



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



E-Bulletin August 30, 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 member to the group:*

- Amanda Evans, MSPH, Ohio

### **[Our imperative to translate reproductive health research into real practice change](#)**

*August 27, 2011*

It is long past time to intensify our efforts to apply what we have learned through research into practice, and not just in our relatively small professional community, but beyond to other specialties and disciplines. We need to bring our reproductive health expertise, our high-quality, evidence-based research and our knowledge of adult learning theory to all clinicians who can make a difference in public health. Association of Reproductive Health Professionals.

### **[Antibacterial chemical raises safety issues](#)**

*August 20, 2011*

Federal regulators, consumer advocates and soap manufacturers are locked in a battle over the active ingredient in many antibacterial soaps, a chemical known as triclosan. Dr. Sarah Janssen, a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, comments. New York Times [Registration Required].

### **[PBDE levels high in pregnant women](#)**

*August 11, 2011*

Researchers with the UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment found pregnant women participating in a pilot study at San Francisco General Hospital had the highest levels of banned chemicals used in flame retardants in their bodies, compared with other expectant mothers in other studies conducted worldwide. Environmental Science & Technology.

### **[BPA alters hormonal response of women undergoing \*in-vitro\* fertilization](#)**

*August 05, 2011*

A research team comprised of members from the State University of New York at Albany and the University of California, San Francisco has identified a link between exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) and a reduction in the peak estrogen concentrations among women undergoing in-vitro fertilization (IVF). The reduced estrogen concentrations could

adversely influence the quality of egg-containing follicles. Fertility and Sterility.

### [Resource: Publication helps pregnant women reduce fetal exposures](#)

August 05, 2011

An important brochure, 12 STEPS TO REDUCING FETAL EXPOSURES, has been released by Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI), a nine-member, non-profit organization composed of doctors, public health professionals and policy experts dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms.

## New Science

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

### [Celiac disease in women with unexplained infertility](#)

August 20, 2011

A recent study demonstrated increased rates of celiac disease in women who present with unexplained infertility. Though the study numbers are small, the findings suggest that, at least for some women with infertility, dietary measures may help bolster fertility. Journal of Reproductive Medicine.

### [Paper money from countries all around the world carries BPA](#)

August 18, 2011

Paper bills are the latest addition to a growing list of items tainted with the ubiquitous chemical that has been linked to adverse reproductive, metabolic and behavioral effects. The levels measured in the 50 bills from different governments varied widely, from almost nothing to substantial amounts. Environmental Science and Technology.

### [C8 study raises questions about thyroid impacts](#)

August 06, 2011

A new West Virginia University study examines the effects of perfluorocarbon exposure via drinking water as part of the C8 Health Project. Results provide evidence for disruption of thyroid function related to these common chemicals and possible mechanisms are discussed. Journal of Toxicological Sciences.

### [Study links asthma to magnetic-field exposure of pregnant moms](#)

August 01, 2011

Can magnetic fields from power lines, computers and even common household appliances lead to health problems? A new study suggests that pregnant women with the highest levels of exposure to magnetic fields are more likely to have a child who develops asthma, compared to pregnant women with low exposure levels. Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

## 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](#).*

### [Japan nuke plant radiation leak exceeds Hiroshima](#)

August 27, 2011

The amount of radioactive cesium that has leaked from a tsunami-hit nuclear plant is about equal to 168 of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II, Japan's nuclear agency reported this week. Associated Press.

### [A BPA-free county?](#)

August 25, 2011

Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen wants to enact a countywide ban on selling baby bottles and some other plastic products made with bisphenol A, after industry lobbyists killed a proposed statewide ban in this year's legislative session. Portland Tribune, Oregon.

### [Washington state rule requires chemical-reporting for consumer products](#)

*August 23, 2011*

Washington state is requiring manufacturers of toys, cosmetics, jewelry and baby products to report when their products contain certain harmful chemicals, under a new law that took effect this week. Associated Press.

