



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

eNewsletter - April 2011

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Acting on the Science We Already Have

"Our own thought process impacts the health of our ecosystem almost more than anything else," Dr. Virender Sodhi explained at an Indian cooking class I attended last weekend. "The real problem is we most often take action on what we don't know and don't act on what we do know."

His comments reminded me of a simple pie chart representing "our knowledge of the universe" that a professor I had in graduate school presented. One tiny sliver is labeled "what we know." A sliver about twice the size of the first is labeled "what we think we know." The next quarter of the pie is labeled "what we know we don't know." And the rest is "what we don't even know we don't know."

As I reflected on this, I realized similar categories could be applied to the three CHE national calls we have scheduled this month. The first to be held this Friday, April 15, might be described as "what we think we [are beginning to] know" - an update on the emerging science regarding environmental contributors to diabetes and obesity (http://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/8928). The second call on April 18 will focus on "what we know we don't know [but want to know]" - a forum for soliciting visionary ideas for NIEHS' strategic planning process (http://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/9089). And the third on April 20 will illuminate "what we already know [enough about to take action on]" - an interview with Carl Candor, author of *Legally Poisoned: How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants* (http://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/8974).

In essence, though we may be light years away from understanding the mysteries and complexities of the universe, we do have evidence-based science which, if acted upon, could significantly improve the quality of our lives and the ecosystem - right now. For example, fossil fuel-based energy systems and manufactured materials that have driven industrialization for the last century are clearly compromising our health in myriad ways -

from increasing chronic diseases and disabilities to depleting the ozone layer in our atmosphere. We know this. But have we stopped investing in these industries and turned our full attention to developing renewable energy sources and safer materials based on the principles of green chemistry? No. Another example is that many studies show our current agricultural system, which favors industrial farming, is leading to soil depletion, less nutritional food, and increased exposures to chemicals and antibiotics. We know this. But have we starting providing significant incentives for small farmers to boost their capacity to supply local communities with fresh, seasonal, pesticide-free foods? No. Still another obvious example is that research clearly indicates primary prevention is far more cost effective than trying to find treatments and cures once people become sick. We know this. But do we prioritize prevention-oriented practices, rather than the development of more synthetic pharmaceuticals? No.

I could of course give many other examples. But I think my point is clear: Even though there is much to learn--and our natural human curiosity will always compel us to seek greater understanding (and that's a good thing), we our doing ourselves a huge disservice by not acting on the knowledge we already have. Little did I expect to hear this common sense wisdom articulated so succinctly in a cooking class, but as Dr. Sodhi also reminded us: "Our relationship to growing and eating food mirrors our relationship to ourselves, our communities and to life itself. If we disconnect from the first, we will no longer have the second."

Please join us for these upcoming calls and help us through our working groups and other activities to continue to translate the environmental health science we have (and are continuing to learn) into initiatives that greatly improve public health now and for generations to come.

With Warm Regards,
Elise Miller, MEd
Director, Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE)

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This essay is available on [CHE's blog](#) for comment and further discussion.

CHE Partnership Calls and Special Events

CHE Partnership call: Diabetes and Obesity: Evaluating the Science on Chemical Contributors

Date/Time: Friday April 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Emerging scientific studies suggest environmental chemicals may be contributing factors to the epidemics of diabetes and obesity. The National Toxicology Program (NTP) headquartered at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) sponsored a workshop in January 2011 to evaluate the science associating exposure to certain chemicals or chemical classes with the development of diabetes and/or obesity in humans. In a variety of targeted plenary and workgroup sessions, participants evaluated the strength/weaknesses, consistency, and biological plausibility of findings reported in humans and experimental animals for certain environmental chemicals.

On this national conference call open to all who are interested, CHE is very pleased to have three leaders in this growing field of interest who were also instrumental in the shaping the scope of the NTP workshop. They will present a summary of the conference findings, highlight current research indicating possible links between some chemicals and diabetes and obesity, and discuss future plans to address research gaps,

including ongoing evaluation of relevant pathways and biological assays for the Toxicology Testing in the 21st Century high throughput screening initiative ("Tox21").

