



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin June 30, 2010

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

CHE-WA Highlights

Children First: Promoting Ecological Health for the Whole Child

\$35 early bird registration ends July 1st. Register for this groundbreaking one-day symposium highlighting a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care.

[Visit the website.](#)

Lessons Learned Columns Archived

All the past Lessons Learned columns from this bulletin are now available on the [Toxipedia website](#).

CHE Now Podcasts Teleconference Calls

Podcasts of CHE's recorded Partnership and Working Group calls are now available on [CHE's website](#).

Lessons Learned

Louis Pasteur - Rabies Vaccine, July 6, 1885

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

A vaccine is a typically a biological agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism (usually weakened or killed) that, when injected into people, improves immunity to that disease.

Louis Pasteur (December 27, 1822 - September 28, 1895), a French chemist and microbiologist, was noted for his experiments supporting the germ theory of disease leading to a far deeper understanding of the causes and preventions of disease. He is perhaps best known for inventing a method to stop milk from causing sickness, a process that came to be called pasteurization. On July 6, 1885, Pasteur treated Joseph Meister, a 9-year-old boy that was badly mauled by a rabid dog, with the first rabies vaccine and was credited with saving his life.



While vaccines have proven benefits, they have generated controversy from their inception, including one that centers on preservatives in vaccines to prevent serious contamination. In 1928, a staphylococcus infection in diphtheria vaccine without a preservative killed 12 of 21 children that were inoculated. Vaccine preservatives include thiomersal, phenoxyethanol and formaldehyde. Thiomersal, known in the US as thimerosal, is a mercury-based preservative effective against bacteria that improves shelf

life and vaccine stability. It was commonly used in multi-dose vials. However, thiomersal contains mercury, a known neurotoxic agent. In a precautionary measure in the US, the European Union, and other affluent countries, thiomersal is no longer used as a preservative in childhood vaccines.

The development and use of vaccines reflects our ever-expanding understanding of the immune system and offer enormous benefits to society as a whole. However, there are individual risks taken in either using vaccines or deciding not to use vaccines, particularly for infants and children that are vulnerable to a range of diseases.

Learn more about Louis Pasteur: <http://toxipedia.org/x/aqRb>

Learn more about mercury: <http://toxipedia.org/x/HQE>

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 website: European Centre for Environment and Human Health.](#)

We are looking at how climate change and changes in biodiversity will affect human health and wellbeing in the coming years.

[Nanotechnology: Nanomaterials are widely used in commerce, but EPA faces challenges in regulating risk.](#)

GAO (1) identified examples of current and potential uses of nanomaterials, (2) determined what is known about the potential human health and environmental risks from nanomaterials, (3) assessed actions EPA has taken to better understand and regulate the risks posed by nanomaterials as well as its authorities to do so, and (4) identified approaches that other selected national authorities and actions U.S. states have taken to address the potential risks associated with nanomaterials.

[Autism and the Environment 101: A free online course.](#)

The online course will take approximately 45 minutes to complete and covers the following areas: 1) The New Model of Autism, 2) Rapidly Rising Rates of Autism Spectrum Disorders, 3) Toxic Body Burden, 4) The Role of Government and 5) What We Can Do Every Day.

[EPA seeks comments on consultation policy with Indian tribes.](#)

EPA has scheduled national consultation conference calls to answer questions and seek input on the proposed policy from federally recognized tribes.

[EPA proposes updating drinking water rule to better protect public health.](#)

EPA is proposing to revise the 1989 Total Coliform Rule to incorporate improvements recommended by a federal advisory committee that included representatives from a broad range of stakeholder groups.

[EPA seeks public comment on strategic plan to move forward on agency priorities.](#)

Administrator Jackson's seven priorities are taking action on climate change, improving air quality, protecting America's waters, cleaning up our communities, assuring the safety of chemicals, expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice, and building strong state and tribal partnerships.

[New report: What's That Smell?](#)

Did you know that the lemon-fresh smell or pine forest scent in your favorite cleaner may be linked to serious health impacts? From Women's Voices for the Earth.

Guidebooks to help public health agencies deal with climate change.

The University of Oregon's Climate Leadership Initiative, in partnership with the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials and public health organizations around the state, have issued two new guidebooks aimed at helping health-related agencies and organizations cope with climate change.

Call for proposals: Community Challenge Planning Grants.

HUD's \$40 million Community Challenge Planning Grant Program will foster reform and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities.

Call for proposals: Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) Regional Grants.

Proposed projects must address implementation of integrated pest management approaches that reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in an agricultural or non-agricultural setting and demonstrate the importance and relevancy of the project to the goals of EPA's PESP.

Job opening: Lyon, France.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has an opening for a scientist with their Section of Environment. Applications are due August 5, 2010.