### [Air test reveals traces of ethylene dibromide](#)

*August 21, 2011*

Neighbors in the Argyle-Bartonville area want a federal investigation after ethylene dibromide (EDB), a chemical traditionally used as a pesticide and gasoline additive started turning up in air samples near natural gas drilling and production sites. EDB has been found to have negative effects on male fertility. Denton Record-Chronicle, Texas.

### [Aviation gas poses lead risk to thousands](#)

*August 21, 2011*

Based on new research indicating that living within 1 kilometer of an airport creates a significant risk for lead poisoning-- because aviation gasoline still contains the metal--, Florida Today examined local data to gauge the potential lead threat to Space Coast residents. Melbourne Florida Today, Florida.

### [Getting ready for a wave of coal-plant shutdowns](#)

*August 20, 2011*

Over the next 18 months, the Environmental Protection Agency will finalize a flurry of new rules to curb pollution from coal-fired power plants. Mercury, smog, ozone, greenhouse gases, water intake, coal ash-it's all getting regulated. And, not surprisingly, some lawmakers are grumbling. Washington Post [Registration Required].

### [Mercury-loving bugs speed help for toxic spills](#)

*August 17, 2011*

Scientists say they have engineered bacteria that can mop up mercury, a step forward in the goal of using "bioremediation" to cleanse toxic chemicals from the environment. Agence France-Presse.

### [Researchers study prenatal exposure to toxic chemicals](#)

*August 16, 2011*

Scientists are learning that health is the function of genes and environment. The work of Milwaukee-based researchers suggests that this principle also applies to the health of a growing fetus and a premature infant. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

### [Siblings of autistic children at a 20 times higher risk](#)

*August 15, 2011*

Doctors have long known that autism can run in families. A new study shows that the risk of a younger sibling of an autistic child developing the condition is twice as high as previously thought - roughly 20 times greater than children in the general population. The results may help shed some light on whether DNA or environmental influences play a greater role. USA Today.

### [Siemens' new water treatment system to handle wastewater from shale drilling](#)

*August 13, 2011*

Cakes produced daily at Advanced Waste Services in New Castle are not the edible kind. The dense, 16-square-foot, slate-like rectangles are made entirely of sludge, the dry solid residual that results from treating industrial wastewater. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

### [How to protect yourself from America's 'new' drinking water toxins](#)

*August 11, 2011*

Millions of Americans have been ingesting them for years- perchlorate, hexavalent chromium, volatile organic compounds- t because they're safe, but because they are among 6,000 toxins the EPA has not gotten around to regulating in municipal drinking

water systems. Forbes.

### [Safe Planet campaign uses the arts to explain chemical threat](#)

*August 11, 2011*

Telling someone they've been poisoned in ways that could reshape their DNA and be carried on to their descendants- possibly causing cancer, neurological illness, mental deficiency, birth defects, brain damage and death- isn't easy. But that's Michael Stanley-Jones' job.

### [Mercury poisoning linked to autism](#)

*August 10, 2011*

A family history of mercury poisoning has emerged as a significant risk factor for developing autism, Melbourne researchers say. Melbourne Age, Australia.

### [Bloggers take aim at S.S. Badger coal ash discharges into Lake Michigan](#)

*August 09, 2011*

The liberal CREDO Action has begun an online effort to end S.S. Badger coal ash discharges into Lake Michigan. Muskegon Chronicle, Michigan.

### [Odd chemicals turn up in drinking water](#)

*August 06, 2011*

Trace amounts of sex hormones, prescription drugs, flame retardants and herbicides are being detected in treated drinking water pumped to more than 7 million people in Chicago and its suburbs. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

### [Toxic chromium found in Chicago drinking water](#)

*August 06, 2011*

Chicago's first round of testing for a toxic metal called hexavalent chromium found that levels in local drinking water are more than 11 times higher than a health standard California adopted last month. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

### [Fukushima begins 30-year odyssey in radiation health](#)

*August 05, 2011*

Researchers in Fukushima City, Japan are about to launch one of the most ambitious epidemiological studies ever attempted on the effects of low-dose radiation. The target population includes all of Fukushima Prefecture's 2-million-plus residents. Science [Subscription Required].