Featured speakers include:

Jerry Heindel, PhD, Program Administrator and acting Branch Chief in the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT)

Kristina Thayer, PhD, Director of the Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR)

Bruce Blumberg, PhD, Professor, Department of Developmental and Cell Biology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of California, Irvine

The call will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

CHE Partnership call: NIEHS: Visionary Ideas Wanted

Date/Time: Monday April 18, 2011 at 11 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) has invited the public to submit visionary ideas regarding environmental health research by April 30th as part of NIEHS's strategic planning process. Though a number of colleagues already plan to submit suggestions from their respective institutions and organizations, CHE is hosting this call to underscore the need for more research using systems-based approaches in order to better elucidate multiple and cumulative impacts on health as well as potential public health interventions. On the call, we will have several invited researchers briefly describe their recommended priorities for NIEHS (see list of speakers below). ***In addition, we invite other participants to highlight ideas either verbally or in writing on [the call blog](#) either during or prior to the call.*** Please note we are inviting senior NIEHS staff involved in the strategic planning process to listen in on the call.

Featured speakers include:

Jennifer Sass, PhD, Senior Scientist, Health and Environment, Natural Resources Defense Council

Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH, University of Massachusetts, Lowell School of Health and Environment and Boston University School of Public Health

Frederica Perera, DrPH, Director, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health and Professor of Public health, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH, President, Mitchell Environmental Health Associates.

Madeleine Kangsen Scammell, DSc, Assistant, Professor of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health.

CHE Cafe call: A Conversation with Carl Cranor: Author of "Legally Poisoned: How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants"

Date/Time: Wednesday April 20, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Carl Cranor, PhD, author of the recently published book, "Legally Poisoned: How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants", is the Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Riverside. Based on his broad understanding about the harm toxic chemicals can cause to human and ecosystem health, Dr. Cranor has analyzed the current legal structures designed to prevent such harm and has found them ineffective and often by design, inadequate to the public health challenge at hand. In addition to his most recent book, he has written numerous other books and articles. In these, Dr. Cranor offers suggestions about what kinds of legal initiatives might work, making the case that individual actions will not be sufficient to prevent harm and that only pragmatic, thorough and far-reaching reforms will give us world reasonably safe from toxic chemical harm. Dr. Cranor will discuss some of his ideas on a CHE Café call, hosted by CHE staffer, Sharyle Patton.

Breast Cancer and the Environment Workshops hosted by Commonwealth and the CA Breast Cancer Research Program

A woman's lifetime risk for developing breast cancer is one in eight. What's going on? And what can you do? Join us for a workshop on breast cancer, disparities and the environment

This summer Commonwealth and the California Breast Cancer Research Program are hosting a series of workshops throughout California to explore the links between breast cancer and environmental exposures as well as the disproportionate impact the disease has on different groups of women. The workshops will also explore ways that community groups and academic institutions can partner on research projects to help reduce people's future risk for the disease.

The workshops are open to anyone who is interested, especially community members, representatives of community-based and non-profit organizations, researchers, and health providers. Specific dates, times and locations will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information, please email community@cabreastcancer.org.

Environmental Health Primary Prevention Trainings

The Collaborative on Health and Environment recently launched a new initiative designed to train people in environmental health science. These trainings will focus on teaching evidence-based science in lay language to be used in a range of settings, including advocacy, determining research priorities, public education and community organizing. The goal is to provide basic scientific knowledge so trainees can become more effective as champions for a healthier world.

CHE will be offering trainings throughout 2011, all on the subject of environmental health science and breast cancer. All trainings will be held at Commonwealth, a health and environmental research and education institute in Bolinas, California.

2011 training dates:

May 2-4

September 27-29

November 7-9

For more information, please visit the [trainings webpage](#) or contact Davis Baltz of Commonwealth at dbaltz@igc.org or phone 510-848-2714. An application form is available on the trainings webpage.

Resources from recent CHE calls:

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

- March 28, 2011 - [Radiation and Human Health: In the Shadow of the Japan Disaster](#)
- March 11, 2011 - [Healthy Aging Starts at Conception: Promoting Health Across the Lifespan](#)
- February 10, 2011 - [Report from the Cancun Climate Change Talks: NGOs Promote Health and Partner for Future Action](#)
- January 18, 2011 - [Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Justice: a conversation with Manuel Pastor and Sharyle Patton](#)

And of course, you can always explore our [archived resources](#)

CHE Working and Regional Group Updates

Stay in touch with CHE via Facebook and the CHE blog:

Visit CHE's blog at <http://ourhealthandenvironment.wordpress.com/>

CHE's [Facebook page](#)

CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact

info@healthandenvironment.org

~ Working Group Update

CHE first established this group as the "Metabolic Syndrome" working group in 2009, then changed to the "Obesity" working group in 2010, and now is referred to as the "Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum" working group. These changes in name reflect the emerging research suggesting that some common biological mechanisms and triggers are associated with obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome, as well as the overlap among all of these conditions. We intend this new framing to catalyze more robust consideration of environmental health science that is beginning to show that some of the same environmental factors may contribute to different health endpoints depending on a range of other influences. We also hope this new framing will increase the flow of scientific information sharing and appropriate action to more effectively address these three different, but often related health conditions.

