



## Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin August 11, 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

This groundbreaking one-day symposium October 1st in San Francisco will highlight a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care.

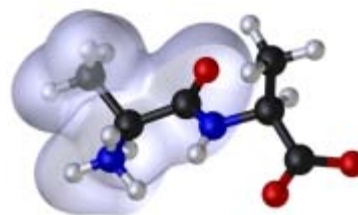
[Visit the website.](#)

### Lessons Learned

#### Green Chemistry? Think of Our Children.

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Every day we use or come in contact with a vast array of chemicals. Approximately 3000 chemicals are manufactured at over 1 million pounds per year. We know from experience that many of these chemicals are hazardous to life and do not degrade. These chemicals are classified as persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT). Landfills and hazardous waste sites accumulate chemicals and products with a mixture of chemicals.



Green chemistry is a new approach that offers a more sustainable path in the use of chemicals and product development.

"Green chemistry is the utilization of a set of principles that reduces or eliminates the use or generation of hazardous substances in the design, manufacture and application of chemical products."

- Paul T. Anastas and John C. Warner  
*Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice*  
(Oxford University Press: New York, 1998)

"Green chemistry consists of chemicals and chemical processes designed to reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts. The use and production of these chemicals may involve reduced waste products, non-toxic components, and improved efficiency."

- Environmental Protection Agency  
Introduction to the Concept Of Green Chemistry

To ensure a sustainable future for our children we must embrace a new approach to the manufacture and use of chemicals and natural resources - our children's future depends on it.

Learn more about green chemistry: <http://toxipedia.org/x/X6Rb>

### **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>.

### **[EPA sets first national limits to reduce mercury and other toxic emissions from cement plants.](#)**

This action sets the nation's first limits on mercury air emissions from existing cement kilns, strengthens the limits for new kilns, and sets emission limits that will reduce acid gases.

### **[New consumer guide: PVC-Free School Supplies.](#)**

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice has published their third-annual Back-to-School Guide to PVC-Free School Supplies to empower parents to make smarter, healthier shopping choices for a toxic-free future.

*[See a related article about health threats to students: [PCB threat lurks in Staten Island schools](#)]*

### **[EPA issues new guide to improving stormwater management local streams, Chesapeake Bay to benefit.](#)**

Improperly managed stormwater runoff from urbanized areas can damage streams, cause significant erosion, and carry excessive nutrients, sediment, toxic metals, volatile organic compounds, and other pollutants downstream.

### **[Call for comments: EPA's Reanalysis of Key Issues Related to Dioxin Toxicity and Response to NAS Comments.](#)**

The deadline for comments has now been extended until September 20, 2010. EPA has replaced the draft report (main) on June 9th with a copy with included links to the report's citations available as a reference from the HERO Database.

### **[EPA report: 22 million cataract cases will be prevented by stronger ozone layer protection.](#)**

The EPA announced a new peer-reviewed report predicting that more than 22 million additional cataract cases will be avoided for Americans born between 1985 and 2100 due to the Montreal Protocol.

### **[Updated Tables from CDC's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.](#)**

The Updated Tables, July 2010 provides additional data from the 2005-2006 survey period for 51 of the chemicals previously reported through 2004 in the Fourth Report and the new addition of four parabens and two phthalate metabolites in 2005-2006.

### **[EPA rejects claims of flawed climate science.](#)**

After months of serious consideration of the petitions and of the state of climate change science, EPA's review shows that climate science is credible, compelling, and growing stronger.

*[See a related article: [Scientists say soot a key factor in warming](#)]*

### **[New website: Healthy Food Action.](#)**

Healthy Food Action makes explicit the links between health, food and farm policy. Whether it's rising obesity in kids, the use of arsenic in animal feed, antibiotics being squandered to make livestock grow faster, or a Farm Bill that undercuts the nation's health, this site will provide timely information and make it easy to take action to influence public policy.