### [Senate Democrats confident they can keep anti-EPA bills at bay in fall](#)

*August 04, 2011*

When Congress returns in September from its monthlong recess, House Republicans say they will pick up where they left off in crafting and passing legislation to restrict U.S. EPA's air quality rules. New York Times.

### [How safe is your soil?](#)

*August 04, 2011*

As backyard gardening and urban farming continues to explode in popularity, many may be ignorant of the fact that urban topsoil, particularly throughout the East Bay flatlands, contains a cocktail of heavy metal pollutants that can be consumed by humans and pets through contaminated plants and soil dust. Lead, in particular, is virtually ubiquitous. There's little consensus on what to do about it. East Bay Express, California.

### [Bill would ban fracking in New Jersey](#)

*August 03, 2011*

Until the film "Gasland" came along last year, public awareness of the fracking process was scant. Now there's a bill on Gov. Chris Christie's desk that would make New Jersey the first state to have a permanent fracking ban. Asbury Park Press, New Jersey.

### [Researchers to study spill's effect on women](#)

*August 02, 2011*

A new study aims to examine the Gulf oil spill's potential health effects on wives, sisters and mothers. It's the first long-term study to examine a major spill's effects on pregnant women and women's health, said the study's lead researcher. Thibodaux Daily Comet, Louisiana.

### [C8 panel moving closer to key decisions](#)

*July 31, 2011*

More than six years after a landmark legal settlement, a panel of scientists is still another year away from determining if the DuPont chemical C8, also known as PFOA, makes people sick. But with three new reports issued last month, members of the three-person C8 Science Panel say they are getting closer to a conclusion. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

### [Dr. Michael Hendryx, measuring mining's toll on health](#)

*July 31, 2011*

After years of neglect, health complaints from coal country are finally being investigated, thanks largely to one man. And his startling findings about cancer, birth defects and more are striking a nerve. Living On Earth.

### [The new dirt on dry cleaners](#)

*July 30, 2011*

A shakeup is coming to an industry that has changed little for decades. Many dry cleaners will be required to find new solvents to replace a widely used cleaning agent called perchloroethylene, or perc, by 2020. As a result, businesses are using a growing array of new methods to clean garments. Wall Street Journal [Subscription Required].

### [How to design a safer chemical](#)

*July 30, 2011*

When chemists design new detergents, shampoos, paints, and lubricants, they don't immediately consider whether their molecules will have toxic side-effects. That task has traditionally been left to toxicologists further down the production line. But chemists can take earlier responsibility for the safety of their molecules. Nature.

### [Oil industry pressures White House with new smog study](#)

*July 29, 2011*

The cost of cleaning up smog across the country would outstrip any benefits for public health, the American Petroleum Institute says in a report that is being taken to the White House to bolster the trade group's argument that President Obama should stop U.S. EPA from setting stricter limits on ground-level ozone. New York Times.

## **Announcements & Grant Opportunities**

*A daily news feed with these announcements is now available on CHE's website:*

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### [Call for Comment: NIH Common Fund Strategic Planning](#)

*Deadline for commentary: September 14, 2011*

This interactive web-based dialogue solicits comments and provides a forum for discussion of ideas proposed by scientists and stakeholders. Input will shape these ideas so that the Common Fund investment will have a catalytic, transformative impact on a broad range of diseases and conditions. Topics include: Group Effects, Developmental Origins of Disease, Beyond Genome-Wide Association Studies and A Synthetic Cohort for the Analysis of Longitudinal Effects of Gene-Environment Interactions.

