant to contamination with deadly pollutants, may have even less of a chance of weathering this storm in otherwise sunny Orange County. Salem News, Oregon.

Too costly to enforce PCB laws, so EPA may change them.

Friday, April 23, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency might scrap a 30-year-old safety standard because it's likely too expensive to enforce in schools, the News has learned. New York Daily News, New York. [See a related article: [Non-dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls and risk of endometriosis](#)]

Toxicology: The big test for bisphenol A.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

After years of wrangling over BPA's chemical's toxicity, researchers are charting a new way forwards. Nature investigates how the debate has reshaped environmental-health studies. Nature.

[See related articles: [Bisphenol A remains off toxic list as Ottawa reviews mystery complainant's objection](#) and [Food safety bill's ban on BPA resisted](#)]

Smokers show lower risk of pregnancy complication.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

A new study adds to evidence that women who smoke during pregnancy have a lower risk of a complication called preeclampsia -- in findings that may help shed light on how the condition arises. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about tobacco use: [Effects of smokeless tobacco products overblown: Businesses, patrons happy to say goodbye to smoking](#) and [Indonesia: Efforts to rein in rampant smoking](#)]

Legislature tackles new laws to reduce toxic materials.

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

For the Washington Legislature this session, taking care of business included asking business to take care of the environment. Seattle Times.

Demasculinisation and other side effects.

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Concrete jungles are not the only part of our environment that is man made. There are also thousands of man-made chemicals and this chemical environment is a vast, unchecked experiment on human health. Cosmos Magazine, Australia.

[See related articles: ['Toxic stew' of chemicals causing male fish to carry eggs in testes](#), [Chemicals regulator dysfunctional: WWF](#) and [Petition urges Congress to regulate hormone-disrupting chemical](#)]

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health: http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins
- For those interested in environmental health and learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Washington State Regional Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Washington State regional group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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