*[See related articles: [Obesity rates keep rising, troubling health officials](#); [Extra pregnancy pounds hurt baby: Study](#) and [Under fire, Health Department pulls back on](#)*

*arsenic report]*

**[EPA to hold listening sessions on potential revisions to water quality standards regulation.](#)**

Potential revisions include strengthening protection for water bodies with water quality that already exceeds or meet the interim goals of the Clean Water Act; ensuring that standards reflect a continued commitment to these goals wherever attainable; improving transparency of regulatory decisions; and strengthening federal oversight. The public listening sessions will be held via audio teleconferences on August 24 and 26, 2010, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT.

**[Call for proposals: Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change.](#)**

This FOA encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change.

**[Job opening: Augusta, Maine.](#)**

The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) seeks an executive director. Current advocacy work focuses in four program areas: energy efficiency and clean renewable energy, protection from toxic chemicals in consumer products, protecting Maine's North woods, and ensuring healthy rivers and watersheds.

**[Job opening: Colorado Springs, Colorado.](#)**

The El Paso County Department of Health and Environment has an opening for an environmental health specialist in their Environmental Health Services program within the Disease Prevention and Control Division. The application deadline is August 30, 2010.

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

US Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10, Office of Ecosystems, Tribal & Public Affairs, Ecosystems & Community Health Unit has an opening for an environmental protection specialist to serve as an environmental justice coordinator. Applications are due August 16, 2010.

**[Job openings: Oakland, California.](#)**

The UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment is seeking to fill two positions: 1) a postdoc to work on a project that addresses one key aspect of how to incorporate new and emerging science into environmental health policy and decision-making and 2) a research coordinator to assist in managing all phases of research activity. Contact Jason Harless: [harlessj@obgyn.ucsf.edu](mailto:harlessj@obgyn.ucsf.edu).

## 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) CHE Café Call: On the Ground in the Gulf Coast: A Conversation with Wilma Subra and Michael Lerner**

Thursday August 12, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Wilma Subra is one of the foremost resource scientists for low-income communities in the Gulf Coast. This MacArthur Prize-winning chemist has dedicated her career to helping low-income communities get the facts they need about their chemical exposures and the implications for their health. She has worked tirelessly since the BP oil disaster to help communities and disaster workers understand their exposures. This conversation will bring the CHE community up to date on her latest findings. Michael Lerner is vice-chair and co-founder of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment and president of Commonweal, a health and environment institute in Bolinas, California.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

## **2) How Chemical Policy Reform Can Spur Green Chemistry**

Thursday August 12, 2010

2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Chemical Society

In the wake of the largest Gulf oil disaster or public concern over the chemicals in a baby bottle, how will changing legislation affect chemical professionals? Public policy has the potential to transform the chemical industries and set a new course for the next decade. Join our speaker, Richard Denison, and learn about the latest green chemistry policy developments (Safe Chemicals Act/TSCA reform) and how they may affect chemical professionals, chemical industries, and the future of green chemistry. Richard A. Denison is a senior scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

## **3) RFP deadline: Community Challenge Planning Grants and TIGER II Planning Grants**

August 23, 2010

5:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Transportation

HUD's \$40 million Community Challenge Planning Grant Program will foster reform and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. Such efforts may include amending or replacing local master plans, zoning codes, and building codes, either on a jurisdiction-wide basis or in a specific neighborhood, district, corridor, or sector to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, the reuse of older buildings and structures for new purposes, and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainability at the local or neighborhood level. HUD's Community Challenge Planning Grant Program also supports the development of affordable housing through the development and adoption of inclusionary zoning ordinances and other activities such as acquisition of land for affordable housing projects. DOT is authorized to use up to \$35 million of the funds available for TIGER II Discretionary Grants for TIGER II Planning Grants to fund the planning, preparation, or design of surface transportation projects that would be eligible for funding under the TIGER II Discretionary Grant program.

