



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin September 23, 2009

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning and developmental disabilities and environmental health. They are archived and searchable on LDDI's website:

<http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

LDDI Highlights

Quarterly LDDI Working Group Call

Next week, on Tuesday September 29th, LDDI have our call at 11:00 a.m. Pacific time/2:00 p.m. Eastern time. An agenda and call-in information will be sent out this week. All are welcome to join!

Educational Forum October 2nd in Chicago

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA), the Autism Society of America (ASA), along with groups from Illinois such as the Illinois PIRG, Illinois Public Health Association, Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities, the Association for Individual Development (AID), and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are co-hosting an educational forum on "Public Health, Toxic Chemicals, and Disabilities" on Friday October 2nd in Chicago, Illinois. This event is free and open to the public, will be catered and have free parking, and will include an impressive lineup of speakers including policymakers, public health professionals and advocates. For more information, see event #5 below, visit www.aaid.org/ehi/content_2375.cfm?navID=276 or follow links to State Outreach Efforts under Projects and Activities on the AAIDD EHI website (www.aaid.org/ehi).

LDDI Biomonitoring Project Update

The LDDI biomonitoring project is well under way with media outreach conversations initiated and a report release scheduled for the early months of 2010. The 12 participants will get their results in the coming weeks, and we will keep you abreast of any outreach efforts pursued in the coming months. Please stay tuned in and contact Laura Abulafia, National Coordinator of LDDI, for more information.

Pamphlet for Expectant Moms

AAIDD has published a new pamphlet for expectant moms on the topic of environmental health exposures in the home, in the workplace and outdoors. This exciting new resource can be found online at www.aaid.org/ehi under Activities and Projects. Currently the pamphlets are being distributed with LDA in clinics and doctors offices in Pennsylvania, and also in Florida. For hard copies of the pamphlets, please contact Laura Abulafia: laura@aaid.org

NADD Pamphlet on Environmental Health and Mental Health

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) is working on an educational pamphlet on environmental health and mental health. To get involved in the mental health working group part of LDDI, or to get more information on this resource, please contact Ed Seliger: eselig@thenadd.org

NADD Conference, October 21st - 23rd

The NADD's 26th Annual Conference and Exhibit Show will be on Wednesday, October 21 through Friday, October 23, 2009, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Speakers for the environmental health project at the NADD include Elise Miller, Director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE), and more. For more information, see event #8 below or visit www.thenadd.org/.

Announcements

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

[Safer chemicals campaign platform.](#)

The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families campaign has published a platform for Reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The group invites organizations to sign the platform and join the campaign.

[Report: School Indoor Air Quality: State Policy Strategies for Maintaining Healthy Learning Environments.](#)

This report discusses how state policy can ensure that all K-12 schools address basic IAQ issues as part of their ongoing operations and maintenance activities.

[Safe Cosmetics video.](#)

Lead in lipstick, carcinogens in baby shampoo -- you've heard the rumors, now get the real story behind what's in your cosmetics and what you can do about it. The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

[EPA seeks comment on greener site cleanups.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on a new strategy that would make cleanups at hazardous waste sites greener. The Superfund Green Remediation Strategy is an initial effort to outline key actions and related activities that can be undertaken to promote green remediation and to reduce energy use.

[EPA meeting on Ottawa, Ohio, lead waste investigation Sept. 24, 7 p.m.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Ohio EPA and local partners will host an open-house style public meeting on expanding the investigation into the extent of buried lead contamination in Ottawa, Ohio.

[Call for proposals: Greater Research Opportunities undergraduate fellowships.](#)

Fellowships for bachelor-level students in environmental fields of study will provide support for recipients' junior and senior years of undergraduate study and for an internship at an EPA facility during the summer between their junior and senior years. Applications must be received by December 10, 2009. US Environmental Protection Agency

[Job opening: Raleigh, North Carolina.](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a fixed-term, two-year appointment available for a medical officer. A minimum of 10 years postgraduate experience in national and international human environmental health research and/or training is required, with at least five years experience in establishing multidisciplinary, multilateral international programs on research and/or training desirable. The deadline for applications is October 2, 2009.