For more information on the CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group please visit the working group page: <http://healthandenvironment.org/initiatives/diabetes>

CHE-EMF

~ coordinated by Cindy Sage, sage@silcom.com and Nancy Evans,

nancywrite@comcast.net

~ Scientists Urge Halt of Wireless Rollout and Call for New Safety Standards

Scientists who study radiofrequency radiation from wireless technologies have issued a scientific statement warning that exposures may be harming the development of children at levels now commonly found in the environment. Pregnant women are cautioned to avoid using wireless devices themselves and distance themselves from other users.

[Read more](#)

~ The CHE-EMF group monitored developments on smart meter technology (impacts of wireless radiofrequency and microwave radiation exposures)

The California Public Utilities Commission Division of Ratepayer Advocates made public its comments on the proposed legislation AB 37 by Assemblyman Jared Huffman.

Huffman's bill would limit the rollout of wireless smart meters pending further studies on health, environmental and security issues. It would provide an opt-out for any consumer who wants to keep their analog electric meter.

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates 'supports' the Huffman bill with these changes, all of which run counter to the intent and spirit of the bill. The DRA positions are:

1. DRA does not support a moratorium
2. Costs of opt-out to be paid by ratepayers who request it
3. Shifts burden of proof of safety limit violations to ratepayer
4. Opt-out limited to those who obtain documented health effects from their medical provider
5. Rejects 'perceived performance deficiencies' as a reason to ask for opt-out (performance deficiencies that have been widely reported in over 7000 complaints to the CPUC include excessive billing, fires and explosion of meters, EMI interference with other wireless devices like home security systems, baby monitors, computers, cordless phones, etc., and interference with medical and metal implants in people with disabilities).

~ **March 30, 2011 - CHE-EMF profiled five new professional studies published on radiobiology and radioecology by Prof. Yuri Grigoriev et al, in Biophysics, 2011**

Grigoriev is the Chairman of the Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, Moscow (Russian Federation). The papers address non-thermal (low-intensity) radiofrequency radiation exposures at cell phone and wireless frequencies. Dr. Yuri Grigoriev is a highly regarded research scientist who has a long history of publishing in the area of biologic and human health impacts from non-ionizing radiation.

~ **March 31, 2011 - Several CHE-EMF posts dealt with a new study reporting changes in brain activity due to cell phone radiation: Cellphone Radiation May Alter Your Brain. Let's Talk**

"In a culture where people cradle their cellphones next to their heads with the same constancy and affection that toddlers hold their security blankets, it was unsettling last month when a study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association indicated that doing so could alter brain activity."

[Read more](#)

~ **April 1, 2011 - Following the Fukushima Nuclear reactor issues, Cindy Sage of CHE-EMF alerted readers to three human interest publications written in response to the Japan earthquake and radiation leaks**

In the *SLO Coast Journal* (San Luis Obispo, California, Issue 22, April 2011) Sage wrote one about her family's experience having children and a grandchild in Tokyo during the earthquake, and the nuclear aftermath. The second is by Jack McCurdy, a Pulitzer prize winning journalist - *A Disaster Waiting to Happen?* The third recounts the tsunami effect on Morro Bay, and has a fascinating video showing the bay waters receding and boats being swept out towards sea.

[Read more](#)

CHE Fertility

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, CHE Fertility National Coordinator,

karin@healthandenvironment.org

~ **CHE-Fertility Call: BPA, IVF and Implications for Practice -- MP3 now available. March 17, 2011**

Dr. Victor Fujimoto from UCSF and Dr. Michael S. Bloom from SUNY-Albany presented the results of their recent study on the effects of bisphenol A (BPA) on in vitro fertilization (IVF). Dr. Valerie Baker from Stanford University led a discussion on the translation of research into practice, describing how research findings such as this can be used when counseling infertility patients. [Visit the call page](#) to listen to the MP3 recording.

~ **Call for Abstracts: Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Deadline for Submission: April 15, 2011**

Abstract submissions are invited for Reproductive Health 2011, the annual clinical and scientific meeting of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP). This

year's conference will include a module on Environmental Health. The conference will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 15-17, 2011.