Price: The maximum grant size is \$3 million.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see page 4 of the announcement

## **4) Public Listening Sessions on Potential Revisions to Water Quality Standards Regulation**

Tuesday August 24 and Thursday August 26, 2010

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold two public listening sessions on potential changes to the water quality standards regulation before proposing a national rule. The current regulation, which has been in place since 1983, governs how states and authorized tribes adopt standards needed under the Clean Water Act to protect the

quality of their rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries. Potential revisions include strengthening protection for water bodies with water quality that already exceeds or meet the interim goals of the Clean Water Act; ensuring that standards reflect a continued commitment to these goals wherever attainable; improving transparency of regulatory decisions; and strengthening federal oversight. Water quality standards are the foundation of the water quality-based approach to pollution control, including Total Maximum Daily Loads and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Standards are also a fundamental component of watershed management. At the sessions, EPA will provide a review of the current regulation and a summary of the revisions the agency is considering. Clarifying questions and brief oral comments (three minutes or less) from the public will be accepted at the sessions, as time permits. EPA will consider the comments received as it develops the proposed rulemaking. EPA will also hold separate listening sessions for state, tribal and local governments.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dave Ryan, 202-564-7827 or [Ryan.dave@epa.gov](mailto:Ryan.dave@epa.gov)

### **5) Writing Policies and Procedures**

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 24 - 25, 2010

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

Lacey, Washington

at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall, 3054 Carpenter Road SE

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Clear, concise, and current policies and procedures save time and money, reduce confusion and liability, and stabilize staff action despite turnover. In this two-day workshop, any staff member can learn to write rules and directions that people can understand and use. The course prepares participants to think through policies, procedures, and task outlines more effectively, and to write them in a more readable style. Come and learn the most popular format for policy and procedure writing in Washington State - adopted by various state agencies, counties, cities and corporations.

Price: \$495/\$595 reduced tuition available to employees of Native American tribes, government agencies, and nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, and NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 425-270-3274 or [info@nwetc.org](mailto:info@nwetc.org)

### **6) Wireless SmartMeters: What Are the Health, Personal Safety, Wireless Security and Excessive Billing Issues All About? What Can Consumers Do Now?**

Wednesday August 25, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Working Group on Electromagnetic Fields (CHE-EMF)

CHE-EMF has been a leading international forum for expert dialogue on EMF concerns. A major new concern has emerged, especially in California, where PG&E is requiring that all homes and businesses install wireless "SmartMeters" that represent a major new source of EMF exposure. At present, PG&E offers no way for concerned individuals, organizations and communities to opt out. A sizable grassroots protest movement has emerged in California challenging PG&E's SmartMeter requirement on health, privacy, financial, fire hazard and other grounds. Our particular concern at CHE is the health risks these meters may pose through life-long exposure to this new and significant EMF source, especially in the home. Cindy Sage is cofacilitator of CHE EMF and lead cofounder of BioInitiative.org, a multi-author report on EMF concerns that is widely recognized as an international science resource. On this call, Cindy will present a summary review of the concerns with SmartMeters. Michael Lerner will explore some of

these concerns with her and then open the dialogue to all participants.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

**7) RFP deadline: Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change**

Saturday August 28, 2010

5:00 p.m. local time

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences with participation from the other NIH components

This FOA encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change. Applications may involve either applied research studies that address specific hypotheses about risk factors or population characteristics associated with increased vulnerability, or research projects to develop general models or methods for identifying and characterizing population vulnerability to climate change. The ultimate goal of this research program is to help inform climate change adaptation and public health interventions to reduce current and future vulnerability of various populations to the health effects of climate change. Applications are anticipated to involve a multidisciplinary research team, including experts in health sciences and climatology as well as geography, modeling, statistics, demography, and social and behavioral sciences as appropriate. In addition, partnerships with community-based or advocacy organizations, public health officials, urban planners and others are encouraged.

Price: Applicants may request direct costs in \$25,000 modules, up to the total direct costs limitation of \$275,000 for the combined two-year award period.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Contact Center, 800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

**8) School Health Policies and Program Study 2006: Healthy Physical School Environment**

Tuesday August 31, 2010

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

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

As society continues to focus on the importance of academic achievement, the physical environment of schools should be addressed as one of the critical factors that influence academic outcomes. The School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school and classroom levels. SHPPS 2006 provides a comprehensive look at the extent to which schools have health-promoting physical school environment policies and programs. This presentation will provide an overview of SHPPS and findings for topics such as inspection of school physical facilities; school plans for dealing with mold and moisture-related issues; indoor air-quality management; pest management procedures; purchase of low-emitting products; testing of drinking water; and the use, labeling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. This is a rescheduling of a teleconference from mid July.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, [Laura@aaidd.org](mailto:Laura@aaidd.org)