### [Call for Comment: CDC National Action Plan for Prevention, Detection, and Management of Infertility](#)

*Deadline for commentary: September 15, 2011*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is developing a report that will identify public health priorities regarding prevention, detection, and management of infertility. The goal of the NAP is to promote, preserve, and restore the ability of U.S. women to conceive, carry a pregnancy to term, and deliver a healthy child. The CDC welcomes

questions, comments, and input on the National Action Plan for infertility through its website.

**[NOT: Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers \(P01\)](#)**

*Expected publication: Fall 2011*

Sponsors: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health

Notice of Intent to Publish a Request for Applications: The NIEHS and the US EPA intend to renew an initiative by publishing a FOA to solicit applications for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers. The purpose of this program is to support a multidisciplinary program of applied and basic research along with an active community outreach translation effort to examine and translate the effects of early exposure to environmental hazards on children's health and wellbeing.

**[FOA: Translational Research in Pediatric and Obstetric Pharmacology \(R01\)](#)**

*Application due by: October 4, 2011*

Sponsor: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to encourage applications for translational and clinical research as well as clinical trials that will advance our knowledge about the underlying mechanisms of drug action, response, and safety in children at various developmental stages, and/or in pregnant women and the developing fetus.

**[NIH Notice: Extramural Loan Repayment Program for Contraception and Infertility Researchers \(NOT-OD-11-088\)](#)**

*Applications accepted September 1-November 15, annually*

Issued by: National Institutes of Health, Office of Extramural Programs Division of Loan Repayment, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Extramural LRPs provide for the repayment of educational loan debt of up to \$35,000 annually for qualified health professionals performing research within the mission of NIH at domestic, non-profit, or government entities.

**[FOA: Male Reproductive Health Research \(MRHR\) Career Development Program \[K12\]](#)**

*Application due by: November 14, 2011* Sponsor: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to increase the clinical research capacity among practitioners in the area of male reproductive biology and promote the translation of basic science advances to clinical practice. The MRHR program will accomplish this through a mentored program, bridging clinical training with research independence. The intent is to stimulate clinical research in male reproductive health and bring a more holistic approach to fertility regulation in clinical practice in which the male is an equal partner.

## Calendar of Events & Submission Deadlines

### ***Online Calendar***

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

**[Conference: International Workshop on Endocrine Disruptors](#)**

*September 7-9, 2011*

Montalbano Elicona, Sicily, Italy

Sponsor: The Endocrine Society, Society for Reproduction and Fertility (UK), European Medical Association (Belgium)

The endocrine disruptors (EDs) or endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) impact on a variety of homeostatic systems from conception to the elderly, and their unwanted effects can be transmitted to each subsequent generation through epigenetic

modifications of the gamete DNA. The Endocrine Society has attributed and continues to attribute the utmost importance on basic and clinical research in this field. The aim of this international workshop is to inform a wide category of stakeholders on the most recent data on the endocrine consequences of animal and human exposure to the EDs.

**[Conference: The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology \(ISEE\)](#)**

*September 13-16, 2011*

Barcelona, Spain

Conference themes include- Sustainable transport and health: Impact of transport on health and approaches to reduce health impacts, Impact of climate change: from water scarcity to Saharan dust episodes, Early exposure - later life: in utero and early life exposures and effects in later life, and New methods and technologies and we hope that the conference will stimulate discussion and research in these particular areas. These do not exclude work in other important areas of the ISEE community and we expect fruitful and interesting presentations and discussions on many of the important challenges that our society is facing.

**[Conference: Reproductive Health 2011](#)**

*September 15-17, 2011*

Las Vegas, Nevada

Sponsor: Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

This clinical conference combines the latest research science with interactive, hands-on training and offers take home points for immediate practice improvement. This year's conference includes a module on environmental health. The program content is developed by leading experts in the field with a focus on evidence-based education that can be directly applied to practice change.