[Read more](#)

~ **Call for Abstracts: American Society of Reproductive Medicine**

Deadline for Submission: May 2, 2011

The ASRM is a non-profit organization whose members must demonstrate the high ethical principles of the medical profession, and evince an interest in infertility, reproductive medicine and biology. ASRM's Environmental Health Special Interest Group is soliciting abstracts on environmental contaminants and their impact on reproduction. The 67th Annual Meeting will take place in Orlando, Florida on October 15-19, 2011.

[Read more](#)

CHE Healthy Aging Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org

~ **New Resources** *Human Values in Aging Newsletter* - A wonderful compilation of informative and inspirational resources, events, and activities related to "humanistic gerontology". A sample of the topics in the latest issue include: *The Secret to Successful Aging*, from an interview with George Vaillant, M.D., author of "Aging Well: Surprising Guideposts to a Happier Life from the Landmark Harvard Study of Adult Development" (2002).; the [Legacy of Wisdom conference](#) in New York; links to climate change and aging events and publications; and a calendar of events with topics ranging from spirit and religion to healthcare to housing issues. This electronic newsletter is edited by Harry (Rick) Moody at the Office of Academic Affairs at AARP and is distributed by the Committee on Humanities and Arts of the Gerontological Society of America. To subscribe: valuesinaging@yahoo.com.

Healthy Aging for an Abundant Life - A new resource from the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program - Now available on "Resources" page of the NCC website under [Environmental Health Resources](#).

~ **Healthy Aging Webinar/Teleconference**

May 23, 2 PM Eastern time - Hosted by the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program, with Ted Schettler MD, MPH, Maria Valenti, CHE Healthy Aging coordinator, and NCC's Chloe Schwabe, Environmental Health Program Manager. Learn how to incorporate healthy living activities into your spiritual practices at any age and prevent chronic diseases. RSVP to Environmental Health Program Manager Chloe Schwabe at chloe@ncecejustice.org.

~ **Upcoming Conferences**

[Aging in America conference](#), the 2011 annual conference of the [American Society on Aging](#) - San Francisco April 26-29.

CHE's Healthy Aging Initiative will have an exhibit table at the July 26-29 [Generations United's 16th International Conference: Rethinking and Revitalizing Intergenerational Connections](#) to be held in Washington, DC. More details to come.

~ **Recent Events and Presentations**

March 11th CHE Partner Call: [Healthy Aging Begins at Conception: Environmental Influences Across the Lifespan](#). With Patrice Sutton (UCSF), Ted Schettler (SEHN), Rick Moody (AARP), Kathy Sykes (EPA), Maria Valenti (CHE HA coordinator). See March 11 CHE Partner calls for recording and resources.

April 4th keynote address at Tufts University Institute of the Environment and the Community Health Program, *Reclaiming Health and Prosperity in the Age of Chronic Disease and Environmental Peril*. Dr. Jill Stein called for restoring health, creating jobs, strengthening the economy, and reclaiming a livable climate at the community level by promoting healthy and sustainable local agriculture, clean energy, active transportation,

toxics reduction, and green economies.

April 6th Dr. Ted Schettler presented workshops at the [CleanMed conference](#) including *Longterm Care Facilities - Promoting Healthy Food and Healthy Aging* with Karen Arnold, San Francisco VA Hospital, Michelle Gottlieb, HCWH, Nancy Mulvihill, Covenant Health Systems. This session explored emerging scientific evidence around the links between public health and the industrialized food system, models of innovation around sustainable food service, and healthy and sustainable practices more generally, from two long term care facilities.

CHE-LDDI

~ coordinated by Erika Hagensen, ehagensen@healthandenvironment.org

~ AAIDD webinar: Who's in Charge of Environmental Health in Schools?

On May 10, 2011, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) will highlight the work of Dr. Jerome Paulson addressing recent concerns about environmental health in the schools. To register for the call, please click on the link below. This call is free and open to the public. Sponsorship provided by AAIDD and the John Merck Fund.

[RSVP and more information](#)

~ AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative Workshop: Healthy Lives, Healthy Minds, June 9

This AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative workshop follows the successful EHI conference on the environment and the developing brain held in Minnesota, December 2008. Featured presentations will focus on the science that links environmental exposures and impacts on the developing brain. This workshop is part of the [AAIDD Annual Meeting](#), June 5-9, 2011, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

~ Film *Wretches and Jabberers* to show at AMC Theatres

This April, the Autism Society and AMC Theatres have teamed up to bring the new film *Wretches & Jabberers* to 40 cities in a special limited release. This ground-breaking documentary, about two men with autism who embark on a global quest to change attitudes about disability, intelligence and communication, highlights the real lives of adults living with autism. This is a huge opportunity to raise awareness about the issues faced by adults with autism and other disabilities today. We appreciate AMC Theatres for providing this very rare opportunity for an independent documentary to have such a long run in large mainstream movie theaters. AMC is generously donating 10% of ticket sales to the Autism Society to commemorate Autism Awareness Month. Learn more about the film or buy presale tickets.

