



# Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group



E-Bulletin December 20, 2010

This e-bulletin lists news and journal articles, organizational reports, calls for proposals, upcoming events and other items related to fertility, reproductive health and the environment. E-bulletins are archived and searchable on our website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/fertility>

## CHE-Fertility Highlights

### New CHE-Fertility Partners

*CHE-Fertility welcomes the following new members to the group:*

- Anjana Solaiman, MS, Maryland
- Kelly Quinn, RN, California
- Chad Campbell, PA-C, Arizona

[The National Birth Defect Registry](#), a non-profit effort developed in collaboration with prominent scientists, is seeking to expand data collection nation-wide. This voluntary reporting database collects information from families and clinicians, then analyzes the data to look for patterns of birth defects associated with similar environmental exposures. The registry questionnaire asks for exposure, health, work and genetic histories for both the mothers and the fathers.

[Your opinion counts.](#) CHE Fertility will be surveying members of the working group in January, to determine the background and interests of the membership. Results will be used to plan educational offerings in 2011. Look for the link to the survey in an email early in the new year.

## New Science

*A sampling of new research articles that are available on-line are gleaned from [Environmental Health News](#), and presented here.*

[Oral contraceptives not the main culprit in estrogenic water pollution.](#) Instead, the contribution of contraceptives is quite small compared to other human, industrial and agricultural sources. This new information should ease concerns that contraceptives are a major factor contributing to feminization of fish and frogs. [Environmental Science & Technology](#). 7 December 2010.

[One dioxin exposure in the womb affects female fertility in mice for generations.](#) Reproductive health effects of dioxin last for generations, reducing fertility and increasing the chances of premature delivery. Results of a recent study in mice support findings from prior animal and human studies that show dioxin can affect fertility, especially if exposures occur at key times of life. This study further shows subsequent generations are at risk, especially from preterm birth, a growing problem for women around the world. [Reproductive Toxicology](#). 1 December 2010.

## Newsire and Useful Resources

*Below you will find recent news, science, and other resources, gleaned from the [CHE Fertility Online Library](#), hosted by [Environmental Health News](#), and the [CHE daily news feed](#).*

**[Study: BPA exposure may reduce chances of IVF.](#)** According to a small new study led by the University of California, San Francisco, the endocrine disruptor BPA may damage a woman's ova before a baby can even be conceived, much less born. [Time Magazine](#). 20 December 2010.

**[Maine BEP opens door to phasing out BPA.](#)** The Maine Board of Environmental Protection today voted unanimously to designate bisphenol-A, or BPA, and nonylphenols as priority toxic chemicals under Maine's Kid-Safe Products Law. [Maine Public Broadcast Network](#), Maine. 17 December 2010.

**[State bans BPA in baby bottles, cups.](#)** Massachusetts state health officials voted yesterday to ban bisphenol A in the production of baby bottles and sippy cups, but activists say the decision fails to protect infants from the chemical's use in food and formula packaging. [Framingham MetroWest Daily News](#), Massachusetts. 16 December 2010.

**[Fertility problems? Maybe it's your plastics.](#)** In October, a study showed how BPA may cause low sperm counts and decreased sperm motility in men, an early confirmation of animal studies that also showed a link. Now, scientists are publishing the first evidence that the plastic-related chemical Bisphenol A may compromise the ability of human eggs, too. [Daily Green](#). 16 December 2010.

**[Mercury could stay beyond 2012.](#)** Olin Corporation's plan to abandon the use of mercury at its 44-year-old Augusta chlor-alkali plant doesn't mean the toxic material will be gone after 2012. [Augusta Chronicle](#), Georgia. 16 December 2010.

**[Dry years produce more females.](#)** During the drier years, wild monkeys in China have more female babies than male, revealing how climate change might affect primates, said Chinese researchers. [Cosmos Magazine](#), Australia. 15 December 2010.

**[New reports expose health risks from mercury in dental fillings.](#)** More than a third of all Americans carry a potential silent time bomb in their mouths, according to two new reports warning about the mercury content in amalgam fillings. [New London Day](#), Connecticut. 13 December 2010.