[Job opening: Tumwater, Washington.](#)

There is currently one opening for a project Health Services Consultant 4 (HSC 4) within the Epidemiology, Health Statistics and Public Health Laboratories Division, Non-Infectious Conditions Epidemiology Unit. This position is in the Biomonitoring for Protection of Public Health in Washington State project. The deadline is September 29, 2009.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) 2009 Rachel Carson Legacy Conference

Friday September 25, 2009

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

at the Bidwell Training Center, 1815 Metropolitan Street

Sponsor: The Rachel Carson Homestead Association

The conference theme is "When Chemicals Disrupt: Managing Our Risks." This conference will address the dichotomy between critical protection of the environment (and our bodies and those of the next generations) from endocrine disrupting contaminants and the unbridled economic interest of those who produce substances which directly or indirectly act as endocrine or developmental disruptors. We seek an open dialogue with the objective of identifying a set of mechanisms that can have rapid effect on the control of endocrine disrupting substances flowing into the environment as bio-accumulating contaminants. Mounting scientific evidence on a global scale compels immediate and effective action. However, there is widespread disagreement on the best course of action, and in particular, on the role of regulation in accomplishing change. The conference will approach the topic of endocrine disruptors in three parts: policy, science and remedies. Speakers to date include Linda Birnbaum, PhD, MPH; Terry Collins, Ken Cook and many others.

Price: \$90; preregistration and prepayment are required

[Visit the website](#)

2) The Vaccine Seminar

Saturday September 26, 2009 (other dates and locations are available through mid November)

8:00 a.m.

Bellevue, Washington

Sponsor: The Doctor Within

This 12-hour multimedia presentation covers topics including the history of vaccines, their ingredients, scientific proof of efficacy, exemption laws, new vaccines, the new flu vaccine controversy and more. A detailed course description is available on the website. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$169 advance or \$199 at door for the 12-hour continuing education accredited seminars, \$99 for the general public, spouse or student

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 408-298-1800 doc@thedoctorwithin.com

3) Creating Healthy Schools in Alaska: What You Need to Know to Protect Children from Toxic Exposures

Wednesday September 30, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alaska time / 10:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment -- Alaska

Presenters will be Claire L. Barnett, executive director of the Healthy Schools Network, and Mike Schade, PVC Campaign coordinator of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. For more information or to join this free call and receive dial-up instructions, please RSVP at the contact number below.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714

4) CHE Cafe: A Conversation with Author Doug Abrams

Wednesday September 30, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE Director Elise Miller for a conversation with Doug Abrams, author of the newly released novel *Eye of the Whale*. The novel weaves science throughout the story, addressing important issues of endocrine disruption and toxins. Abrams will talk about his writing process, how he included leading scientists, physicians and others in his research and why he chose to address the issues of endocrine disruption in his work.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@healthandenvironment.org

5) Illinois Forum on Toxic Chemicals and Public Health

Friday October 2, 2009

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Chicago, Illinois

at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 S. Halsted, Illinois Room 'B'

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA), and the Autism Society (ASA), in partnership with the Illinois Public Interest Research Group (IL PIRG), the Illinois Public Health Association, the Association for Individual Development (AID), and Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC

With a theme of "The Learning and Developmental Disability Community Takes Action!", speakers will include policymakers, medical professionals and concerned citizens. Space is limited, so to ensure your spot please preregister. The forum is open to the public. Two continuing education units will be awarded for nursing home administrator, social worker, speech and language pathologist and QMRP.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Brian Imus, 312-291-0441, ext. 210 or brian@illinoispirg.org

6) 4th International Public Conference on Vaccination

Friday through Sunday, October 2 - 4, 2009

Reston, Virginia

at the Hyatt Regency Hotel

Sponsor: National Vaccine Information Center with an educational grant from the Albert and Claire Dvoskin Family Foundation

