# Collaborative on Health and the Environment

## eNewsletter - June 2012

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**Contents**



*On June 7-8, 2012 over a hundred and fifty participants gathered at the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) for the "Healthy Environments Across Generations" meeting which focused on the impacts that multiple, interacting environments can have on health (including the socioeconomic, chemical, food, built, natural, and psychosocial environments) as well as intergenerational and creative approaches to improve public and planetary health. CHE partnered with NYAM, AARP, the US EPA, The Intergenerational School, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, The Whole Child Center, and Grey is Green, along with over 60 co-sponsors, to put on this event. Peter Whitehouse, MD, PhD, Co-founder of the Intergenerational School and Professor of Neurology at Case Western Reserve University, served on the planning committee. Below he summarizes this event in this month's e-newsletter introduction.*

"Healthy Environments Across Generations" was planned as a 'unconference' from the beginning. The absence of PowerPoint, the presence of conversational formats, the integration of the arts and music, the amplification of our collective experience through

social media, sketches and videography, the lack of disciplinary boundaries, and the openness to creative thinking made this conference more than an event, but part of a mental shift toward collective, positive action based on hope, rather than fear.

Over one and a half days the conversations were built on questions starting with "what are the key issues?" and "what is working now and why?" to "how do we get to the future we want?" We ended with vibrant summaries of what we had learned and found inspirational, and with innovative suggestions about where we go from here. There was broad consensus for organizing other gatherings and sessions at existing annual conferences using the successful format we implemented at NYAM--namely, integrating discussions on multiple environments that influence health with intergenerational perspectives and artistic expression. Initial conversations were held about planning events in New York, Cleveland, Washington and San Francisco, which would include these themes. We are also working to develop an E-book, based on the extraordinary array of materials and expressions of the conference, and to prioritize next steps for a variety of potential collaborative initiatives.

For me, one of the most amazing aspects of the conference was how people were strongly attentive to the present: listening and participating in response to what was happening in the moment--and with a clear eye to the future. The scientific presentations, which evidenced current and potential social and environmental health disasters given our society's current trajectory, were balanced with joyful, interactive, small-group conversations and movement. The conference was also 'intergenerative', by which I mean full of wisdom and innovation that comes from integrating sources of generativity from people of different ages, disciplines, professions and cultural groups. The energy that was created there was a testament to the human spirit--showing how connecting mind, body and heart can catalyze unexpected resilience and positive change.

Perhaps the best way to capture what happened in New York is to let those who attended speak for themselves. Here are a few samples:

*The energy in the room was real. Those assembled were not just bodies filling the room. We were not in the dance hall, we were the dancers. Whether it was through expressive movement during a 'Breath of Fresh Art' or the lively discussion sparked from the various panels, real action based on real evidence was set in motion. Rick Moody ended the conference by stating, "Our work has just begun." I believe that is true. The participants were inspired to return to their respective missions with the messages of the conference in order to make real change and truly create healthier environments across generations.*
- Josh Suvak, intern and undergraduate student, Inamori International Center for Ethics, Case Western University

*This conference gives me hope that we will find a way out of the suffering that social and environmental injustice creates, and instead, work together across the many divides that now exist to rebuild a healthy Commons for all.*
- Gail Christopher, DN, Vice President of Program Strategy, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

*What a breath of fresh air! I truly enjoyed the creativity, passion and broad variety of participants at this conference. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the activities, share ideas and thoughts about how we can all synergize our efforts towards assuring all generations are healthier! Many thanks to the staff who worked so diligently to put this conference together.*
- Yolanda Savage-Narva, Campaign Director, America Walks

*This was an amazing and unique opportunity to integrate what we know about the science with what we know has to be done to create a healthier world. Hats off to the organizers!*
- Antonia Marthaller-Andersen MSN, ARNP, Director, Women to Wellness