### **9) Environmental Negotiations for Scientists and Resource Managers**

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 31 - September 1, 2010

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

Sacramento, California

at the Radisson Hotel-Sacramento, 500 Leisure Lane

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This workshop provides attendees with improved skills for effective participation in environmental negotiations. Environmental negotiations are often more complex due to their technical and regulatory intricacy, interest from many parties, and the emotional nature of parties involved. This workshop presents basic negotiation concepts, specific environmental applications, and principled (ethical) negotiation approaches for building trust and relationships. Role-playing provides an interactive method of reinforcing negotiation principles and will be used to teach participants how to recognize commonly encountered tactics while producing responses. Participants will gain a better understanding of negotiation principles, as well as approaches and practices for improving outcomes. In addition, the skills taught in this class will help participants increase their confidence and reduce the anxiety they feel while working to achieve these outcomes. Course materials will provide useful tools for future negotiations.

Price: \$795 or \$695 for employees of Native American tribes, government agencies, and nonprofits; students; and NAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 425-270-3274

### **10) RFP deadline: Mechanisms Underlying the Links between Psychosocial Stress, Aging, the Brain and the Body**

Saturday September 8, 2012

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services

This FOA encourages multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research to elucidate the mechanistic links between psychosocial stress and health in aging, as well as how the aging process and age-related diseases affect the responses to psychosocial stressors. Generally, research should be focused on (1) aging and how neural mechanisms respond to psychosocial stress and affect other body systems; (2) characterizing the behavioral, psychological and social mechanisms and pathways involved in transducing psychosocial stressors into health outcomes; (3) how stressors modulate physiological process underlying lifespan, immune mechanisms, and metabolism; and (4) how psychosocial stress contributes to the development or progression of geriatric syndromes, chronic medical conditions, and disabilities in later life. Research is strongly encouraged that aims to identify appropriate targets for intervention, at any level of analysis, from societal to molecular. Research spanning multiple levels of analysis is particularly encouraged. Research focused on oxidative stress or on environmental or physical stressors of a non-psychosocial nature is not appropriate to this FOA.

Price: varies

[Visit the website](#)

### **11) RFP deadline: Diet, Epigenetic Events, and Cancer Prevention**

Saturday September 8, 2012

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services

The aim of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA), issued by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is to

promote clinical and preclinical research to determine how diet and dietary factors, including dietary supplements, impact DNA methylation, histone posttranslational modification, noncoding RNA, and other epigenetic processes involved in cancer prevention and development. Another important aim of this FOA is to encourage collaborations between nutrition and epigenetic experts to study bioactive food components with cancer-preventive properties and to examine key epigenetic events in cancer processes (e.g., carcinogen metabolism, cell division, differentiation, and apoptosis) in order to begin to establish linkages between epigenetics, methylation patterns, and tumor incidences/behaviors.

Price: varies

[Visit the website](#)

### **12) RFP deadline: Nutrition and Physical Activity Research to Promote Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Health**

Saturday September 8, 2012

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services

This FOA encourages Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose research on the roles of nutrition and physical activity in the development, prevention, and management of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) or pulmonary diseases. In particular, the FOA aims to (1) improve knowledge of the contribution of diet and physical activity to these conditions and how sleep influences these relationships, (2) increase the evidence base for refining public health recommendations and clinical guidelines regarding these lifestyle behaviors, and (3) develop and test strategies to improve the adoption of these recommendations.

Price: varies

[Visit the website](#)

### **13) IFEH 11th World Congress on Environmental Health**

Friday September 10, 2010

Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

Sponsor: International Federation of Environmental Health

The theme "Global Health Protection from Sea to Sky" provides a broad platform from which we will explore universal challenges to environmental health in an era of increasing globalization.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Oil sands toxics growing rapidly.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Canada's oil sands mining operations produce vast and fast-growing quantities of deadly substances, including mercury, heavy metals and arsenic, new data released by Environment Canada shows. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

### **[Fluoride helps, officials say, but fears persist.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

The CDC has recognized water fluoridation as "one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century" because it has reduced cavity rates. Some communities, though, are reluctant to add fluoride to their water systems because of campaigns claiming fluoride is dangerous. Gainesville Sun, Florida.