This conference seeks to arm participants with facts from vaccine and health experts, to instruct about vaccine science, policy, law, ethics and politics, and to allow participants to meet fellow vaccine safety and choice activists in each state. The conference encourages participants to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: National Vaccine Information Center, 703-938-5768 or contactNVIC@gmail.com

7) 2009 National Mid-Year Conference on Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning,

Implementing Healthy Homes Programs, and Combating Indoor Environmental Hazards

Thursday and Friday, October 15 - 16, 2009
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
at the Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport

Sponsor: Healthy Housing Conferences

The conference brings together professionals from health, housing, community development, community groups, advocacy organizations, the lead industry, real estate firms and residential and commercial facilities to explore ways to undertake programs and projects designed to prevent incidents of lead poisoning and eliminate indoor environmental hazards.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Steve Weil, 301-924-0804

8) The NADD 26th Annual Conference and Exhibit Show

Wednesday through Friday, October 21 - 23, 2009
New Orleans, Louisiana
at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street

Sponsor: National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD)

The theme for this conference is "Advancing Mental Wellness Through Excellence in Mental Health Care (ID/MH)," with a keynote by Dr. Larry Silver. Every day we are flooded with important new health information and are challenged to keep pace with the many new developments in prevention and intervention. This year's conference is an opportunity to learn and apply support strategies, program models, and treatment approaches. Providing the most comprehensive education, the conference will highlight important areas of physical and mental health, the well-being for people with intellectual disabilities, and the collaboration and integration of physical and mental health care in promoting collaborative efforts among professionals and family members. A preconference symposium titled "Neurotoxic Agents" will include invited panel presenters Theodore Slotkin, PhD, and Cheryl Beseler, PhD, and will be moderated by Elise Miller, MEd, preconference chair.

Price: see the [conference brochure](#) (page 14)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Lisa Christie, 800-331-5362 or lchristie@thenadd.org

9) 2009 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference

Thursday October 22, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wheaton, Illinois
at the DuPage County Administration Building, Building #421, 111 North County Farm Road

Sponsor: Illinois Department of Public Health

This conference is held to assist environmental professionals, renovation contractors, and home property managers in identifying home health risks and improving maintenance and remodeling practices while maintaining a healthy home environment for occupants. Sessions will focus primarily on exposure to lead and home toxicants that may cause short- and long-term health effects as a result of these exposures. This conference will cover the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vicky Ritz, 217-785-4475 or vicky.ritz@illinois.gov

News and Journal Articles

[Aluminum hydroxide injections lead to motor deficits and motor neuron degeneration.](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

A second series of experiments was conducted on mice injected with six doses of aluminum hydroxide. Behavioural analyses in these mice revealed significant impairments in a number of motor functions as well as diminished spatial memory capacity. *Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry*.

[See a related article: [Benefit and doubt in vaccine additive](#)]

[National Autistic Society comes off the fence: MMR isn't linked to autism.](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

A leading British organization supporting people with autism and their families has until now remained agnostic about links between the MMR vaccine and autism. No longer. It has issued a new statement asserting that MMR is not associated with the condition. *London Times, United Kingdom*.

[See related articles: [Flu vaccine rekindles debate over connection to autism](#) and [Vaccine skepticism is in the air](#)]

[Study puts pesticide's safety in spotlight once again.](#)

Monday, September 21, 2009

Overseas research has discredited the safety assessment data used by the national pesticides authority to justify using one of the world's most toxic crop sprays, endosulfan. *Sydney Morning Herald, Australia*.

[St. Jude Hospital study links Parkinson's, bird flu.](#)

Sunday, September 20, 2009

In a study offering tantalizing clues into the origins of a devastating and mysterious ailment, researchers concluded that people who survive a strain of bird flu have a significantly greater risk of developing Parkinson's disease. *Nashua Telegraph, New Hampshire*.