**[Study of D.C. water sharpens understanding of lead threat.](#)** The latest research on the District's decade-long effort to reduce lead in its drinking water is likely to reverberate well beyond the city's borders and add a chapter to one of the more tortuous public health chronicles of the past century. [Washington Post](#). 12 December 2010. [Registration Required]

**[Olin plant will eliminate mercury in \\$160m upgrade.](#)** Chemical maker Olin Corp. said Friday that it is spending \$160 million to change production techniques at a southeast Tennessee chlorine plant that has been targeted by environmentalists for emitting high levels of mercury. [Associated Press](#). 11 December 2010.

**[High levels of lead found in play make-up.](#)** High levels of lead and other metals have been found in some brands of children's play cosmetics, a new report has revealed. [Dublin Irish Independent](#), Ireland. 10 December 2010.

**[The Bad Daddy Factor.](#)** Over the last half-century, few researchers even considered the possibility that men played a role in prenatal health. It would turn out to be a scientific oversight of significant proportions. A critical mass of research demonstrates that environmental exposures - from paints to pesticides - can cause men to father children

with all sorts of abnormalities. [Miller-McCune](#). 10 December 2010.

**[Traces of BPA found on currency.](#)** To the long list of household items and other common objects contaminated with bisphenol A (BPA) - an endocrine disruptor linked to infertility, genital abnormalities, cancer and more - add something unexpected: money. [Time Magazine](#). 9 December 2010.

**[Controversial study finds mobile phones a risk to fetuses.](#)** Pregnant women who regularly use mobile phones may be more likely to have children with behavioural problems, particularly if their children start using mobile phones in their first seven years, new research suggests. [Sydney Morning Herald](#), Australia. 8 December 2010. [Registration Required]

**[Do cell phones cause behavioral problems?](#)** Children who had exposure to cell phones both in the womb and after birth, up to age 7, had a higher likelihood of behavioral problems than those who had no exposure, researchers said in a new study in the Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health. [CNN](#). 7 December 2010.

**[Columbia researchers study intersex sturgeon in Missouri River.](#)** Intersex in some fish species has been linked to the presence of hormonal compounds in surface water, such as those found in birth control pills and hormone replacement drugs. [Columbia Missourian](#), Missouri. 7 December 2010.

**[Moms' smoking in pregnancy tied to girls' puberty.](#)** Women who smoke heavily during pregnancy tend to have daughters who start menstruating months earlier than the daughters of women who didn't smoke while pregnant, a new study finds. [Reuters](#). 4 December 2010.

**[PUC won't delay SmartMeter to study health effects.](#)** The California Public Utilities Commission on Thursday rejected a request to stop deployment of Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s SmartMeters and study their possible health effects, even though a majority of commissioners said they wanted more information on the topic. [San Francisco Chronicle](#), California. 3 December 2010.

**[Lead may be leaching into thousands of D.C. homes.](#)** The water in almost 15,000 D.C. homes that received repairs during a massive effort to remove lead pipes may still be contaminated by dangerous levels of the metal, according to a report released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Washington Post](#). 2 December 2010. [Registration Required]

**[Buyer beware: high lead levels in used items.](#)** A new study has found that many previously owned items available for purchase throughout the United States - such as toys, home décor items, salvage, kitchen utensils and jewelry - contain surface lead concentrations more than 700 times higher than the federal limit. [Bend KTVZ TV](#), Oregon. 2 December 2010.

**[Toothpaste chemical 'that can leave unborn babies brain damaged.'](#)** A chemical in toothpastes and soaps, triclosan, has been linked with brain damage to babies in the womb. Scientists fear pregnant women who are exposed to high levels of the chemical may be putting their babies at risk. [London Daily Mail](#), United Kingdom. 2 December 2010.

**[BPA may inhibit pregnancy.](#)** Even as women choose to have babies later in life, more are having trouble conceiving, and the chemical BPA might be partly to blame, suggests a new study. [Discovery Channel](#). 2 December 2010.

**[Living near a major road tied to preterm birth.](#)** Pregnant women who live near busy roads may be at a greater risk for delivering before term, suggests a new study from Japan. However, the researchers say it's too early to know for sure if traffic-related air pollution can actually cause preterm births. [Reuters](#). 2 December 2010.