Job opening: Arlington, Virginia.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is recruiting a senior director for environmental health. Search the website for positions in Virginia.

Job opening: Amherst, Massachusetts.

The National Religious Partnership for the Environment seeks a dynamic and creative leader as executive director.

Job opening: Bahrain.

HR Intelligence is recruiting a full-time, permanent environmental health project manager.

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) Listening Session: The President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative

Thursday July 1, 2010

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at Franklin High School, 3013 South Mount Baker Boulevard

Sponsor: Us Departments of Interior and Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and Council on Environmental Quality

In April, at the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors, President Obama established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a conservation and recreation agenda worthy of the 21st century and to reconnect Americans with our great outdoors. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must be community-driven and supported. Please join senior representatives of these agencies for a public listening session and discussion on land conservation, recreation, and reconnecting Americans to the great outdoors. In the Northwest many citizens and organizations are deeply involved in the conservation of working farms, forests, lakes, and rivers, scenic lands, and historic areas, and in celebrating and enjoying the region's rich outdoor and cultural heritage. This public listening session and discussion is an opportunity for leaders of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to hear from you about solutions for building a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and reconnecting all Americans with the outdoors. The organizers request preregistration by Monday June 28th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) School Health Policies and Program Study 2006: Healthy Physical School Environment - CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS)

Tuesday July 13, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Environmental Health Initiative

Join Sherry Everett Jones, PhD, MPH, JD, FASHA, health scientist in the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Jones will be speaking about data from CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS). SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels; the most recent study was in 2006. There is a module in SHPPS on the physical school environment. More information can be found on the [SHPPS website](#).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, laura@aaidd.org

News and Journal Articles

[Developing problems.](#)

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Little girls really are growing up faster. A new study shows that girls are now reaching puberty, on average, before the age of 10. Researchers wonder whether lifestyle or environmental chemicals are to blame. Dublin Irish Times, Ireland.

[See other articles related to reproductive health and exposures: [Phthalates impair female reproduction, too, finds fish study](#) and [Early-life exposure to BPA may affect testis function in adulthood](#)]

[EPA toxics standards for cities are 10 years late, IG report says.](#)

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

More than 10 years after releasing a plan to reduce health risks from toxic emissions in urban areas, US EPA has not followed through with new rules or updated risk assessments for smaller local sources, according to a new report by the agency's inspector general. Greenwire.

[See other articles about toxic contamination in Washington State: [Hanford barrier plan better block vs. waste in river](#)]

[A nuclear paradox.](#)

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

The nation's first uranium mill in 25 years promises to bring good jobs and a stable economy -- amid a history of health impacts, environmental harm and unstable prices -- to a region still struggling in the wake of the industry's last bust. Daily Climate.

[Toxins found in whales bode ill for humans, report says.](#)

Friday, June 25, 2010

Sperm whales feeding even in the most remote reaches of Earth's oceans have built up stunningly high levels of toxic and heavy metals, according to American scientists who say the findings spell danger not only for marine life but for the millions of humans who depend on seafood. Associated Press.

[Potential influence of climate change on vector-borne and zoonotic diseases: A review and proposed research plan.](#)

Friday, June 25, 2010

We develop 6 specific goals for increasing understanding of the interaction between climate and vector-borne and zoonotic diseases and improving capacity for predicting climate change effects on incidence and distribution of VBZD. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See another article related to climate change and health: [Urban form and extreme heat events: Are sprawling cities more vulnerable to climate change than compact cities?](#)]

Mercury promotes blood clots, which increases heart disease risk.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Research shows that red blood cells, when dying after exposure to mercury, release proteins that encourage blood cells and platelets to clot and clump together -- or coagulate -- inside vessels. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Why mercury is more dangerous in oceans](#)]

VA launches program for soldiers exposed to chemicals in Iraq.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

The Department of Veterans Affairs is creating a program designed to aid military personnel who came in contact with a toxic chemical known as sodium dichromate during their service in Iraq. The move could provide assistance to dozens of members of the Indiana National Guard. Evansville Courier & Press, Indiana.

[See other articles about exposures from military action: [U.S. troops face new threat: Afghanistan's toxic sand](#), [UN starts \\$5m Agent Orange cleanup at Vietnam base and \\$300 million needed for Agent Orange in Vietnam](#)]

FDA warns maker of product used as alternative autism treatment.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

A product promoted to parents of children with autism is not a harmless dietary supplement, as claimed, but a toxic unapproved drug that lacks adequate warnings about potential side effects, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned in a letter to its maker. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[See another article about autism and environment: [Urinary porphyrin excretion in neurotypical and autistic children](#)]

Law would require reducing sulfur in common heating oil.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Moving to reduce air pollution, the New York State Assembly approved legislation on Wednesday that requires a drastic cut in sulfur levels in the heating oil most commonly used by households across the state. New York Times.

