



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



E-Bulletin January 28, 2011

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:

- Renee Hundley, California
- Suba Shini, MSc, India
- Dana Nachman, California
- Louise Hallberg, RN, MSN, California

Your opinion counts. The CHE-Fertility survey of working group members is now open. The purpose of the survey is to determine members' interests, plan future educational offerings, and explore additional mechanisms of collaborating. The survey is only 10 questions long and should take about 5 minutes to complete. Please provide your input today on the [survey site](#).

New RSS feed on the CHE-Fertility website. The CHE-Fertility website will now host an RSS feed with news, science and announcements from a variety of sources. Information will be gleaned from Environmental Health News, CHE Daily newsfeed, Google Health newsfeed, NIH grants page and other sources. Look for expanded news coverage on the right hand side of the page.

Environmental Health Science for Moms training.

March 2 - 4, 2010

Bolinas, California at Commonweal

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment, in partnership with MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe), is sponsoring a training to teach mothers how to advocate for a healthier world. The training will cover: 1) prenatal and early-life exposures to toxic chemicals 2) possible responses when there is not scientific certainty 3) practical exercises in advocacy. This training will address some basic things people can do to avoid chemical exposure, but will primarily focus on evidence-based science in lay language for use in advocacy.

Reach the Decision Makers training.

March 2011- December 2011

Oakland, California and Washington, DC

Reach the Decision Makers (Reach), a project of the UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, is an innovative science and policy training program that works to increase the number of scientists, community-based leaders, public health and health care professionals who are actively involved in informing the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) of current and relevant scientific findings impacting their decisions in setting policy. Applications are due February 11, 2001.

[Pregnant women awash in chemicals.](#)

January 14, 2011

A new UCSF study, led by Dr. Tracey Woodruff, analyzed biomonitoring data from the National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES) to characterize both individual and multiple chemical exposures in U.S. pregnant women. The research team found that pregnant women are toting around dozens of chemicals, including some that have been banned for decades and others used in flame retardants, sunscreens and non-stick cookware. *Environmental Health Perspectives.*

[Study links increased BPA exposure to reduced egg quality in women.](#)

December 15, 2010

A small-scale UCSF-led study has found evidence in humans that exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) may compromise the quality of a woman's eggs retrieved for in vitro fertilization (IVF). As blood levels of BPA in the women studied doubled, the percentage of eggs that fertilized normally declined by 50 percent, according to the research team led by Dr. Victor Fujimoto. *Fertility and Sterility.*

New Science

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

[Partition of environmental chemicals between maternal and fetal blood and tissues.](#)

An international team of researchers has for the first time quantified how effectively mothers pass 87 common environmental contaminants to their children. Their findings provide a way to correlate pollutant concentrations in a mother's blood to levels in her developing baby, which may help regulators pinpoint compounds that are hazardous to unborn and nursing babies. *Environmental Science and Technology.*

January 07, 2011.

[Bisphenol A may have role in ovarian dysfunction.](#) A recent study found higher Bisphenol A (BPA) levels in women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) compared to controls. Researchers also found a statistically significant positive association between male sex hormones and BPA in these women suggesting a potential role of BPA in ovarian dysfunction. *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism. December 30, 2010.*

[Perinatal BPA treatment results in deficits in the sexual behavior of male](#)

[rats.](#) Perinatal administration of the endocrine disruptor bisphenol A (BPA) reportedly inhibits the sexual behavior of sexually naive adult male rats. Adult female sexual behavior was not affected by early BPA administration at any dose tested. *Hormones and Behavior. December 22, 2010.*

[Food availability at birth limited reproductive success in historical](#)

[humans.](#) Environmental conditions in early life can profoundly affect individual development and have consequences for reproductive success. This study supports the idea that early nutrition can limit reproductive success in animals, and provides evidence that this process applies to humans. *Ecology. December 20, 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](#).

[How to buy lead-safe, reusable shopping bags.](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

The Center for Environmental Health, which supports limits on disposable shopping bags, has found that about 10% of the reusable bags it has tested so far contain at least minute levels of lead. USA TODAY.

[Female birds can retard fertility loss with right mates.](#)

Sunday, January 23, 2011

In birds like in humans, female fertility declines with age. Some female birds can slow their declining fertility by choosing the right mates. The important thing for females is not the age or identity of her mates, they discovered, but her partners' paternal past.

[State legislation would minimize impact of flame retardants.](#)

Friday, January 21, 2011

Two bills introduced in the current Alaska Legislature session would phase out certain toxic flame retardant chemicals known to cause health problems which are found in consumer products such as furniture and electronics. Dutch Harbor Fisherman, Alaska.

[West Africa's toxic PCB problem.](#)

Friday, January 21, 2011

Researchers cruising off the western coast of Africa have confirmed the presence of mysteriously high levels of airborne toxic PCBs. The production and use of these chemicals is now largely banned. The levels detected off the West African coast are a surprise since PCBs were not sold or used there. Nature.

[Do antioxidants help male fertility?](#)

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Antioxidants may help improve male fertility, early research suggests, reports BBC News. Couples who struggle to conceive could find baby-making help from antioxidants such as vitamin E and zinc, hints a new review of more than 30 studies.

[Antioxidants may cause fertility problems in females.](#)

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

New research by Dekel and her team, recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), has revealed a possible unexpected side effect of antioxidants: They might cause fertility problems in females.

[Study finds no health risks from SmartMeters.](#)

Thursday, January 13, 2011

An independent report released Tuesday on the health effects of SmartMeters found that the wireless devices, when properly installed and maintained, "result in much smaller levels of radio frequency exposure than many common household electronic devices, particularly cell phones and microwave ovens." San Jose Mercury News, California.