*In capturing real-time content during the unconference as part of the social media team, the themes that came across most consistently were: intergenerational solidarity and collaboration, social justice, the need for embodied responses and systems-based approaches, and the value of the arts, emotional connectivity, and hope.*
- Danny George, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Penn State College of Medicine

*Excellent conference! The interactions among all the different participants that represented so many specialty areas was truly inspiring. This is the way to change things --one-on-one-on-one-on-one!*
- Judy Lear, Acting Executive Director, Gray Panthers

Even if you weren't there, please know you are welcome to join our ongoing conversation. Check out our Facebook page as well as our conference resource webpage, and the expanded creative expressions webpage (which now includes an MP3 recording of the song, "Talk to Me", written by Tina Lear specifically for the conference). More information will continue to be posted along with opportunities to participate in collaborative work that emerged from this gathering.

I look forward to working together to create a movement of movements towards a healthy future for all!

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## CHE Partnership Calls

**CHE Partnership call: Expanding Our Understanding of Autism: Beyond Genetics to Whole Systems Approaches**
Thursday June 21, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

RSVP for this call

When autism was first described in the 1940s, it was thought to be unusual, if not rare, and perhaps attributable to poor maternal parenting skills. During the decades that followed genetic heritability became a more popular explanation, and with the advent of techniques for analyzing the genome, the search for "autism genes" is widespread. Meanwhile, according to the CDC, the prevalence of autism continues to increase--now 1 out of 88 American children now has some disorder on the autism spectrum. In recent years, neuroscientists have undertaken a fundamental re-examination of autism spectrum disorders, not denying a genetic contribution but recognizing that complex gene-environment interactions are almost certainly involved in the origins of what appears to be a heterogeneous mixture of conditions. Moreover, while many people focus almost exclusively on neurobehavioral features of autism spectrum disorders, others increasingly recognize additional manifestations, for example in the immune and gastrointestinal systems.

On this call Dr. Martha Herbert, author of The Autism Revolution, will highlight salient points related to autism and environmental health, and she will be joined by Dr. Phil Landrigan who will address his recent commentary in *Environmental Health News* on environmental contributors to autism and learning disabilities and Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp from the CDC who will speak to autism prevalence and trends over time as they have been tracked by the CDC.

The call will be moderated by Elise Miller, MEd, CHE Director. The call will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

## Special Announcements

**New issue of *San Francisco Medicine*: Environmental Health: Toward Healthier Environments Across the Lifespan**
The theme of the June issue is a recurring update from the environmental health field, starting with a review of CHE's work over the decade since its founding. Several leading figures from throughout the environmental health field share their latest perspectives on topics such as reducing cancer risk; low-dose exposures; chemical exposures and diabetes, fertility and autism; nuclear power; electromagnetic fields; and a new tool and a model for further work in environmental health.
Browse the journal online

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**Resources from recent CHE calls**:
If you missed any of the following CHE calls, you may listen to MP3 recordings and find supporting materials at the following links:

- May 24, 2012 - Advancing Risk Assessment: Progress and Ongoing Obstacles
- April 26, 2012 - Designing Healthy Communities: A conversation with Dr. Richard Jackson
- April 17, 2012 - Nanotechnology: A Science and Policy Update

- March 12, 2012 - Phthalates and Proposed REACH Regulations

You can subscribe via podcast to receive notifications of new call recordings added to the CHE archives. View past calls and subscribe to the podcast.

## CHE Working and Regional Group Updates

**Stay in touch with CHE through social media:**
Visit CHE's blog to read a recent post by Sarah Howard, coordinator of CHE's Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group, *Critically High Blood Sugar, Critical Science* and a post from CHE Partner Alice Shabecoff, co-author of *Poisoned for Profit: How Toxins are Making Our Children Chronically Ill,* on increasing autism rates. Comments are welcome.

Visit CHE's Facebook page.