[See other articles about air quality concerns: [UA scientists look for link between disease and AZ's air & water](#); [Could breathing car exhaust trigger a stroke?](#); [EPA lags on setting some air standards, report finds](#); [Springfield says 'no' to biomass and Trash-burning power plant in Fairfield fires debate](#)]

Create a healthy home for your newborn.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

New moms and dads certainly have plenty to worry about, especially with news about toxic bottles, bedding and even toys. It might seem overwhelming for parents-to-be, but there are several easy ways you can create a healthy home for your child while doing your part to leave a cleaner environment for their future. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See another article about parents' concerns over children's products: [Toxic fears spark some parents to rethink sunscreen](#)]

Coffee may cut risk of head and neck cancers.

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Coffee might stave off more than just sleep, according to research showing that those who chug a lot of java have a lower rate of head and neck cancers. Reuters Health.

[See other articles about cancer and environment: [Bisphosphonates linked to lower breast cancer risk](#), [Outlawed insecticide linked to prostate cancer](#), [Why skin cancer is on the rise](#), [Sugary foods linked to pancreatic cancer risk](#) and [Jail for vendors who ripen fruits with chemicals](#)]

Software cuts CT radiation dose in half: Study.

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

A new software program that enhances the quality of CT images allowed doctors to cut in half the radiation dose needed for a colon scan and still produce clear images, U.S. researchers said on Monday. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Huge radiation risk: The hospital](#) and another about access to diagnostic technology and impacts on health outcomes: [Board to hold forum on access to medical diagnostic equipment](#)]

[Justices back Monsanto on biotech seed planting.](#)

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

The Supreme Court, in a 7-to-1 decision, said the lower court judge had gone too far, ruling that the national ban prevented the Agriculture Department from considering a partial approval. New York Times.

[EPA to delay enforcing lead-paint regulation.](#)

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided to delay enforcing a new lead-paint regulation following pressure from home builders and members of Congress. Wall Street Journal.

[See other articles about lead exposures and regulation: [EPA to study the effects of aircraft using leaded fuel, may impose changes](#) and [Maternal low-level lead exposure and fetal growth](#)]

[Early-life exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls reduces immune response to vaccination.](#)

Monday, June 21, 2010

Children exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) early in life later had a diminished immune response to diphtheria and tetanus vaccinations, according to a study published online in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP). Newswise.

[Flame retardants can alter thyroid hormones in pregnant women, new study shows.](#)

Monday, June 21, 2010

High levels of brominated flame retardants can alter pregnant women's thyroid hormones, which are critical to a baby's growth and brain development, according to a California study published Monday. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles: [NIEHS director reacts to study of pregnant women, urges more investigation of flame retardants](#) and [New research indicates higher risk for miscarriage in pregnant women with thyroid hormone levels on high end of normal](#)]

[Science suffers when it's put in the 'spin' cycle.](#)

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Determining if trace amounts of chemicals in the environment pose a risk to health is not like determining how many calories there are in a gram of sugar. And when there are various vested interests involved, there is always the motivation to twist data in the direction of a desired outcome. Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

[See a related book review: [Snuffing out science](#)]

[Exploring ways everyone can help environment.](#)

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Right now, we don't pay the full cost of pollution control, and that pollution is disproportionately dumped on poor people and minorities. Houston Chronicle.

[See a related article: [Anger grows across the world at the real price of 'frontier oil'](#)]

[Health risks for those living within 500m of main roads.](#)

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Children living within 500 metres of a major road or freeway are at greater risk of developing asthma, while adults face an increased likelihood of lung and heart-related illnesses, a landmark international study on vehicle air pollution and health research has revealed. Melbourne Age, Australia.

[See a related announcement: [Take actions this summer to reduce exposures to asthma triggers](#) and articles: [Dogs plus pollutants may raise asthma risk in kids](#); [Residential](#)

[exposure to motor vehicle emissions and the risk of wheezing among 7-8 year-old schoolchildren: A city-wide cross-sectional study in Nicosia, Cyprus and Short-term effects of air pollution on wheeze in asthmatic children in Fresno, California\]](#)

[Warning: 'Toy Story 3' partnership with Toys R Us may be toxic for kids.](#)

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Independent product testing conducted by the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor, Mich., has confirmed that Toys R Us is selling "Toy Story 3" merchandise made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl), a poison plastic. PR Newswire.

[Health studies gas up.](#)

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Colorado has launched one of the nation's first health assessments of gas-drilling impacts. It will be one of the first times that regulators will be asked to consider a detailed health assessment when permitting gas drilling. High Country News.