[S.F. takes green issue to dry cleaners.](#)

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Your dry cleaner may claim to be "green" or "environmentally friendly," but San Francisco officials warn that the business is probably using a hazardous chemical solvent [perchloroethylene] that could be harming you, your cleaner and the environment. *San Francisco Chronicle, California*.

[Jury rejects Santa Rosa water contamination suit.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

After hearing nearly four months of testimony from water contamination experts, a Sonoma County jury took just two hours Thursday to reject a \$600 million well-poisoning lawsuit filed by several west Santa Rosa residents. *Santa Rosa Press Democrat, California*.

[Waste incineration health risks low, panelists claim.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

A European Union toxicology expert says a modern garbage incinerator should pose no significant health hazard to nearby residents, particularly when stacked against more plentiful but mundane sources of toxins. *BC Local News, British Columbia*.

[Gov't stands by as mercury taints water.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

Abandoned mercury mines throughout central California's rugged coastal mountains are polluting the state's major waterways, rendering fish unsafe to eat and risking the health

of at least 100,000 impoverished people. Associated Press.

[Detox! The movement to reform chemicals policy.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

We live, eat, and breathe in a complex brew of industrial chemicals, some eighty thousand of them. And all but a handful have never been tested to find out if they're safe. A World of Possibilities.

[Individual characteristics associated with PBDE levels in US human milk samples.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

PBDEs were detected in nearly all human milk samples, varying by maternal weight and age, and over the course of breastfeeding. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[New web site offers toxic chemicals tally on numerous consumer products.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

A new Web site that rates consumer products on their toxic chemical content launched Wednesday, providing information on goods ranging from automobiles and pet products to school supplies and women's accessories. Contra Costa Times, California.

[See a related article: [Study finds toxic chemicals in pet toys](#)]

[Effort to ban BPA in California fails.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

In February, a bill was introduced to ban BPA from infant formula cans and baby bottles and cups. Last week that bill failed to pass in the Assembly. Why? San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Fight grows over labels on household cleaners.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Manufacturers of detergents, household cleansers and furniture polish are under pressure from consumers to come clean about the chemicals in their products. Some have been associated with asthma, birth defects and fertility problems in higher doses. New York Times.

[Low lead levels harming children.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Researchers say the toxic effects of lead on the central nervous system of young children are obvious even below the current so-called safe level of lead in the blood.

They are recommending the threshold should be halved. BBC.

[See related articles: [Lead in bone associated with increased risk of death from cardiovascular disease in men](#), [Children 'exposed to dangerous levels of lead from soil'](#) and [Ashland U. chemist keeps kids unleaded](#)]

[Environmental group reveals toxic chemicals in consumer products.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Some tennis balls for dogs, chew toys for cats and women's plastic handbags were among the common household items found to contain lead and other toxic chemicals in recent tests, a nonprofit environmental group reported on Wednesday. New York Times.

[EPA turns the lights on mountaintop removal.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

In a highly anticipated announcement, the EPA declared that all seventy-nine pending mountaintop removal mining permits in four states would "likely cause water quality impacts" and sent them on for additional review under the Clean Water Act. The Nation.

[Baby born with defect every 30 seconds in China.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Recent statistics show that birth defects among newborns have been climbing in certain parts of Mainland China. The leading contributors are suspected to be pollution, genetics, radioactivity, and the older age of mothers. Epoch Times.

[Pocket-size pollution sensors promise big improvement in monitoring personal environment.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Is black carbon soot emitted by school buses raising childhood asthma rates? Technology to track what children are exposed to -- and when, where and for how long -- can now fit in the palm of your hand. Scientific American.

[See a related article: [Texas air rules violate federal law, EPA says](#)]

Many plastic shoes toxic -- study.

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

In its study titled "Chemicals Up Close", the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation found "disturbing concentrations" of phthalates in a variety of plastic-based flip-flops, sandals, clogs, and other shoes. Quezon City ABS-CBN News, Philippines.