### CHE Climate Change

**~** coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

**~ Climate change and health: Lessons learnt in the WHO European Region**
WHO Europe, which brings together 53 countries in the European region, organized a conference in June to discuss climate adaptation plans, the contribution of the health sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, best practices in raising awareness for climate change as well as progress and existing gaps of research in these fields. High level speakers from the UN and EU agencies, as well as researchers, reported on new findings and challenges on climate change and health in line with the Parma declaration.

WHO has taken the lead on important climate policy developments in the European Region, including the fostering a Regional Framework for Action, which countries are now discussing how to turn into action. The first meeting of the Working Group on Climate change and Health (HIC), of which HEAL is a member, was held to discuss how to support countries and exchange best practice in implementing the framework.

During the event, results of an adaptation pilot project in seven central European and central Asian countries were presented (Albania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). Projects in these countries ranged from heat wave early warning schemes, water and food security improvements, infectious disease monitoring and renewable energy as well as energy efficiency as means to improve energy security in hospitals.

**~ New NRDC study: Killer Summer Heat: Death Toll in U.S. Cities from Rising**

**Temperatures Due to Climate Change**
150,000 annual excess heat deaths in the US by the end of the century are projected in a recent NRDC study due to an increase in heat wave frequency and intensity because of climate change. These heat related deaths are estimated to happen in the biggest U.S. cities alone, where concentrated populations of poor people without access to air conditioning are expected to contribute most to rising death tolls. Illnesses that are caused or made worse by extreme heat--including heat exhaustion, heat stroke, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease--already lead to hundreds of deaths each year.
Read full report

**~ Climate Change: How the low carbon economy can improve health**
Health professionals are uniquely placed to guide the climate change conversation towards better policies that are good for the planet and for people, say Andy Haines, Departments of Social and Environmental Health Research and Nutrition and Public Health Intervention Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London and Carlos Dora, Interventions for Healthy Environments Unit, Department of Public Health and the Environment, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. BMJ 2012; 344 doi: 10.1136/bmj.e1018 (Published 19 March 2012).
Read more

**~ PubMed: Connecting the Global Climate Change and Public Health Agendas**
Peter Byass and colleagues urge public health professionals to strengthen their response and develop actions to bring health and climate co-benefits. PLoS Med. 2012 June; 9(6): e1001227.
Read more

## Cumulative Impacts Working Group hosted by CHE and SEHN

**~** coordinated by Elise Miller and Carolyn Raffensperger, for more information visit the Cumulative Impacts website

**~ Working group strategy teleconference**
The Cumulative Impacts Working Group met on June 18th to review the past two years of work in the field of cumulative impacts and to plan for the future work of the group.
Listen to the MP3 recording

## CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum

**~** coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

**~ EHN Series: Pollution, Poverty, People of Color addresses diabetes**
"Dirty soil and diabetes: Anniston's toxic legacy": *As a cleanup of West Anniston stretches into its eighth year, new research has linked PCBs exposure to a high rate of diabetes in this community of about 4,000 people, nearly all African American and half*

*living in poverty. Even today, people there are among the most highly contaminated in the world.* Read the full story

**~ Conferences**

Sarah Howard represented CHE at the American Diabetes Association's 72nd Scientific Sessions, moderating the Epidemiology and Statistics Interest Group discussion session on "Environmental Chemicals and Diabetes Risk," and leading a poster tour on "Environmental Risk Factors for Diabetes." Presentations and posters featured new research on arsenic, POPs, air pollution, and heavy metals in diabetes and related conditions.

**~ New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals**

De Roos AJ, Ulrich CM, Sjodin A, McTiernan A. 2012. Adiposity, body composition, and weight change in relation to organochlorine pollutant plasma concentrations. J.Expo.Sci.Environ.Epidemiol.

Gasull M, Pumarega J, Tellez-Plaza M, Castell C, Tresserras R, Lee DH, Porta M. 2012. Blood Concentrations of Persistent Organic Pollutants and Prediabetes and Diabetes in the General Population of Catalonia. Environ.Sci.Technol.

