



## Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin June 2, 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 Recap

The Washington State Chapter of the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE-WA) held a well-attended meeting on May 26th at Antioch University. The featured speaker was Cindy Sage, coordinator of the national Collaborative on Health and the Environment working group on electromagnetic fields. Cindy gave an excellent presentation: *The World Health Organization's Just-released Cell Phone Study: Case For Precaution?* The presentation handout is now available on [CHE-WA's Meetings webpage](#), and additional information is available from a previous presentation Cindy gave for a [CHE partnership call](#) on issues related to The Information Age and EMF/RF Illness.

The INTERPHONE study, 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, and received a range of responses from headlines such as "Heavy mobile users risk cancer" to "No proof of mobile phone cancer link." Cindy helped us sort through the media hype and understand the science in the study as well as encourage us to answer questions: What is the right response by our government and our health agencies? What should we do next? What precautions can we take? If you have a cell or cordless phone, a wireless laptop or wireless routers, WI-FI at work/school/office, or the new PDAs including BlackBerry, Treo and iPhone units, this is a subject worthy of consideration.

The talk was followed by regional environmental health updates covering several specific topics: 2010 Washington legislative Update: bisphenol-A and beyond from Anna Davis, CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health working group update from Gail Gensler, American Lung Association of Washington from Aileen Gagny, and CHE national's report on biomonitoring and learning/developmental disabilities from Elise Miller. We ended with announcements and consideration of topics for the next meeting this fall.

#### New Resource on Chemical Policy Reform

CHE has created a new webpage with information on upcoming teleconferences, legislation and analysis; the initial focus will be on the "Safe Chemicals Act of 2010." [Visit the webpage](#).

#### New members

CHE-Washington welcomes these new members:

- Susan Boone, Seattle
- Tami Giles, Tumwater
- Terri Hansen, Portland, Oregon
- Susan Heffernan, RN, MN, Seattle
- Ann Johnson, MFA, Clinton
- Kinga Kosny, Clawson, Michigan

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

### Environmental Justice - or Rather, Injustice

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

The EPA defines environmental justice as the "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Image from NIEHS.



Many place the start of the environmental justice movement in 1982 in Warren County, North Carolina. State officials decided that the ShoccoTownship would be the perfect site for a hazardous waste landfill that would receive 30,000 cubic yards of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil. The state, with the permission of the EPA, built the hazardous waste dump only 7 feet above the water table instead of the required 50 feet. The local residents, mostly rural and poor African Americans, were joined in protest by national civil rights groups, environmental groups, clergy and members of the Congressional Black Caucus. African American civil rights activist Benjamin Chavis described this incident as environmental racism, referring to the enactment or enforcement of any policy, practice, or regulation that negatively affects the environment of low-income and/or racially-homogeneous communities at a disparate rate than affluent communities. In 1987, in a defining report, the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice explored the idea of environmental racism in "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States."

Environmental injustice and environmental racism are still prevalent in the US and worldwide as one group of people is exploited to benefit another. The just and fair treatment of all people and the environment is essential for a sustainable world.

Learn more about Environmental Justice: <http://toxipedia.org/x/eh>

### 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>.

### [Call for nominations: EPA Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Awards Program.](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency offers three competitive awards. Applications are due Friday, October 8, 2010.

### [EPA releases draft dioxin report for peer review and public comment.](#)

This comprehensive human health and exposure risk assessment on dioxin, one of the most toxic environmental contaminants, aims to protect the health of the American public. The draft report will now undergo scientific peer review by independent, external experts as well as public review and comment.

[See related articles: [A new source of dioxins: Clean hands](#), [River sediments contain dioxins linked to Triclosan](#) and [Dioxins reassessed](#) plus one about the legacy of dioxin in Agent Orange: [Vietnam's struggle with Agent Orange](#)]

### [Early childhood profiles.](#)

State policies that promote health, education, and strong families can help the early

development and school readiness of America's youngest citizens. These profiles highlight states' policy choices alongside other contextual data related to the well-being of young children.

#### [White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report to the President.](#)

The action plan defines the goal of ending childhood obesity in a generation as returning to a childhood obesity rate of just 5 percent by 2030, which was the rate before childhood obesity first began to rise in the late 1970s. In total, the report presents a series of 70 specific recommendations, many of which can be implemented right away.

#### [Children and Nature Initiative.](#)

The National Environmental Education foundation has launched an initiative designed to help pediatricians and other health care professionals to improve children's health by "prescribing" outdoor activity. Research indicates that unstructured outdoor activities may improve children's health by increasing physical activity, reducing stress, and serving as a support mechanism for attention disorders.