[Future moms can participate in children's health study.](#)

Thursday, January 13, 2011

Over the next two decades, local children will be monitored for health issues in a study seeking to unlock mysteries of childhood disease, according to a doctor at Case Western Reserve University who is overseeing the local effort. Elyria Chronicle-Telegram, Ohio.

[Group accuses Safeway of selling bags with lead.](#)

January 13, 2011

An environmental group based in Oakland says reusable bags sold at Safeway contain lead amounts 15 times above federal limits. The Center for Environmental Health is demanding that the companies remove the bags from immediate sale. ABC News.

[No tie found between male birth defect, chemical.](#)

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

There's no link between pregnant women drinking water with trihalomethanes and the

rate of the male birth defect hypospadias, says a study in today's issue of the journal Pediatrics. Reuters Health.

[More trees in a city bring surprising benefit, Portland study finds.](#)

Monday, January 10, 2011

You've heard all the obvious benefits of urban trees: shading buildings, sheltering wildlife, filtering air pollution, stopping erosion. A new Portland study suggests a more surprising benefit: healthier newborns. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

[Father's diet can affect future child's health, UT study says.](#)

Sunday, January 09, 2011

A father's poor eating habits could make his future children sick, suggests new research on mice involving the University of Texas. The study found that male mice who ate a low-protein diet passed on to their offspring cellular changes in their livers that affect fat and cholesterol metabolism. Austin American-Statesman, Texas.

[Sex and endocrine disruptors.](#)

Saturday, January 08, 2011

From the carpets in our living rooms to the liners of our canned goods we're exposed to manmade chemicals every day. They eventually make their way from our farms, households or industry into the environment and into our bodies. And they may be affecting our reproductive health- indeed, even our sexual preferences. Living On Earth.

[Long-term space flight may be a problem for human reproduction.](#)

Wednesday, January 05, 2011

The near-zero gravity of Earth orbit may do serious harm to the male and female reproductive systems, a University of Kansas Medical Center biologist has discovered. Kansas City Star, Missouri.

[Research links rise in Falluja birth defects and cancers to US assault.](#)

Friday, December 31, 2010

A study examining the causes of a dramatic spike in birth defects in the Iraqi city of Falluja has for the first time concluded that genetic damage could have been caused by weaponry used in US assaults that took place six years ago. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[Smoking tied to miscarriage risk.](#)

Friday, December 31, 2010

A new study may offer women one more reason to kick the smoking habit before becoming pregnant: a potentially reduced risk of early miscarriage. Reuters.

[Waste company donates money for 'preconception' program in area hit by birth defects.](#)

Thursday, December 23, 2010

Kings County will develop a program to improve birth outcomes using grant money from the company that runs a hazardous waste dump near Kettleman City, a community that has been rocked by a controversial string of birth defects. McClatchy Newspapers.

Announcements

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

[Job opening: Missoula, Montana.](#)

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) seeks a contract fundraising generalist with an excellent track record and experience securing individual gifts and foundation grants for small nonprofits.

[EPA: Study by dump shows chemicals at safe level.](#)

Friday, January 14, 2011

The U.S. E.P.A. announced a new study of the largest toxic waste dump in the West showed its level of cancer-causing chemicals was too low to harm the health of a nearby community where an unusually high number of babies have been born with serious birth defects. Associated Press.

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) [Funding Opportunity Announcement: Genetic Susceptibility & Variability of Human Structural Birth Defects \(R01\).](#)

Open January 5, 2011- January 8, 2014

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health (PA-08-011)

This FOA supports applications using animal models in conjunction with translational/clinical approaches that take advantage of advances in genetics, biochemistry, molecular, and developmental biology to identify the specific genetic, epigenetic, environmental, or gene/environment interactions associated with the susceptibility to and variability of structural birth defects in human populations.

2) [Request for Applications: Environmental Health Sciences Core Center Grants \(P30\).](#)

Application Receipt Date(s): February 24, 2011

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (RFA-ES-11-001)

Centers are designed to establish innovative programs of excellence in the field of environmental health sciences by providing scientific and programmatic support for promising investigators and areas of research.

3) [Request for Applications: Lifestyle Interventions in Overweight and Obese Pregnant Women Consortium](#)

Application Receipt Date(s): March 24, 2011

Sponsor: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (U01) (RFA-DK-10-014).

4) [Request for Applications: Dietary Influence on the Human Health Effects of Environmental Exposures \(R21\).](#)

Application Receipt Date(s): April 21, 2011

Sponsor: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (RFA-ES-11-002)

The goal of this research program is to produce new research findings that will expand understanding of how environmental toxicants and diet/nutrition interact to influence human health and enable the development of effective primary prevention and intervention strategies to mitigate environmentally-induced diseases.

5) [Conference/Seminar: Environmental Health 2011](#)

Sunday through Wednesday, February 6 - 9, 2011

Salvador, Brazil

Sponsor: Elsevier Science & Technology and the journal Environmental Research

This year's conference theme, Resetting Our Priorities, will provide opportunities to present research, hear from leading experts in the field, and network with a wide delegation of international researchers with common interests.

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.

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

APHA 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.

7) [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.

8) [Request for Proposals: 2011 Environmental Health Science Innovation Fund](#)

Deadline: Wednesday March 16, 2011

Sponsor: Passport Foundation

The 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

9) [Conference/Seminar: 75th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition](#)

Wednesday through Saturday, June 15 - 18, 2011

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.

10) 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.

11) 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.

12) 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.

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 karin@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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