Li R, Magadia J, Fein SB, Grummer-Strawn LM. 2012. Risk of Bottle-feeding for Rapid Weight Gain During the First Year of Life. Arch.Pediatr.Adolesc.Med. 166(5):431-436.

Makris KC, Christophi CA, Paisi M, Ettinger AS. 2012. A preliminary assessment of low level arsenic exposure and diabetes mellitus in Cyprus. BMC.Public Health 12(1):334.

Patterson CC, Gyurus E, Rosenbauer J, Cinek O, Neu A, Schober E, Parslow RC, Joner G, Svensson J, Castell C, et al. 2012. Trends in childhood type 1 diabetes incidence in Europe during 1989-2008: evidence of non-uniformity over time in rates of increase. Diabetologia.

Roos V, Ronn M, Salihovic S, Lind L, Bavel BV, Kullberg J, Johansson L, Ahlstrom H, Lind PM. 2012. Circulating Levels of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Relation to Visceral and Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue by Abdominal MRI. Obesity.(Silver.Spring)

Schmidt JS, Schaedlich K, Fiandanese N, Pocar P, Fischer B. 2012. Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP) Impairs Female Fertility and Promotes Adipogenesis in C3H/N Mice. Environ.Health Perspect.

Su CT, Lin HC, Choy CS, Huang YK, Huang SR, Hsueh YM. 2012. The relationship between obesity, insulin and arsenic methylation capability in Taiwan adolescents. Sci.Total Environ. 414:152-158.

## CHE Fertility

**~** coordinated by Karin Russ, karin@healthandenvironment.org

**~ CHE Teleconference: Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) Waves and Reproductive Health Risks, May 25, 2012**
The MP3 recording of this call is now available.
EMF waves from cell phones, computers and other wireless electronic devices are ubiquitous in our environment. The research base linking EMF exposure to negative reproductive health effects continues to grow. This teleconference examined recent research on EMF exposure, infertility, and negative pregnancy outcomes. Participants heard from top international experts in the field: Drs. Ashok Agarwal, De-Kun Li, and Carlo V. Bellieni.

**~ New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals**
Thyroid function and perfluoroalkyl acids in children living near a chemical plant. Children living downstream of a chemical plant in Ohio drink in their water and carry in their blood a stain resistant chemical called PFOA. In one of the first studies of its effects on kids, those with the highest levels are more likely than the less-exposed to have thyroid disease. Pre-birth exposures were also reconstructed for each child from chemical release information. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Unhealthy lifestyles have little impact on sperm quality. Current guidelines from the UK's National Institute for Clinical Excellence advise doctors to warn infertile men about the dangers of smoking, alcohol consumption and recreational drug use, as well as the risks of being overweight and wearing tight underwear. However, a team of scientists from the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield have found that many common lifestyle choices make little difference to male fertility, based on how many swimming sperm men produce. Human Reproduction.

Prenatal exposure to thimerosal and developmental disorders. Thimerosal, an organomercury compound, has been widely used as a preservative. Therefore, concerns have been raised about its neurotoxicity. The authors recently demonstrated perturbation of early serotonergic development by prenatal exposure to thimerosal. In this study, researchers investigated whether prenatal thimerosal exposure causes persistent impairment after birth in a rodent model. Brain Development.

Organophosphate pesticide levels in blood and urine of women and newborns living in an agricultural community. Blood organophosphate pesticide levels of study participants were similar in mothers and newborns and slightly higher than those reported in other populations. However, compared to their mothers, newborns have much lower quantities of the detoxifying PON1 enzyme suggesting that infants may be especially vulnerable to organophosphate pesticide exposures. Environmental Research.

Predicting later-life outcomes of early-life exposures. With mounting evidence connecting early life exposures and later life disease, new strategies are needed to incorporate this emerging knowledge into health protective practices. Environmental

Health Perspectives.