Washington compiling top 50 chemicals toxic to kids.

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

In 2008, Washington became the first state in the nation to pass a law requiring manufacturers to report whether certain products contain chemicals toxic to children. Associated Press.

Poisons found in debris landfills.

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ohio's 55 debris landfills offer a cheap, final resting place for the millions of tons of waste created at construction and demolition sites each year. But there's a price. Columbus Dispatch, Ohio.

Pesticide sought by Calif. growers.

Monday, September 14, 2009

A highly potent chemical [methyl iodide] capable of clearing farmland of pests, disease and weeds is attracting fierce opposition from environmental groups and some scientists in California -- even as growers look to it as a crucial replacement for a banned fumigant [methyl bromide]. Fresno Bee, California.

Mapping the epigenome.

Monday, September 14, 2009

Growing recognition of the importance of epigenetic processes in human development and disease has fueled an insatiable thirst for new technologies to detect epigenetic modifications on a genomewide, or "epigenomic," scale. Chemical & Engineering News.

Testing for toxics at schools sparks questions, lawsuit.

Monday, September 14, 2009

Almost a year after tests by USA TODAY found significant levels of two potentially toxic metals in the air around an Allegheny River valley school, local health officials expanded their own monitoring efforts. Why? Air samples taken this year showed even higher levels of the metals than what USA TODAY found. USA Today.

[See related articles: [Report suggests toxic air near Minnesota schools](#) and [Potentially toxic air stirs concern, debate at Highlands H.S.](#)]

Advocates tout pesticide ban.

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Calgary is lagging behind other major Canadian cities in protecting residents from the cancer-causing toxic, cosmetic pesticides, say advocates. Calgary Sun, Alberta.

[See a related article: [Work use of pesticides linked with Parkinson's](#)]

Clean water laws are neglected, at a cost to health.

Sunday, September 13, 2009

In the past five years, companies and workplaces have violated pollution laws more than 500,000 times. But the vast majority of polluters have escaped punishment. New York Times.

Army offers more monitoring of chemicals in Colorado.

Friday, September 11, 2009

The Army is offering to improve monitoring of deadly mustard agent stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot as it negotiates with Colorado health officials suing over leaks.

Associated Press.

[New trial rejected in Kiddie Kollege case.](#)

Friday, September 11, 2009

A judge rejected a motion yesterday to retry an issue in the case of the contaminated Kiddie Kollege day care, saying he was convinced the building's owners were unaware of the hazards when they rented out the former thermometer factory. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[At long last, environmental supplement to GDP takes shape.](#)

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Yesterday, the European Union announced plans to launch an indicator this year to measure environmental stress. The index will reflect the pollution and environmental harm within the bloc's member states. Greenwire.

[Supervise children's use of hand sanitizer, experts say.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

As the popularity of alcohol-based hand sanitizer has risen, so has a debate about whether its germ-fighting ability outweighs potential risks that the alcohol-based cleansers may pose to youngsters if ingested. Houston Chronicle, Texas.

[Sussex County school to close due to unsafe power lines near playground.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

As PSE&G seeks state approval to build a high-voltage power line through four New Jersey counties, reviving a heated debate about the safety of electromagnetic fields, officials in one Sussex County town say they have no choice but to close their only school because of elevated EMF levels produced by lines already in place. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

[Toxicity testing gets a makeover.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

The European Commission has revealed details of a major new research programme to develop a modern, high-throughput approach to repeat-dose toxicity testing. Nature.

[Low dose makes the poison.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

Modern toxicology doesn't typically test chemicals for what they do at low doses. But, sometimes, small amounts of substances can be harmful to human health, especially when it comes to the hormone-mimicking chemicals known as endocrine disruptors. Living On Earth.

Most of the news articles above come from [Environmental Health News](#).

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

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health: http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the LDDI 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 Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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