**[Call for abstracts: SGI 2012 Annual Meeting](#)**

*Deadline for abstracts: October 14, 2011*

San Diego, CA, USA

Sponsor: Society for Gynecologic Investigation

SGI's mission includes establishing the scientific basis and clinical translation of reproductive science and women's health through leadership mentoring, advocacy for research, and collaboration with academia, government, industry and professional organizations. The theme of this year's conference, to be held March 21-24, 2012, is 'Improving Women's Health through Personalized Medicine'.

**[Conference: American Society of Reproductive Medicine](#)**

*October 15-19, 2011*

Orlando, Florida

Sponsor: American Society of Reproductive Medicine

The 67th Annual Meeting of ASRM will explore the theme of Realizing Scientific Dreams. ASRM is a non-profit organization whose members demonstrate the high ethical principles of the medical profession, and evince an interest in infertility, reproductive medicine and biology.

**[Conference: APHA: Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds & Bodies](#)**

*October 29-November 2, 2011*

Washington, D.C.

Sponsor: American Public Health Association

The APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world, attracting more than 13,000 national and international physicians, administrators, nurses, educators, researchers, epidemiologists, and related health specialists. APHA's meeting program addresses current and emerging health science, policy, and practice issues in an effort to prevent disease and promote health. APHA has a world of public health in store for you.

**[Conference: Environmental Excellence in Health Care](#)**

*November 10, 2011*

Baltimore, Maryland

Sponsor: Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

Join regional and national health care professionals, environmental industry experts, and educators for this learning and networking event designed to showcase the measurement practices of hospitals as they journey toward more sustainable environments for hospital staff, patients, and communities. The keynote speaker, plenary session, and smaller breakout sessions will explore how facilities are measuring sustainability success using quantitative and qualitative measures.

**[Conference: 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.

**[Conference: 14th World Congress on Human Reproduction](#)**

*November 30-December 3, 2011*

Melbourne, Australia

Sponsors: International Academy for Human Reproduction, Fertility Society of Australia  
The Congress will bring together experts from the world of fertility, obstetrics, gynaecology to discuss advancements in human reproduction and consider the technical and ethical aspects of human reproductive and women's health. Invited speakers include Dr. Hugh Taylor, Yale University, presenting 'Endometriosis: Genetics, Epigenetics and Stem Cells.'

**[Conference: Best Practices of ASRM and ESHRE](#)**

*March 1-3, 2012*

Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

Sponsors: American Society for Reproductive Medicine, European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology

Best Practices of ASRM and ESHRE is a three-day workshop intended to assess the evidence for both established and emerging approaches to the science and art of reproductive health care. Faculty from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology will compare and contrast global procedures and technologies for diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disorders.

**[Conference: The Contribution of Epigenetics in Pediatric Environmental Health](#)**

*May 30, 2012 - June 01, 2012*

San Francisco, California

Sponsor: Children's Environmental Health Network

This conference is intended for research scientists in the fields of environmental health, epidemiology, and environmental toxicology, as well as for public health professionals. Its objective include fostering collaborations among scientists and the public to conduct and translate research findings on epigenetic regulation important to pediatric health outcomes (i.e. the etiology and prevention of abnormal neurodevelopment, asthma/allergy, obesity, endocrine disorders, etc.).

**[Conference: Environmental Endocrine Disruptors](#)**

*June 3-8, 2012*

West Dover, VT

Sponsor: Gordon Research Conferences

The unifying goal for the 2012 conference is to link basic research, clinical investigation, epidemiological studies, and public health research to the real world environment.

Session Topics are: EEDs, Society and Public Policy; Women's Health and EEDs; Men's Health and EEDs; Gene-Environment Interactions, Epigenetics, and EEDs; Thyroid and Immune System Disruptors; Neuroendocrine Disruptors; Resolving Controversies in

Endocrine Disruption; Evolution in a Contaminated Environment; and EEDs and Ecosystems: In Honor of Rachel Carson.

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](mailto: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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