[See a related announcement: [EPA announces a schedule of public meetings on hydraulic fracturing research study](#) and articles: [Gulf oil spill worsens -- but what about the safety of gas fracking?](#); [A colossal fracking mess](#); [Chemicals used in 'fracking' often a mystery at spill cleanup time](#); [In fracking debate, 'disclosure' is in the eye of the beholder](#); [Josh Fox](#); [Natural gas-powered vans could boost jobs, reduce pollution from autos and Pennsylvania natural gas drilling uses chemicals linked to illness](#)]

[US accused of double standards over Bhopal.](#)

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Activists seeking justice in the world's worst industrial disaster in the Indian city of Bhopal are accusing the United States of double standards, saying it penalised firms polluting its soil but ignored its mistakes abroad. Dublin Irish Times, Ireland.

[White rice, brown rice, and risk of type 2 diabetes in US men and women.](#)

Friday, June 18, 2010

We estimated that replacing 50 g/d (uncooked, equivalent to one-third serving per day) intake of white rice with the same amount of brown rice was associated with a 16% lower risk of type 2 diabetes. Archives of Internal Medicine.

[Free range eggs contain a little something extra: Pollutants.](#)

Friday, June 18, 2010

A Taiwanese study found that free-range eggs contain much higher levels of industrial pollutants than eggs laid by caged hens. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Low, high manganese levels may affect the infant brain.](#)

Friday, June 18, 2010

Babies with either relatively high or relatively low levels of manganese in their blood may be slower to hit certain developmental milestones in their first year than other infants, a new study suggests. Reuters Health.

[Tylenol recall broadens; includes extra strength, Benadryl.](#)

Thursday, June 17, 2010

A Tylenol recall issued last year by the Johnson & Johnson unit of McNeil Consumer Healthcare because of chemical contamination has been expanded for a second time to include Benadryl Allergy Ultratablets and Extra Strength Tylenol. ABC News.

[See articles about other recalls: [Kellogg's cereal recall highlights a new concern](#); [Chemicals leaching from food packaging](#) and [Cadmium in 'Shrek' glasses could extend to past souvenirs](#)]

[Removing stubborn fluorines detoxifies CFCs.](#)

Thursday, June 17, 2010

A new method for removing fluorines from fluorinated chemicals offers a promising method to detoxify some types of organohalogen pollutants, such as CFCs. Environmental Health News.

[A better way to clean up old dry-cleaning sites.](#)

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Pollution control crews began using a new technique on Wednesday to clean up tainted soil and water at a site near Duluth, hoping they have found a simpler and cheaper way of dealing with cancer-causing chemicals often traced to old dry-cleaning sites.

Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota.

[See a related article: [Contamination cleanup nears end](#)]

EPA checks science on 4 chemical assessments.

Thursday, June 17, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is holding four ongoing IRIS (Integrated Risk Information System) assessments [on methanol, MTBE, ETBE and acrylonitrile] pending a review of some of the underlying studies used in the assessments. Environmental Protection.

Household insecticides appear in umbilical cord blood.

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Common household insecticides reached detectable levels in the blood of the majority of babies born at an urban hospital. Chemical & Engineering News.

[See related articles about pesticide regulation: [Dispute over pesticide for California strawberries has implications beyond state](#)]

C8 exposure linked to ADHD in children.

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Children exposed to higher levels of C8 [also known as PFOA] are at an increased risk of developing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, according to a scientific paper published this week. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[See the research article: [Exposure to polyfluoroalkyl chemicals and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in U.S. children aged 12-15 years](#)]

Nutrients may be why some smokers avoid cancer.

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Smokers who have higher levels of vitamin B6 and certain essential proteins in their blood have a lower risk of getting lung cancer than those deficient in these nutrients, according to study by cancer specialists. Reuters.

[See other articles about smoking and health: [Smoking may contribute to pelvic pain in pregnancy](#), [Smoking not found to affect endometriosis risk](#), [Russia adopts 'smoking kills' warnings](#) and [Smoking around kids exacts a high toll: Studies](#)]

San Francisco passes cellphone radiation law.

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Imposing roughly the same cautionary standards for cellphones as for fatty food or sugary soda, this city -- never shy about its opinions -- voted on Tuesday to require all retailers to display the amount of radiation each phone emits. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Cellphone industry attacks San Francisco's ruling on radiation](#), [Cell phone risks still murky](#) and [Mobiles 'too dangerous' for children](#) and one about cell phone masts: [Study finds no link between phone masts and childhood cancers](#)]

Workplace cancer costing 8,000 lives a year.

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Carcinogenic substances and demanding shift-work practices may be linked to more cancer fatalities in Britain than previously thought, according to new research. Ecologist.

[See other articles about workplace exposures and health: [Exposure to benzene at work and the risk of leukemia: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#); [Cancer cases on the rise, says health report](#) and ["No strong evidence" PCP damages genes](#)]

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)