### **[Mystery rise in children suffering food allergies.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Hospital admissions for food allergies among children have risen by 500 percent in the last 20 years but doctors do not understand what is driving the increase. Experts say that even these figures underestimate the true incidence of the condition. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[See another article about children's allergies: [Damp house linked to kids' risk of nasal allergies](#) and [Junk food diet puts children at higher risk of allergies](#)]

### **What REALLY raises the risk of breast cancer?**

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Britain's rate of breast cancer is soaring, with as many as one in nine women affected by the devastating disease. We asked an expert to weigh up the evidence on the various theories. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See related articles about breast cancer: [Mediterranean diet tied to lower breast cancer risk](#) and [Diet and alcohol alter epigenetics of breast cancer, study suggests](#) and other articles related to cancer: [Cancer cells slurp up fructose, US study finds](#); [FDA staff: Cancer a concern with Medtronic device](#) and [Unique link found between mad cow disease and cancer](#)]

### **Air pollution also affects heart, blood vessels, brain.**

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Scientists now believe air pollution is harder on health than once suspected, and that it's not just lungs that suffer. Hearts, blood vessels and brains do, too. USA Today.

[See other articles about air quality: [Ambient air pollution exposure and full-term birth weight in California](#); [Outdoor particulate matter and childhood asthma admissions in Athens, Greece: A time-series study](#); [Idling buses bad for air, kids](#); [Case-crossover analysis of air pollution health effects: A systematic review of methodology and application](#); [Oxidative damage to DNA and lipids as biomarkers of exposure to air pollution](#); ['Smogtruck' charts big rig fumes](#); ['Desert dust' days may worsen kids' asthma](#) and [Airborne particulate matter and mitochondrial damage: a cross-sectional study](#)]

### **Early puberty for girls is raising health concerns.**

*Monday, August 09, 2010*

American girls are hitting puberty earlier than ever -- a change that puts them at higher risk for behavioral problems as adolescents and breast cancer as adults, a new study shows. USA Today.

### **Experts warn of danger in coal tar sealant.**

*Saturday, August 07, 2010*

A probable carcinogen found in coal tar sealants is accumulating at an increasing rate in the environment, a pair of government researchers told Springfield City Council members this week. Springfield News-Leader, Missouri.

### **Doctors prescribe fewer antibiotics.**

*Saturday, August 07, 2010*

B.C. kids are still being prescribed unnecessary antibiotics, but the number is declining significantly among Vancouver Island children from infants to early teens, say data just released by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control. Canwest News Service.

### **Eliminating diabetes and depression, and boosting education, most likely to ward off dementia.**

*Friday, August 06, 2010*

Eliminating diabetes and depression, as well as increasing education and fruit and vegetable consumption, are likely to have the biggest impact on reducing levels of dementia in the coming years, should no effective treatment be found, concludes a study published on the British Medical Journal website. ScienceDaily.

### **Will this phone kill you?**

*Friday, August 06, 2010*

To get a sense of the total, complete, and utter mess that is research on the

health effects of cell phones, look no further than a study of whether the ubiquitous gadgets raise the risk of brain tumors. Newsweek.

*[See related articles: [Portland, Arcata look at cell-phone radiation](#) and [Do communication masts signal rising health dangers?](#)]*

#### [The ugly side of beauty.](#)

*Friday, August 06, 2010*

In *No More Dirty Looks*, former Montrealers Siobhan O'Connor and Alexandra Spunt dish on the dangers of our beauty products, the trials and tribulations of finding natural alternatives and why we should change our habits now. Montreal Mirror, Quebec.

#### [Scientist creates sunscreen from ivy.](#)

*Thursday, August 05, 2010*

As more testing is performed on the nanosized metal compounds, used in everything from paint to vitamins, many researchers are searching for organic alternatives. Inside Science News Service.