**[EPA fines Kettleman City waste dump over PCB contamination.](#)** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday levied a \$300,000 fine against a toxic waste dump near a Central California farming community plagued by birth defects for failing to properly manage carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. [Los Angeles Times](#), California. 1 December 2010. [Registration Required]

**[Lethal impact: Endosulfan.](#)** A lot has changed in the decade after the initial alarms were sounded against the continuous use of endosulfan in the cashew-growing villages of Kerala's Kasargod district. Kasargod's endosulfan tragedy is now well-documented. But issues relating to the victims of endosulfan have snowballed once again. [Frontline India](#). 30 November 2010.

**[Ottawa sets new lead limits.](#)** The federal government has set new limits on the amount of lead allowed in consumer products, particularly those for small children who are more vulnerable to the effects of the heavy metal. [CBC Canada](#). 30 November 2010.

**[Kettleman City birth defects not linked to landfill, study finds.](#)** Kettleman City families might never know exactly what caused 11 infants to be born with birth defects between 2007 and March 31 of this year. [New America Media](#). 30 November 2010.

**[Clue found to penile birth defect.](#)** Scientists have identified a gene which may play a role in a common defect affecting the genitalia of baby boys. Researchers found that boys with a mutated version of the DGKK gene were 2.5 times more likely to be born with hypospadias. [BBC](#). 29 November 2010.

**[Radiation risk from flying dwarfs body scanners.](#)** Amidst protests and rallies over airport security procedures, what's often overlooked is that flying itself dwarfs the radiation doses delivered by the new body scanners. Flying raises real risks for pilots, flight attendants, and the half a million business travelers who spend much of their time in the air. [Discovery Channel](#). 25 November 2010.

**[Chinese, UC researchers study e-waste.](#)** Researchers at the University of Cincinnati will team up with colleagues in China to study the health effects of chemical exposures from computers, televisions and other electronic waste on pregnant women and their babies. [Cincinnati Enquirer](#), Ohio. 25 November 2010.

## Announcements

*A daily news feed with these announcements is now available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.*

**[EPA analysis shows reduction in 2009 toxic chemical releases.](#)** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing its annual national analysis of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), providing all Americans vital information about their communities. 17 December 2010.

**[EPA expands air monitoring network to protect children from lead.](#)** EPA is strengthening lead monitoring requirements to ensure that air quality is measured near industrial facilities that emit a half ton or more of lead per year. 16 December 2010.

**[Pesticide news story: EPA solicits comments on petition regarding antimicrobial pesticide triclosan.](#)** EPA is publishing in the Federal Register a petition from Beyond Pesticides and Food and Water Watch requesting a ban on the antimicrobial pesticide triclosan. Comments will be accepted until February 7, 2011. 15 December 2010.

**[EPA grant to help identify sources of PCBs, a potent carcinogen, in San Francisco Bay.](#)** Cities around the bay - particularly San Carlos, San Jose, Oakland and Richmond - still contain many hot spots for PCBs, a potent carcinogen that has contaminated the bay and spurred a health advisory for fish caught there. [San Mateo County Times](#), California.

28 November 2010.

## Calendar of Events & Submission Deadlines

**Online Calendar.** *These and more upcoming events and proposal/abstract deadlines are listed in the [CHE-Fertility searchable calendar](#).*

### **1) Call for Abstracts: 6th International Conference on the Impact of Environmental Factors on Health**

**Deadline: December 31, 2010**

Sponsor: Wessex Institute of Technology and the Journal of Safety and Security Engineering

Health problems related to the environment have become a major source of concern all over the world. The health of the population depends upon good quality environmental factors including air, water, soil, food and many others. The aim of society is to establish measures that can eliminate or considerably reduce hazardous factors from the human environment to minimize the associated health risks. The ability to achieve these objectives is in great part dependent on the development of suitable experimental, modeling and interpretive techniques, which allow a balanced assessment of the risk involved as well as suggesting ways in which the situation can be improved. The interaction between environmental risk and health is often complex and can involve a variety of social, occupational and lifestyle factors. This emphasises the importance of considering an interdisciplinary approach. The language of the conference will be English. The conference is scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, July 25 - 27, 2011.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Irene Moreno Millan, 44 (0) 238 029 3223 or [imoreno@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:imoreno@wessex.ac.uk)