Risk of mental illness higher for premature babies. Compared to babies born at full term, which is 37 to 42 weeks of gestation, babies who were born at less than 32 weeks were 7 times more likely to be hospitalized with bipolar disorder as adults. CNN.

Special issue of the International Journal of Andrology. The June 2012 issue focuses on the impact of endocrine disrupters on reproductive health. Articles include reproductive health effects of phthalates, pesticides, PCBs, dioxin, and mixtures. International Journal of Andrology.

Perfluorinated compounds and subfecundity in pregnant women. Previous studies suggest that the body burden of perfluorinated compounds decreases during pregnancy and lactation through transfer to the fetus and to breast milk. Afterward, the body burden may increase again. Among parous women, increased body burden may be due to a long interpregnancy interval rather than the cause of a long time to pregnancy. Therefore, data from nulliparous women may be more informative regarding toxic effects of perfluorinated compounds. Epidemiology.

How to make a gonad: Cellular mechanisms governing formation of the testes and ovaries. Sex determination of the gonad is an extraordinary process by which a single organ anlage is directed to form one of two different structures, a testis or an ovary. Morphogenesis of these two organs utilizes many common cellular events; differences in the timing and execution of these events must combine to generate sexually dimorphic structures. The authors review recent research on the cellular processes of gonad morphogenesis, focusing on data from mouse models. Sexual Development.

Placental mitochondrial DNA content and particulate air pollution during in utero life. Prenatal PM10 exposure was associated with placental mitochondrial alterations, which may both reflect and intensify oxidative stress production. The potential health consequences of decreased placental mtDNA content in early life must be further elucidated. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Fetal window of vulnerability to PAH on proportional intrauterine growth restriction. Airborne polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons exposure appears to exert the greatest adverse effect on fetal growth during the first trimester. The present data support the need for the protection of pregnant women and the embryo/fetus, particularly during the earliest stage of pregnancy. PLoS One.

Urinary BPA concentrations and implantation failure among women undergoing in vitro fertilization. Exposure to bisphenol A at levels commonly found in the general population may cut a woman's chance of getting pregnant if she is undergoing fertility treatment, a study from Harvard University finds. Those with higher levels were less likely to get pregnant than women with lower levels. While animal studies show similar results, this is the first link reported in people. BPA is widely used in some plastics,

most food can linings and certain receipt paper. Environmental Health Perspectives.

DEHP impairs female fertility and promotes adipogenesis in C3H/N mice. Di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) impaired fertility in high concentrations and increased body weight and visceral fat depots in female C3H/N mice in environmentally relevant dosages. Environmental Health Perspectives.

Mercury, cadmium and lead levels in human placenta: a systematic review. The use of the placenta to assess heavy metals exposure is underdeveloped. International standardized protocols are needed to enhance comparability and increase the usefulness of this promising tissue in biomonitoring studies. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**~ New resources**
Webinar: Environmental Impacts on Reproductive Health: Household Cleaners
This webinar from the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals is archived for access at any time through June 2013, and offers 1 hour of CE. Learning objectives include reproductive health effects associated with cleaning chemicals, critical windows of susceptibility, and strategies for counseling clients on risk reduction. ARHP.

Podcast: Low-dose effects of endocrine disruptors, with Laura Vandenberg
The body of scientific evidence so far suggests that even at very low doses, exposures to endocrine disruptors may have very real effects, and that low-dose effects may disappear at higher doses, giving an illusion of safety if chemicals are not tested at low-enough doses. Environmental Health Perspectives.

## CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

### CHE Alaska
**~** coordinated by Pam Miller, pkmiller@akaction.net

**~ Working group call**: **Hidden Chemicals in Consumer Products: What's Not on the Label**
Thursday June 28, 2012 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

**RSVP**: To join this free call and receive the dial-up instructions, please RSVP to Alaska Community Action on Toxics at diana@akaction.org or (907) 222-7714, or visit the call's webpage to RSVP online.