#### [The National Association of School Nurses online survey.](#)

This survey asks K-12 school nurses about common school environmental issues: pesticides, sinks, windows, carpeting in classes, drinking water, chemical spills, cleaning, radon testing, asbestos, renovation and more.

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

Earthjustice has two openings, one for a legislative counsel and one for an associate legislative counsel to work on advocacy for, and analysis of, federal rulemakings, policies and legislation regarding natural resource adaptation on federal public lands.

## 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) Toxic America**

Wednesday and Thursday, June 3 and 4, 2010  
8:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: CNN

Dr. Sanjay Gupta hosts the two-part television program revealing devastating results from a year-long investigation. Wednesday night highlights "Toxic Towns", delving into the environmental health and justice problems plaguing the community of Mossville, Louisiana. Mossville is not an isolated example, but instead a poster child for a broken chemical safety system. Thursday night highlights "Toxic Childhood" and features "Healthy Child, Healthy World" founders Jim and Nancy Chuda, Scientific Advisor Dr. Phil Landrigan, and HCHW's "A Wake-Up Story" video. This second part of the series reveals the effect toxics have on unborn babies.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **2) 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](mailto:ehadmin@u.washington.edu)

### **3) Seattle Green Festival**

Saturday and Sunday, June 5 - 6, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, 800 Convention Place

Sponsor: Global Exchange, Green America, and the City of Seattle led by the Office of Sustainability and the Environment

Celebrating its third year, Seattle Green Festival is an energetic weekend of eco-innovations and hands-on demonstrations focusing on putting green into daily routines. The festival will feature 175 speakers, 300 "screened for green" businesses, workshops, eco-fashion show, and great kids' activities. Discover some of the best green products and services the Northwest has to offer. Festival participants can learn about clean technology, green building, socially responsible investing, renewable energy, green careers, local food systems and farming, and organic lifestyle. And through Seattle Climate Action Now!, Clean & Green Seattle and the city's many other climate projects, you'll learn how neighbors, community nonprofits and city departments are working together to make their city a healthier place to live.

Price: see the [Pricing page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jenny Heins, 206-533-7113 or via the [Contact page](#)

### **4) 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](mailto:JagersJF@archildrens.org)

### **5) Air Pollution - A Matter of the Heart**

Monday June 7, 2010

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Washington, DC and virtual

at EPA East Building Room 1153

Sponsor: National Center For Environmental Research and the American Heart Association

Through decades of research, scientists have discovered links between air pollution and serious health effects. New research points to the heart as a major target of these harmful impacts, with evidence linking air pollution to cardiovascular disease and even death. Join renowned scientists for a briefing on the latest research on air pollution and

cardiovascular health: 1) Bob Devlin (EPA) presents the major cardiac and respiratory impacts of exposure to air pollution; and 2) Joel Kaufman (University of Washington) presents the Multi Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis Air Study (MESA Air), the largest, most expensive nationwide study of air pollution and health ever funded by EPA. It is the result of a unique partnership with the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. Please RSVP to receive instructions for webconferencing by June 2nd.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Andrew Beideman, [beideman.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:beideman.andrew@epa.gov)

### **6) 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](#)

### **7) 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](mailto:info@sustainablepath.org)

### **8) Nanotechnology: A New Chapter in Environmental Health Sciences**

Thursday June 10, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Over the past decade, nanomaterials have exploded onto the marketplace, ranging in use from teddy bears and tennis rackets to pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. What do we know about these materials and how are we addressing them from a public-health standpoint? The Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California, San Francisco, recently released a draft version of their report, "A Nanotechnology Policy Framework: Policy Recommendations for Addressing Potential Health Risks from Nanomaterials in California," which makes recommendations about how to face the new challenges to the policy and risk assessment process that nanomaterials present because of their unique properties. The document draws upon lessons we can learn from past chemical policy experiences and other recent

nanotechnology reports in making recommendations for California. The final report is due out the second week of June. Presenters on this call will cover what we know about the unique properties of nanomaterials, why we should be concerned, how nanotechnology is being addressed at the policy and public health level, and what the gaps are in our knowledge. Presenters include Amber Wise, PhD, chemist and postdoctoral fellow in the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California, San Francisco; Jennifer Sass, PhD, senior scientist at Natural Resources Defense Council; and Carl Cranor, PhD, professor of philosophy at the University of California, Riverside.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