### **2) Web Dialogue: National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures**

**Wednesday and Thursday, January 5 - 6, 2011**

Sponsor: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registration, and RESOLVE, in collaboration with the American Public Health Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials

Since its launch in June 2009, the National Conversation has engaged a broad range of groups and individuals like you to propose actions needed to protect the public from harmful chemical exposures. A copy of the draft Action Agenda will be posted on December 20th. A key component of the month-long comment period, the 2nd National Conversation WebDialogue is an additional opportunity to have your voice heard and to share input as part of the public comment process.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **3) Webinar: Impacts of Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals on Human Health and the Aquatic Environment**

**Tuesday January 11, 2011**

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

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

In this webinar, part of AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative's Research and Science Teleconference Series, Frances Solomon, PhD, will speak. Organic chemicals are discharged to water, air and soil from various human activities, and have the ability to

biomagnify in food webs and persist in fatty tissues of organisms. Many of these chemicals are found in everyday household products and have toxic effects from the molecular to the organism to the ecosystem level, including endocrine disruption. Endocrine disruption effects are fascinating, alarming and far-reaching. This webinar will be an overview of persistent organic pollutants that are endocrine disruptor chemicals (EDCs). These chemicals of emerging concern include pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, bisphenol A, phthalates, and perfluorinated compounds. The webinar will begin with a description of the sources, properties, and mechanism of action of EDCs and exposure pathways. We will then focus on the impacts of specific EDCs and mixtures of EDCs, primarily on humans, with some examples drawn from the aquatic environment, e.g., impacts on brain development, reproductive health, carbohydrate metabolism and body weight, and links between EDCs and certain types of cancer in humans. The webinar will conclude with a discussion of regulatory reform and individual actions that can be taken to reduce exposure to EDCs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

**4) Conference/Seminar: Health and Wellness Conference 2011  
Thursday through Saturday, January 20 - 22, 2011**

Berkeley, California at the Clark Kerr Conference Center and Great Hall,  
University of California Berkeley

Sponsor: The International Journal of Health, Wellness and Society

The 2011 Health, Wellness and Society Conference will address a range of critically important issues and themes relating to Health, Wellness and Society. Plenary speakers include some of the leading thinkers in these areas, as well as numerous paper, colloquium and workshop presentations.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

**5) Conference/Seminar: Environmental Health 2011  
Sunday through Wednesday, February 6 - 9, 2011**

Salvador, Brazil

Sponsor: Elsevier Science & Technology and the journal Environmental Research

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

**6) Call for Abstracts: 2011 APHA Conference**

**Deadlines for submission of abstracts range from February 7 thru February 11, 2011 depending on the Section, SPIG, Caucus or Forum to which you wish to submit.**

The American Public Health Association is announcing the Call for Abstracts for the 2011 Annual Meeting to be held October 29 - November 2 in Washington, DC. The theme of the meeting is "Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies."

Abstracts in all areas of public health are encouraged, especially abstracts that focus on the Annual Meeting theme. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and must include a measurable learning objective. Some sections require more than a 250 word limit so please read the Call for Abstracts carefully.

[Visit the website](#)

**7) Training/Workshop: Environmental Health Science for Moms  
Wednesday through Friday, March 2 - 4, 2010**

Bolinas, California at Commonweal

Sponsor: The Collaborative on Health and Environment in partnership with MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe)

The goal of this training to teach mothers about environmental health science is to give you a basic scientific understanding so that you can be more confident as an advocate for a healthier world. The training will cover the following: 1) prenatal and early-life exposures to toxic chemicals, how they can increase risk for disease and health problems in the immediate and long-term and the complexity of how they relate to other risk factors (for example, nutrition, stress or genetics); 2) possible responses when there is not scientific certainty about the health impacts of chemical exposures (also referred to as the precautionary principle); and 3) practical exercises so that you can practice using your scientific understanding to speak out in various advocacy efforts. This training will address some basic things people can do in their everyday lives to avoid chemical exposure, but will primarily focus on evidence-based science in lay language that you can use for advocacy. Acceptance into the training is based, in part, on a commitment to apply what you learn to social change. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by January 15, 2011.