Health-conscious consumers often pore over product labels trying to avoid certain ingredients. But those labels can be incomplete. A new Silent Spring Institute study shows that everyday products contain a wide range of potentially harmful chemicals, including many that are not listed on product labels. The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Health Perspectives, marks the largest investigation that actually tested the products themselves for the presence of many

suspect chemicals. All 50 different categories of conventional products contained some target chemicals. And the majority of the "alternative" products--marketed for having safer ingredients than their conventional counterparts--also contained chemicals of concern. Investigators tested products for the presence of hormone disruptors that raise concerns for breast cancer, growth, and reproduction, as well as chemicals associated with asthma. Join Robin Dodson, Sc.D., lead author of the study, for a discussion of the study's findings and how you can reduce exposures.

Presenter: Robin Dodson, ScD, is a Research Scientist at Silent Spring Institute, a non-profit scientific research organization that focuses on the environment and women's health. Her research centers on developing novel residential exposure measurement methods for epidemiological studies and analyzing household exposure data. She currently oversees the Institute's consumer product exposure research. She also holds an appointment at Harvard School of Public Health as a Visiting Scientist and as a Lecturer at Brandeis University. Dr. Dodson received her doctorate in Environmental Health in 2007 and her master's in Environmental Science and Risk Management in 2004 from Harvard School of Public Health.

**~ Working group call**: **Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - New Directions in Science and Policy**
Wednesday July 25, 9:00 am Alaska Time / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

**RSVP**: To join this call please email diana@akaction.org or call 907-222-7714.

Overwhelming scientific evidence indicates that the presence of infinitesimally small quantities of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in the womb can interfere with the normal signaling systems that determine every aspect of embryonic and fetal development. Disorders that have increased in prevalence in recent years such as abnormal male gonadal development, infertility, ADHD, autism, diabetes, thyroid disorders, and childhood and/or adult cancers are now being linked to fetal exposure. The discovery of prenatal effects from EDCs threw a monkey wrench in the current system of evaluating the safety of chemicals for the protection of public health. Join Dr. Carol Kwiatkowski, PhD, Executive Director and Senior Research Associate at The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX) for a discussion of why the old system of setting safety standards doesn't work, how the principles of endocrinology can be used to create a better system, and to hear the latest news on current directions in endocrine disruption science.

**Featured speaker**:
Carol Kwiatkowski, PhD, Executive Director and Senior Research Associate at The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX), a US based NGO founded by Theo Colborn and dedicated to compiling and disseminating the scientific evidence on health and environmental problems caused by low level exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals. Dr. Kwiatkowski joined the TEDX team in 2007. She created the Critical Windows of Development website tool, a timeline of how the human body develops in

the womb, paired with animal research showing when low-dose exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals during development results in altered health outcomes. In 2008 she became TEDX's first Executive Director and now oversees the development and execution of all of TEDX's programs. Prior to working at TEDX she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado. Her training in behavioral science began at the College of William and Mary where she received her BA, followed by a PhD from the University of Denver.

## CHE HEAL

**~** coordinated by Lisette Van Vliet, lisette@env-health.org

**~ European Commission on chemical mixtures** On 31 May, the European Commission, the EU's executive body, issued a Communication on the problem of people's exposures to mixtures of chemicals, especially as it relates to endocrine disrupting chemicals.

The Communication admits that the current structure of EU law blocks a proper assessment of the combination effects from different chemicals. The Communication proposes a platform for existing chemical monitoring data and improved coordination across the different Commission entities responsible for the various EU laws. It will provide technical guidelines to promote consistency across different legislation and a report by June 2015.

European health, environmental and consumer groups together expressed their disappointment and concern at the lack of urgency shown, particularly the absence of any proposed changes to European Union legislation.