### **9) National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting**

Tuesday June 15, 2010

1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The discussion topic is EPA's activities related to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, including cleanup and recovery actions, and the impacts of the spill on coastal environmental justice communities. Registration is required by noon Eastern time on Friday June 11th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 877-773-1489 or [NEJACJune2010meeting@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com](mailto:NEJACJune2010meeting@AlwaysPursuingExcellence.com)

### **10) NIEHS-EPA Symposium on Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease**

Monday and Tuesday, June 21 - 22, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Tower Auditorium, 4333 Brooklyn Avenue NE

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US Environmental Protection Agency, The Health Effects Institute

This is the fifth in a series of NIEHS-EPA "Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease" conferences held since 2001. Bringing together leading investigators in the area, this symposium will provide a forum for research dissemination and critical discussion related to the mechanisms by which air pollution affects the inception, progression and nature of cardiovascular diseases.

Price: \$160 on or before June 1, 2010, or \$200 after

[Visit the website](#)

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Fifty Thousand Strong: The Sister Study, with Dale Sandler.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 01, 2010*

Now that more than 50,000 women have been recruited, Dale Sandler discusses what comes next for the Sister Study. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Neurobehavioral effects of transportation noise in primary schoolchildren: a cross-sectional study.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 01, 2010*

Based on this study and previous scientific literature it can be concluded that performance on simple tasks is less susceptible to the effects of noise than performance on more complex tasks. Environmental Health.

### **[Grilling this weekend? Some spices may play role in reduced cancer risk.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 01, 2010*

Researchers report that adding certain spices to your burgers before tossing them on the grill this summer will not only add to the flavor of the meat, but they can also cut the risk of cancer long associated with the cooking of beef. USA Today.

*[See another article about food and health: [Don't eat fish from the Portland Harbor](#)]*

### **[Green chemistry: Scientists devise new "Benign by Design" drugs, paints, pesticides and more.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 01, 2010*

Back in the days when better living through chemistry was a promise, not a bitter irony, nylon stockings replaced silk, refrigerators edged out iceboxes, and Americans became increasingly dependent on man-made materials. Scientific American.

### **['Dirty dozen' produce carries more pesticide residue, group says.](#)**

*Tuesday, June 01, 2010*

If you're eating non-organic celery today, you may be ingesting 67 pesticides with it, according to a new report from the Environmental Working Group. CNN.

*[See related articles about pesticides: [Crop chemical \[atrazine\] suspected in boost of birth defects](#), [Domestic chemical \[chlorpyrifos\] banned](#), [Government warning: Don't drink the water](#) and [New law bans pesticides on NY schools' grass](#)]*

### **[5 toxics that are everywhere and how to protect yourself.](#)**

*Monday, May 31, 2010*

A growing body of research is linking five chemicals [BPA, phthalates, PFOA, formaldehyde and PDBEs] -- among the most common in the world -- to a host of ailments, including cancer, sexual problems and behavioral issues. CNN.

*[See related articles about one or more of these chemicals: [The plastic panic](#); [Phthalates: Are they safe?](#); [Why are so few chemicals tested?](#); [Mounting evidence: Kids sickened by common chemicals](#); [Confusion centers on chemicals and cancer](#); [Chemical Culprits: PFCs and Domestic detox: Extreme home cleaning](#)]*

### **[New smokestack rules.](#)**

*Monday, May 31, 2010*

This week, the U-S Environmental Protection Agency will release much-anticipated new rules limiting sulfur dioxide in the air. Environment Report.

### **[Asthma's exact causes still a mystery.](#)**

*Sunday, May 30, 2010*

Simply put, people are susceptible to developing asthma because of their genes. But people develop the disorder only after exposure to environmental factors that cause their immune systems to make their bronchial tubes inflamed and prone to attacks.

Stroudsberg Pocono Record, Pennsylvania.

*[See a related journal article: [An integrated model of environmental factors in adult asthma lung function and disease severity: a cross-sectional study](#) and news articles: [Poor air quality 'affects lung health'](#), [Can infants' wheezing be prevented?](#) and [Natural births better for babies](#)]*

### **[Brief exercise reduces impact of stress on cell aging, study shows.](#)**

*Saturday, May 29, 2010*

Exercise can buffer the effects of stress-induced cell aging, according to new research from UCSF that revealed actual benefits of physical activity at the cellular level. Science Daily.