~ MacNeil PBS Program on Autism

Robert MacNeil is returning to PBS to host a six part television series on autism running April 18-26 during Autism Awareness Month. MacNeil, a reporter for 50 years, has never brought his family into a story until Nick, his six-year-old grandson with autism. MacNeil coproduced the specials with Carin Zucker, who has produced many stories on autism and is the mother of a 16 year old son with autism.

[Read more](#)

The six episodes will air as follows on PBS stations:

April 18: Nick and Autism as a Whole Body Experience
April 19: Autism Prevalence
April 20: Autism Causes
April 21: Autism Treatment
April 25: Autism Treatment
April 26: Autism Policy

~ **Special note on CHE Autism** CHE hosts a working group specific to autism science and research. For more information, please see:

http://healthandenvironment.org/initiatives/autism_group

CHE Science

~ coordinated by Ted Schettler, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ New sub-working group explores databases

Launched in March 2011, the CHE Science Database Working Group, a sub-working of CHE Science, is dedicated to enhancing access to environmental health science and news. The goals include:

- Identifying and characterizing resources.
- Sharing skills in refining effective searches.
- Exploring concepts for future enhancement of environmental health science and news search process.
- Identifying ways to make database searches on environmental health science more accessible, centralized and streamlined.

To participate in the Database Sub-working Group send an email request to info@healthandenvironment.org.

CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

CHE-HEAL

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

~ Scientists' Appeal on Children's Environment and Health

The [3rd International Congress of the Paris Appeal](#), held on April 12-13 brings together the biggest group of international experts on how the environment affects health in Europe. The conclusions from these meetings are based on the very latest science and such statements provide a solid foundation for advocates to push for better laws and pilot projects that show what needs to be done. Strong representation from the medical community at the congresses shows recognition of the need to see policy change. In addition, bringing down rates of childhood cancer, congenital malformations, developmental problems, and asthma and allergy cannot be achieved without reducing exposure to certain chemicals, according to Génon Jensen, Executive Director of the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL). The appeal is an international declaration on the sanitary dangers of chemical pollution, launched on May 7, 2004 and was initiated by the ARTAC during a first Congress organized at UNESCO in Paris. The most recent event is organised by ARTAC in partnership with the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) and HEAL. Read the [HEAL press release](#), *Protect children by cutting exposure to harmful chemicals*. In preparation for the conference, HEAL has published a briefing paper - [Children's health and the environment](#), and position paper - [Preventing cancer through environmental policy change](#). These are all available for download on the [HEAL website](#).

~ HEAL calls for better recognition of noise pollution as public health problem

Scientific evidence on the health impacts of environmental noise, from transport and industry is increasing year on year. In 2010, European environment and health ministers signed the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health, committing to, amongst other things, reducing children's exposure to noise. In the Europe and Norway, traffic noise is the second biggest environmental problem affecting health after air pollution, says a report published in March by the World Health Organization (WHO) ([read more](#)). The new figures are worrying but the true impact of noise pollution on health is likely to be much higher. Noise pollution is a critical public health problem. HEAL hopes that now the EU has the evidence, policy makers will make changes in transport and other legislation that will better protect citizens' health.

This year, HEAL will increase advocacy efforts to ensure the risk to health from noise in the EU is minimised. In March HEAL issued a [joint press release](#) (mentioned above),

with leading environment NGOs Transport and Environment (T&E) and the European Environment Bureau (EEB). On 25th May, also with T&E and EEB, HEAL is organising a conference on EU noise policy in the EU Economic and Social Committee building in Brussels. The conference entitled [Quiet Please: The Future of EU Noise Policy](#) will be a high-level event with representatives from the EU parliament, the Commission, national environment, industry and transport and health experts and NGOs. Panel discussions will provide a platform for some of the leading noise experts and policy makers to discuss the latest science on noise & health, road traffic noise and the future of EU noise policy. Online registration for the conference is now open ([see more conference info](#)).