**~ PPTOX: Draft scientific consensus statement on environmental stressors in the developmental origins of disease**

The PPTox III conference on "Environmental stressors in the developmental origins of disease: Evidence and Mechanisms", which took place in May in Paris, brought together several hundred researchers and scientists showcasing how exposure to environmental contaminants in utero affect the development of diseases later in life.

A draft consensus statement entitled, "Developmental Origins of Non-Communicable Diseases and Dysfunctions: Implications for Research and Public Health", was presented at the close of the conference. Written by a group of international scientific experts, it describes how nutritional imbalance and exposure to certain chemicals during pre- and postnatal development leads to disease in adults, including cancer and diabetes, and how prevention of the long-term health impacts needs to be addressed. The final consensus statement is anticipated to be on-line in the Environment Health journal in June and open for signatories from the scientific community.

Health and environmental groups at the conference welcomed the consensus statement. In a subsequent joint press release with Réseau Environnement Santé

(RES), Générations Futures, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and CHEM Trust, HEAL said the document "provides important direction for future policy discussions and decisions on endocrine disrupting chemicals. It shows that more focus needs to be given to preventing harmful exposures during sensitive periods of human development."

## Announcements and News Highlights

**Request for comments on a draft EPA publication: Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities: Strategies for Advancing Smart Growth, Environmental Justice, and Equitable Development**
Comments should focus solely on three questions (found on the announcement webpage) as they relate to the content of the publication. EPA is soliciting comments on the draft through July 6, 2012.
Read more

**EPA and NIH announce challenge to develop personal air pollution and health sensors**
The competition is offering awards for developing a personal, portable sensor system that measures air pollution and a person's physiological response to it.
Read more

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EHN and its sister site, The Daily Climate, offer a wealth of valuable information each day at no cost to subscribers. The daily email subscriptions and the 350,000-item news archive have recently been supplemented by a Facebook page and Twitter feed.

**Environmental Health News: email, Facebook, Twitter and a website archive**
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**June 2012 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online**
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**June 2012 issue of *Environmental Factor* available online**
Read more

CHE maintains a news feed of environmental health related news announcements and events collected from a multitude of sources on CHE's website.

## Reports, Resources and Other Updates

**Surgeon General to release the National Prevention Council Action Plan**
The Action Plan details the next steps in the federal implementation of the National Prevention Strategy--a comprehensive plan designed to help keep Americans healthy in the first place. Created by the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council, The National Prevention Strategy is an unprecedented opportunity to shift the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness.
Read more

**New reports released by National Academy of Sciences**
NAS has released three new reports: *The Role of Obesity in Cancer Survival And Recurrence: Workshop Summary*, *Communications and Technology for Violence Prevention: Workshop Summary*, and *Tracking Radiation Exposure from Medical Diagnostic Procedures: Workshop Reports*
View National Academies Press announcement

**The National Library of Medicine (NLM) Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS) has released redesigned web and mobile versions of Haz-Map**
The new design adapts to web browsers on desktop computers, laptops, and tablets, as well as mobile browsers on smart phones, such as iPhones, Android and Blackberry phones.

Haz-Map is an occupational health database designed for health and safety professionals and for consumers seeking information about the health effects of exposure to chemicals and biologicals at work. Haz-Map links jobs and hazardous tasks with occupational diseases and their symptoms. It currently covers over 5997 chemical and biological agents and 235 occupational diseases.
Read more

CHE lists hundred of reports, books, videos, databases and other resources in a searchable Portal to Science on CHE's website.

Thank you for taking the time to read the latest about CHE. As always, we welcome your questions and suggestions. Please direct comments to Elise Miller, Director of CHE, at elise@healthandenvironment.org.

Best wishes,
Elise Miller, MEd, Director
Steve Heilig, Director of Public Health and Education at San Francisco Medical Society and CHE
Erika Sanders, Administrative Coordinator

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