*[See an article about environmental hazards of exercise: [Toxic cities mock 'healthy' cycle riding](#)]*

### **[Disposable diapers: Are they dangerous?](#)**

*Saturday, May 29, 2010*

Pampers diapers, which include Cruisers and Swaddlers, are the subject of two U.S. lawsuits filed in mid-May and blamed for causing serious diaper rashes. The bad Pampers press has shed light on the fact that parents are largely in the dark about the chemicals found in the disposable diapers their children wear. CBC Canada.

**[Web resource: Crude Oil Spills and Health.](#)**

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

The US National Library of Medicine's Disaster Information Management Research Center compiles information about oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere.

*[See a related website [Gulf Coast Oil Spill](#) and related articles: [Seafood testing from Gulf oil disaster could last years](#), [Attention turns to spill-related health risks](#), [Officials ask BP to protect health of workers cleaning up oil spill](#) and [Experts weigh risks of chemical ammo against oil in Gulf](#), plus an article about a spill in California: [State issues warning related to diesel spill at harbor](#)]*

**[Sewage problem a weighty issue in urban areas.](#)**

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Only 32 out of Kenya's 178 local government authorities have a sewerage system. This means that 142 local authorities around the country lack access to any form of sewerage system and are therefore highly exposed to diseases, according to a report on the link to health and environment. Nairobi Daily Nation, Kenya.

*[See a related announcement from the US Environmental Protection Agency: [EPA to initiate rulemaking to reduce harmful effects of sanitary sewer overflows](#) and another article about hazards in sewage waste: [Drugs passing through septic tanks and into local waters](#)]*

**[Radon continues to plague Americans.](#)**

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

There's an invisible, odorless gas that kills 21,000 Americans every year. We've known about radon gas for a long time. But experts say we're still a long way from fixing the problem. Environment Report.

**[Study links indoor tanning to melanoma.](#)**

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

People who use tanning beds frequently have up to three times the risk of developing the deadliest form of skin cancer -- no matter how old they are when they start -- according to a study published today by researchers at the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minnesota.

*[See a related article: [A healthy tan? You may as well smoke a cigarette, say cancer experts](#) and an announcement about sun safety: ['Don't Fry Day' promotes skin cancer prevention](#)]*

**[The health risks of swallowing button batteries.](#)**

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Writing in the journal Pediatrics, researchers report on a disturbing rise in youngsters swallowing small button batteries. These are the newer, coin-shaped lithium based power sources that are found in toys and electronic games, hearing aids and watches. Time Magazine.

**[Prenatal exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals linked to breast cancer.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

A study in mice reveals that prenatal exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals, like bisphenol-A (BPA) and diethylstilbestrol (DES), may program a fetus for life. Therefore, adult women who were exposed prenatally to BPA or DES could be at increased risk of breast cancer, according to a new study accepted for publication in Hormones & Cancer, a journal of The Endocrine Society. ScienceDaily.

*[See another article about breast cancer research: [Cleveland Clinic research offers hope for development of a breast cancer vaccine](#)]*

**[Study: 1 in 8 public pools are unfit to swim in.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

With the temperatures heating up, a dip in the pool may sound like a good idea. But before you do, a startling new CDC report found 1 in 8 public pools were unfit for use. KPSP News.

*[See a related article: [The good, the bad, and the volatile: Can we have both healthy pools and healthy people?](#)]*

### **Cellphones' radiation levels hard to find: probe.**

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

The amount of radio frequency energy -- a form of radiation emitted by cellphones and absorbed by the body -- is nearly impossible to determine when buying a phone, a CBC-TV Marketplace investigation has found. Environmental Defence.

[See a related article: [Static in cellphone study](#) and others about other sources of radiation: [Easing that electromagnetic anxiety](#) and [Radiation risks cited in full-body airport scans](#)]

### **Study finds herbal supplements contain contaminants.**

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Nearly all of the herbal dietary supplements tested in a Congressional investigation contained trace amounts of lead and other contaminants, and some supplement sellers made illegal claims that their products can cure cancer and other diseases, investigators found. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Herbs, supplements often sold deceptively: U.S. report](#) and one from the UAE: [Herbal drugs: sting in the tail?](#)]

### **Environmental warrior takes on industry.**

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

"I think they were just trying to scare me and get me to back off," says Subra, a soft-spoken grandmother who has made it her life's mission to help communities fight against chemical threats from industry. CNN.

### **Soil bacteria might increase learning.**

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

A recent study done with 1,200 people, published in the journal Environmental Health and Technology found that even just five minutes in a leafy park can significantly boost our mood. Well, it might be because we inhaled some bacteria among the leaves and grass.