Price: free, travel scholarships may be available

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Heather Sarantis, [heather@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:heather@healthandenvironment.org)

**8) Conference/Seminar: 50th Annual Meeting  
Sunday through Thursday, March 6 - 10, 2011**

Washington, DC at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Sponsor: Society of Toxicology

More than 7000 scientists from industry, academia, and government from various countries around the globe are expected to attend this conference. Offerings include a plenary opening lecture, special lectures, a wide range of symposia sessions and continuing education courses that cover the basic and the advanced topics of the day, workshops, thematic sessions that complement the symposia, roundtables, poster sessions, and award presentations.

Price: see the [Registraton page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

**9) Request for Proposals: 2011 Environmental Health Science Innovation Fund  
Deadline: Wednesday March 16, 2011**

Sponsor: Passport Foundation

Passport Foundation's Science Innovation Fund aims to expand knowledge of the impacts of environmental contaminants on human health to inform and advance, first and foremost, chemicals regulation and risk assessment reform; and secondarily, public health and clinical care policies and practices. The fund, which launched in 2009, provides grants for small-scale scientific (laboratory, epidemiological, clinical) research that has a likelihood of being published in peer-reviewed scientific or medical journal literature and will generate novel data and insights to fill specific data gaps and reduce critical uncertainties standing in the way of effective public policy making, public health/clinical care practices, and funding decisions in the US related to environmental health.

Award: \$5,000 - \$50,000

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Passport Foundation, [info@passportfoundation.org](mailto:info@passportfoundation.org)

**10) Conference/Seminar: 75th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition  
Wednesday through Saturday, June 15 - 18, 2011**

Columbus, Ohio

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

The conference is designed to educate and inform people who have an interest or career in environmental health and protection, as well as to build a professional network of environmental health colleagues, exchange information, and discover new and practical solutions to environmental health issues. A list of the educational tracks is on the website.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Denise Devotta, 303-756-9090, ext. 313 or [ddevotta@neha.org](mailto:ddevotta@neha.org)

**11) Conference/Seminar: 2011 National Healthy Homes Conference  
Sunday through Wednesday, June 20 - 23, 2011**

Denver, Colorado at the Colorado Convention Center

Sponsor: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Healthy Homes, US

Department of Health and Human Services, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Energy, US Department of Agriculture

This year's theme, "Leading the Nation to Healthy Homes, Families, and Communities," reflects the growing demand for building and sustaining housing and communities that are healthy, safe and green for America's families. The conference will offer over 100 educational sessions covering eight topic areas.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 888-644-2586 or [info@healthyhomesconference.org](mailto:info@healthyhomesconference.org)

**12) Conference/Seminar: 6th International Conference on the Impact of  
Environmental Factors on Health**

**Monday through Wednesday, July 25 - 27, 2011**

Riga, Latvia at the Reval Hotel Latvija

Sponsor: Wessex Institute of Technology and the Journal of Safety and Security Engineering

Health problems related to the environment have become a major source of concern all over the world. The health of the population depends upon good quality environmental factors including air, water, soil, food and many others. The aim of society is to establish measures that can eliminate or considerably reduce hazardous factors from the human environment to minimize the associated health risks. The ability to achieve these objectives is in great part dependent on the development of suitable experimental, modeling and interpretive techniques, which allow a balanced assessment of the risk involved as well as suggesting ways in which the situation can be improved. The interaction between environmental risk and health is often complex and can involve a variety of social, occupational and lifestyle factors. This emphasises the importance of considering an interdisciplinary approach. The language of the conference will be English.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Irene Moreno Millan, 44 (0) 238 029 3223 or [imoreno@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:imoreno@wessex.ac.uk)

**13) Save the Dates: 14th World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics,**

## **Gynecology & Infertility (COGI)**

**November 17-20, 2011**

Paris, France

The groundbreaking series of COGI™ Congresses provide a unique platform to discuss controversial issues in all fields of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Infertility. The ability to discuss only controversial topics with emphasis on clinical solutions in cases where no agreed-upon answers or consensus exist, provides clinicians with an insight and a take-home message that ameliorates treatment in the most difficult situations.

[Visit the website](#)

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

Please email Karin Russ, CHE's Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group Coordinator, at [julia@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:julia@healthandenvironment.org) with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Fertility/Reproductive Health Working 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 CHE Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Karin Russ

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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