#### [BPA may harm sperm in men, University of Michigan study finds.](#)

*Wednesday, August 04, 2010*

Bisphenol A, the chemical commonly known as BPA, and found in everything from water bottles to food-can liners, may be linked to decreased sperm quality in men, according to a new study from the University of Michigan. AnnArbor.com, Michigan.

*[See related articles: [Urinary, circulating, and tissue biomonitoring studies indicate widespread exposure to bisphenol A](#) and [Bisphenol A and its potential health risks](#)]*

#### [Tribe denies trash.](#)

*Wednesday, August 04, 2010*

At the last minute, the Yakama Nation blocked a bid by Hawaii to ship their household garbage to a landfill that sits amid their ancestral lands in south central Washington State. High Country News, Paonia, Colorado.

*[See another article about waste disposal: [Crops absorb pharmaceuticals from treated sewage](#)]*

#### [Asbestos, a toxic neighbour.](#)

*Wednesday, August 04, 2010*

Although the use and importation of asbestos has been banned by 52 nations, more than 1,800 companies in Mexico use the mineral to manufacture some 3,000 products, like brake linings, furnaces and pipes. In the greater Mexico City area alone, 42 companies work with raw asbestos. Inter Press Service.

*[See other articles about asbestos: [Sunriver sues feds over army camp's asbestos](#) and [GM's estate may face billions in asbestos claims](#)]*

#### [Autism Speaks on US Senate hearing on potential environmental health factors in autism.](#)

*Wednesday, August 04, 2010*

As this hearing reviews studies funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences on environmental factors associated with autism, including toxins and other factors that can influence brain development, Dr. Dawson reiterated that it is important to remember that, "Although genetic factors clearly contribute to the causes of autism, we also need to understand environmental factors and their interactions with genetic susceptibility." EurekAlert!

*[See related articles regarding autism: [Educators, officials face 400 % spike in autism](#); [Concern over controversial autism drug \[Lupron\]](#) and [Autism correlation to wealth affirmed](#)]*

#### [U.S. dietary supplements often contaminated -- report.](#)

*Tuesday, August 03, 2010*

Many popular dietary supplements contain ingredients that may cause cancer, heart problems, liver or kidney damage, but U.S. stores sell them anyway and Americans spend millions on them, according to Consumer Reports. Reuters. [\[See a related article: US dietary supplements not as safe as consumers might assume\]](#)

#### [NIEHS and the action agenda on chemical exposures.](#)

*Tuesday, August 03, 2010*

Launched with fanfare at a meeting attended by some 500 people in Washington June 26, 2009, the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures has mobilized more than 200 specialists, industry representatives, and environmental health advocates to participate on a leadership council and in work groups crafting statements on aspects of the issue. Environmental Factor. [\[See a related article: U.S. regulators lack data on health risks of most chemicals\]](#)

#### [Kids at risk of lead poisoning.](#)

*Monday, August 02, 2010*

One child develops lead poisoning every nine days in the Queensland mining town of Mt Isa, researchers say. The new report published in the Medical Journal of Australia comes amid legal action against the mining company Xstrata that alleges its activities have left children brain damaged. Australian Associated Press.

[\[See related articles: Groups seek ban on lead in sporting ammunition, Lead paint problems still haunt Green Bay renters and The association between bone turnover, micronutrient intake and blood lead levels among pre- and post-menopausal women, NHANES 1999-2002\]](#)

#### [Toddler cleaning product accidents dropping in US.](#)

*Monday, August 02, 2010*

Using national data from emergency departments, they found the number of injuries from products such as bleach, ammonia, and laundry detergent had dropped by nearly half between 1990 and 2006. Reuters Health.

#### [After stroke scans, patients face serious health risks.](#)

*Sunday, August 01, 2010*

Among patients tested for strokes with a complex type of brain scan, radiation overdoses were more widespread than previously known, a New York Times examination has found. New York Times.