### **A mission to help moms quit smoking.**

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Smoke Free Babies, funded by grants from the state's First Five Commission and the Sonoma County Health Department, offers support to pregnant women and new mothers. Santa Rosa Press Democrat, California.

[See related articles: [WHO seeks clampdown on tobacco ads targeting women](#); [Smoking puts your unborn child at risk, women told](#); and [2nd-hand smoke plagues pregnant Chinese women](#) and another about the effects of smoking: [Heavy smoking mutates thousands of genes](#)]

### **New threats to U.S. blood supply.**

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Public health officials are battling a host of new infectious threats to the nation's blood supply; officials are urging the U.S. government to adopt so-called pathogen-reduction technology that can kill a wide range of contaminants in blood after it has been donated. Wall Street Journal.

### **Distress of 9/11 may have led to miscarriages, research says.**

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

The shock and stress felt by pregnant women after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, may have contributed to an increase in miscarriages of male fetuses in the United States, according to a study released Monday. CNN.

### **Study: Many sunscreens may be accelerating cancer.**

Monday, May 24, 2010

Almost half of the 500 most popular sunscreen products may actually increase the speed at which malignant cells develop and spread skin cancer because they contain vitamin A or its derivatives, according to an evaluation of those products released today. AOL News.

[See related articles about environmental agents and cancer growth: [Vitamin C 'slows cancer growth'](#); [Smoking cuts cancer survival rate, UCD study finds](#); [Cancer by the](#)

[numbers: How many are caused by the environment?; Fighting U.S. cancer: Diet, scant exercise problems and Common habits link to cancer\]](#)

### **Many vaccines at once ok for kids' brains.**

Monday, May 24, 2010

Until now, nobody had studied whether getting several vaccinations in a short time could have negative consequences, for instance by overloading the immune system, as many parents believe, according to Smith. Reuters Health.

[See another article about vaccine controversy: [British Medical Council bars doctor who linked vaccine with autism](#)]

### **Privacy issue can stall cancer-cluster reviews.**

Monday, May 24, 2010

About once or twice a year, state officials deny cancer-data requests from the public in the name of patient privacy. Columbus Dispatch, Ohio.

[See a similar article from the UK: [Longest FOI battle ends in defeat over cancer data](#)]

### **Fluoride could help, advocates say.**

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Nearly half of rural adults in Wisconsin have lost teeth from decay, compared to just over a third of urban adults. Adding fluoride to rural drinking water systems could close that gap, health officials say. Madison Wisconsin State Journal, Wisconsin.

[See an opposing view: [Austin, TX: America's largest water fluoridation fight](#)]

### **Health care for exposure to military environmental hazards.**

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Senate bill (S3378) authorizes health care for individuals exposed to environmental hazards at Camp Lejeune and the Atsugi Naval Air Facility and establishes an advisory board to examine exposures to environmental hazards during military service. Salem News, Oregon.

[See a follow-up article: [Health care for exposure to military environmental hazards: Part 2](#)]

### **Overuse of antibiotics spurs vicious cycle.**

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Patients whose doctors over-prescribe antibiotics may develop drug resistance that lasts up to a year, putting them and the population at risk when more serious treatment is needed, scientists said on Wednesday. Reuters Health.

### **New mass-screening method finds additional environmental risks for diabetes.**

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Environmental exposures had been thought too challenging to systematically screen for disease associations. But a team of researchers has created a method to look for diabetes environmental risk factors the same way other scientists screen for genetic markers. Scientific American.

[See related articles: [New test of environmental factors may help with Type II diabetes and other major diseases](#), [Chemicals may increase diabetes risk, not just genes, weight and exercise](#) and [Traffic-related air pollution and incident type 2 diabetes: Results from the SALIA Cohort Study](#)]

### **Studies link infertility treatments to autism.**

Saturday, May 22, 2010

A study conducted by a team at the Harvard School of Public Health found that autism was nearly twice as common among the children of women who were treated with the ovulation-inducing drug Clomid and other similar drugs than women who did not suffer from infertility. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Research points to new causes of autism](#) and [Autism link with migrant parents, study finds](#)]

### **Toxic substances agency draws fire.**

Friday, May 21, 2010

As officials from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry were questioned

at a Congressional hearing Thursday, the Government Accountability Office released a report that found the agency lacked policies in place to give a higher level of review to hazardous sites. New York Times.