~ **'Victims' of occupational pesticide exposure launch an official association**

During this year's Pesticides Alternatives Week, HEAL and member organisation Générations Futures helped to create an association of 'victims' of occupational pesticide exposure in France. The association, called Phyto-victimes aims to educate the public and health professionals about the impact of pesticides on health, especially that of farmers, and calls for preventative policies that protect people and the environment from hazardous pesticides. The launch event took place in Ruffec, near Poitiers, France on Saturday March 19. Project initiator and host, Paul Francois is a conventional farmer who was intoxicated by inhalation of an herbicide. The event included a screening of "[Notre poison quotidien](#)", which took place in the presence of the director, Marie-Monique Robin, and was followed by a question and answer session.

[Read more](#)

~ **Health community puts environment first in cancer prevention** The World Health Organization has put environmental and occupational factors in first place in the primary prevention of cancer as the launch of the [Asturias Pledge](#) following a meeting in Spain shows. The Pledge represents an important milestone in developing international consensus on the primary prevention of cancer--stopping cancer before it starts by eliminating harmful exposures. Immediately prior to the meeting, HEAL issued [a briefing](#) on the role of environmental pollution in cancer causation.

[Read more](#)

~ **CHE Washington**

~ coordinated by Steve Gilbert, sgilbert@innd.org and Aimee Boulanger, aboulanger@whidbey.com

~ [Healthy World Press](#) is pleased to announce the launch of its first book Particles on the Wall as an e-book! See www.particlesonthewall.org. POTW is an interdisciplinary book connecting science and art in exploring major themes of today's nuclear age. POTW illuminates key events regarding Washington State's nuclear history, current concerns with radioactive contamination, and the quest for peace. The e-book is available in both PDF and EPUB formats and contains numerous hyperlinks leading readers to more information. In order to reach out to as many people as possible, we are offering the e-book as a free download.

Announcements and News Highlights

NIEHS Scientists Join Forces With Green Chemists

NIEHS/NTP scientists joined forces with leaders in the field of green chemistry in what may turn out to be a groundbreaking meeting, "Green Chemistry and Environmental Health Sciences - Designing Endocrine Disruption Out of the Next Generation of Materials," held March 21-23 in Sausalito, Calif. The goals of the meeting in Sausalito were ambitious - to develop a consensus statement on the principles that guide the science needed to assess risks of potential endocrine disruptors, and to develop a reliable and rational testing protocol to aid chemists as they develop and bring the next generation of chemicals into the marketplace.

[Read the full article in Environmental Factor](#)

April 2011 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

April 2011 issue of *Environmental Factor* available online

[Read more](#)

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

Reports, Resources and Other Updates

Assessing Chemical Risk: Societies Offer Expertise

Several leading professional societies, including The Endocrine Society, The American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the American Society of Human Genetics published this statement on assessing chemical risk in *Science*, March 2, 2011.

[Download the letter](#)

New report published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* evaluates impact of exposure to PAH and other combustion-related pollutants

The study, "PAH/Aromatic DNA Adducts in Cord Blood and Behavior Scores in New York City Children," (conducted by researchers at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH) is published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* online April 12, 2011 and is to be released in an upcoming print issue. The researchers measured a biologic marker or "fingerprint" of exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and other combustion-related pollutants in newborns' cord blood.

Researchers found that within a sample of 215 children monitored from birth, those children with high levels of a pollution exposure marker in their cord blood had more symptoms of attention problems and anxiety/depression at ages 5 and 7 than did children with lower exposure.

[Read more](#)

New website for Nurses: EnviRN Knowledge Network

EnviRN is a site for gathering essential environmental health information from experts; connecting with nursing researchers, and creating your very own blog posts on an area of interest to you. You can check out the EnviRN calendar for conferences, webinars and other events. It's also the web home for the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments which allows any nurse to join our free monthly calls on environmental health and nursing education, practice, research and/or advocacy/policy.

[Read more](#)

Health Outcomes After Stopping Conjugated Equine Estrogen Among Postmenopausal Women With Prior Hysterectomy

The objective of this trial was to examine health outcomes associated with randomization to treatment with conjugated equine estrogens (CEE) among women with prior hysterectomy after a mean of 10.7 years of follow-up through August 2009.

[Read more](#)

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

Thank you for taking the time to read the latest about CHE. As always, we welcome

your questions and suggestions. Please direct comments to Elise Miller, Director of CHE, at elise@healthandenvironment.org.

Best wishes,

Elise Miller, MEd, Director

Steve Heilig, Director of Public Health and Education at San Francisco Medical Society and CHE

Erika Sanders, Administrative Coordinator

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