#### [Activist urges others to become involved.](#)

*Saturday, July 31, 2010*

Lois Gibbs, former Niagara Falls housewife-turned-activist who was at the center of the Love Canal controversy of the late 1970s that led to an overhaul of national pollution laws, made a stop in downtown Toledo Friday to generate support for area activists. Toledo Blade, Ohio.

[\[See a related article: EPA developing tool to assist in Enviro Justice Initiative\]](#)

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

*Saturday, July 31, 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.

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

*Saturday, July 31, 2010*

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

[Wi-Fi opponents make waves.](#)

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Opponents of wireless technology -- particularly the new free Wi-Fi and Bluetooth service along White Rock Beach -- took over the public question period at White Rock council's meeting Monday night. Peace Arch News, British Columbia.

*[See related articles from California: [Residents express concern over SmartMeter radiation](#), [Capitola to ask for SmartMeter moratorium](#) and [Huffman calls for health study on SmartMeters](#)]*

[Can secondhand smoke hurt kids' grades?](#)

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Children and teenagers exposed to secondhand smoke at home may get poorer grades than their peers from smoke-free homes, a study of Hong Kong students suggests. Reuters Health.

*[See related articles: [State ranks high in childhood exposure to secondhand smoke](#); [Surrey smoking ban in parks, beaches a success so far](#) and [The healthy skeptic: Electronic cigarettes](#)]*

[Chemicals in rivers linked to sexual changes in fish, researchers say.](#)

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Alberta researchers say gender-bending fish swimming in the province's southern rivers raise serious questions about whether the water is safe for people to drink. Canadian Press.

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

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Focusing on patterns of disease, as opposed to individual conditions, offers two important venues for environmental health risk reduction. Environmental Health Perspectives.

*[See related articles: [Evolution in environmental health: Incorporating the infectious disease paradigm](#), [A niche for infectious disease in environmental health: Rethinking the toxicological paradigm](#) and [Artificial lighting as a vector attractant and cause of disease diffusion](#)]*

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

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Epidemiologic evidence remains limited, and to date data are insufficient to draw firm conclusions regarding the role of PFOA for any of the diseases of concern. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Computational toxicology: Realizing the promise of the toxicity testing in the 21st century.](#)

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Even though the application of computational toxicology to environmental health decisions requires additional efforts, the merger of the power of computers with biological information is poised to deliver new tools and knowledge. Environmental Health Perspectives.

*[See a related article: [Exposure science: A view of the past and milestones for the future](#)]*

[Subsistence diet not safe from toxins.](#)

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

They're in the foods we eat and the toys our children play with, that's why the safety watchdog group, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, is trying to increase awareness about the chemicals we encounter everyday and recent studies show some concerns about the freshest foods from the wild. Anchorage KTUU TV, Alaska.

*[See other articles about diet and health: [Mom's pregnancy diet not tied to wheezing risk](#); [Western diet link to ADHD](#), [Australian study finds](#) and [Chemicals](#)]*

**[\[Nitrites and nitrates\] in meat may be linked to bladder cancer](#)**

**[Prescription: More sun.](#)**

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

If Stubbs is right about the autism/Vitamin D link, he and a growing legion of scientists across the country might also be right about their larger theory -- that lack of sun exposure and Vitamin D explains Oregon's high rates of depression, multiple sclerosis, bone disease, cancers and dozens of other maladies, including colds and flu. Portland Tribune.

*[See and article with a different view: [Sunbeds double the risk of skin cancer for teenagers](#)]*

**[Climate change exacerbates disparate health conditions among vulnerable populations, experts say.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 28, 2010*

Whatever the reason for extreme weather conditions, whether it is hurricanes or sweltering heat, one thing is certain, researchers say: their impact is greatest on children and other vulnerable populations. Diverse: Issues In Higher Education.

**[Gas drilling companies claim to use safer chemicals.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 28, 2010*

In Texas and across the country, controversy is escalating over the practice of "fracking," which involves shooting water, sand and chemicals far underground to retrieve natural gas. Texas Tribune.

*[See related articles: [Federal, state bills target fracking safety](#), [Concerns raised at gas drilling hearing](#), [US gas firms broke environment rules](#) and [Drilling industry and gubernatorial candidates move to weaken some state regulations](#)]*

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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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