**[Study: kudzu contributes to air pollution.](#)**

*Friday, May 21, 2010*

Kudzu, a leafy vine native to Japan and southeastern China, produces the chemicals isoprene and nitric oxide, which, when combined with nitrogen in the air, form ozone, an air pollutant that causes significant health problems for humans. Gannett News Service.  
[See another article about ozone pollution: [Summertime is ozone season](#)]

**[Growing up too soon.](#)**

*Friday, May 21, 2010*

Emily de Reyna was barely older than a toddler when she started becoming a woman. Some pediatricians say they are seeing more cases of girls starting puberty earlier. Some have said it's because there are far more pesticides on food, hormones in milk or even chemicals in plastics than in the past. Lansing WILX TV, Michigan.

**[Wind turbines pose no health hazard, says Ontario's top doc.](#)**

*Friday, May 21, 2010*

Wind turbines don't make people sick, Ontario's chief medical officer of health says after conducting a study of adverse health effects associated with the clean energy sources. Toronto Star, Ontario.

**[Some question safety of sunscreen products for children.](#)**

*Friday, May 21, 2010*

Although sunscreen is recommended for infants older than 6 months by the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics, there's growing concern that some of the chemicals in the products are endocrine disruptors that may pose health risks to children. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See related articles: [Sunscreen or smoke screen?](#), [Steering around skin cancer](#), [Studies offer conflicting views on sunscreen use](#) and [FDA works on improved labels for suncreens](#)]

**[Water study prompts hearing.](#)**

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

A U.S. House of Representatives hearing scheduled for this week will examine the ways the National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry assesses, validates and releases public health documents, and to inquire about uses of flawed science and incomplete data in drawing public health conclusions. encToday.com

**[Breaking patterns of environmentally-influenced disease for health risk reduction: Immune perspectives.](#)**

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Disease pattern-based evaluation, prevention, and treatment will require a change from the current approach for both immune safety testing and pediatric disease management. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[Walmart pulls Miley Cyrus jewelry from shelves.](#)**

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Walmart said Wednesday it is pulling an entire line of Miley Cyrus-brand necklaces and bracelets from its shelves after tests performed for The Associated Press found the jewelry contained high levels of the toxic metal cadmium. Associated Press.

**[Hospital admissions found to decline since AZ public-smoking ban.](#)**

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Arizona hospital admissions for stroke, asthma, heart attacks and angina fell more than 10 percent in the year after a statewide smoking ban took effect, a new study says. Tucson Arizona Daily Star, Arizona.

[See related articles from Washington State: [Smoking in Wash. homes plunges 60 percent since 2000](#) and China: [A breath of fresh air](#)]

**[Peanut, tree-nut allergies may be on the rise in kids.](#)**

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Between 1 and 2 percent of children in the U.S. and Canada may have allergies to peanuts or tree nuts, with the U.S. rates seemingly on the rise, two new studies suggest. Reuters Health.

**[Difficult conception tied to higher pregnancy risks.](#)**

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

High-risk pregnancies are more likely in women who have difficulty getting pregnant, with or without help from hi-tech fertility treatments, new research finds. Reuters Health.

**[Exposure to PCBs destroys cell connections in the gut.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

A family of common environmental contaminants, PCBs, can damage and break the important protein links between cells that line the intestine and form a protective barrier into the body. Environmental Health News.

**[Canadian technologies helping to make world's drinking water safer.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Even in water-rich Canada, water is becoming a bigger issue. As deaths and illnesses from contaminated water in Ontario showed 10 years ago, clean water isn't something you can take for granted anywhere in the world. CBC Canada.

*[See related articles: [A special report on water: To the last drop --how to avoid water wars](#), [A special report on water: Enough is not enough -- it must also be clean](#)]*

**[Some skin whitening creams contain toxic mercury, testing finds.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Some creams promising to lighten skin, eliminate age spots and zap freckles contain high levels of mercury, a toxic metal that can cause severe health problems, a Tribune investigation has found. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

*[See a related article: [FDA to investigate skin creams for mercury](#) and others about different toxic substances in face creams: [Gold face cream: A costly leap of faith](#) and [Toxic beauty](#)]*

**[Health: BPA report.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

There's new research about Bisphenol A; tests on 50 canned products from 19 states reveal the presence of potentially dangerous levels of BPA. Philadelphia KYW TV, Pennsylvania.

*[See a related article: [BPA: Toxic chemical debate](#) and another about health effects of BPA: [Bisphenol-A exposure during pregnancy disrupts glucose homeostasis in mothers and adult male offspring](#)]*

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

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- 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.

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Nancy Snow  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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