



# Collaborative on Health and the Environment

## eNewsletter - October 2012

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*In recognition of CHE's 10th anniversary, colleagues who have been particularly instrumental to shaping CHE this past decade will be invited to write an introduction. This month's introduction is by Nancy Hepp, MS, CHE's Research and Communications Specialist.*

Many years ago, I heard Paul Harvey on the radio describe two women, typical housewives, who were each cleaning their bathtubs with an ammonia-based product. Both women were unsatisfied with the level of sparkle that they achieved and decided to add some chlorine bleach to the process. One woman spent a long time in the hospital recovering from the damage that the combination of ammonia and chlorine inflicted on her. The other woman wasn't so lucky, according to Harvey. He described how warning labels on ammonia and chlorine products warn against mixing the two, but these women hadn't read the labels thoroughly. I thought, "I'm sorry for these women and their families, and I wish they had read the labels more thoroughly." I didn't think, "These products shouldn't be in our stores and our homes."

Then in the late 1980s I was living in Germany and discovered that the Germans were far ahead of the US in recycling and toxic waste awareness. Signs at the garbage dump instructed me to separate out not only recyclables but also hazardous materials from my trash-- something I'd never done before. I read the long list of materials that were too hazardous to dispose of in a landfill: paints and batteries, of course, but also pesticides and laundry detergents (even the empty bottles that had residues), cosmetics, household cleaners...

products I used every day. I thought "These Germans sure are picky." I didn't think, "Why are cleaning products and cosmetics considered hazardous waste? These products shouldn't be in our stores and our lives."



Nancy takes every opportunity to engage with the natural environment.

My awareness of the toxic nature of many of the products we use was, as for most Americans, slow to develop. We just don't expect something that we buy at the grocery store to be harmful when used according to its intent. We think that the government, the lawyers, the consumer groups--somebody--is keeping an eye on these things. But that hasn't always been true. In fact, it has often not been true, as CHE's partners know.

But this is changing. The last three decades or so have seen an acceleration of federal or state legislative bans or restrictions on tobacco smoke, lead in paint and children's products, PCBs, some carcinogenic ingredients in foods, certain flame retardants, bisphenol A, some pesticides, and other hazardous substances. Warnings are issued about food and consumer products that are contaminated at unsafe levels. Even more meaningful, however, is the amount of press that these issues are getting. As the editor of CHE's [news feed](#), I'm struck by the large and growing number of articles I see every day about environmental hazards to our health. At last, this information is becoming part of our media and societal conversations. We still have much to discover and discuss, but my sense is that at least the topics are on the agenda. I see progress in the growing demand for organically grown food and the resurgence of farmers markets. Some manufacturers have voluntarily stopped producing problematic products. When Wal-Mart and MacDonald's started highlighting their "green" products, I knew the conversation was shifting.

I'm proud and delighted to be part of CHE's contributions to this conversation. CHE's partners include national and international leaders in research, advocacy and policy. CHE's offerings to our partners help move discussions and decisions forward. From our [partnership](#) and [working group](#) calls for scientists to our [Practice Prevention columns](#) for parents, from our much-used [Toxicant and Disease Database](#) to our well-attended [conferences](#), from our daily listing of top news and announcements for several of our listservs to our [blog](#) as a forum for analysis and commentary, and with our new [Top 10 selections](#), we're raising awareness, generating conversation, and catalyzing collaboration among diverse segments of the environmental and health fields. Perhaps most important, we're providing people who might think that everything we consume is safe--as I did--with the latest science about the products and substances, electromagnetic fields and other environmental stressors that shouldn't be in our stores and our homes and our lives--and in turn, partnering with them to press for healthier choices individually and collectively.

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## New CHE Resource

### CHE's Quarterly Top 10 Environmental Health Stories

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment has initiated a [Quarterly Top 10 Environmental Health Stories](#) series. Given that we all are inundated with dozens of stories--often compelling new science and ideas--every week, if not every day, discerning which ones seem most significant and influential is challenging. This is why CHE decided to start this service--to help us all figure out which environmental health stories seem particularly important to track over time.

Though choosing a "Top 10" is more of an art than a science, we selected these items because we consider them "game-changers" in one way or another: they all have had a significant impact, or are likely to have a significant impact on thinking and action in the field; they've changed the conversation on a topic or expanded the scope of the conversation to a new audience or awareness; and/or they are likely to be pivotal in defining a new trend. We have also listed some that reflect a high level of energy and activity in a particular arena. Though the science may still be relatively new or controversial, the level of focus suggests it is worthy of our attention.

This quarter we have highlighted the *Chicago Tribune* series on flame retardants, the statement of principles from The Endocrine Society on EDCs and public health, fracking, and the role a father's health can have on child development. To see the full "Top 10" list visit the link above.

We realize articles in addition to the ones we selected could arguably be included. We also may have missed some new publication or story that, in retrospect, will appear to be seminal. We invite comments ([visit CHE's blog](#) to comment) and look forward to a rich conversation around this.

## CHE Partnership Calls

### CHE Partnership call: 50 Years After *Silent Spring*: Pesticides, Children's Health and the State of the Science

Thursday October 11, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

50 years ago, in *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson said, "If we are going to live so intimately with these [agricultural] chemicals--eating and drinking them--taking them into the very marrow of our bones--we had better know something about their nature and their power". On the 50th anniversary of *Silent Spring*, a new report from the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) reviews dozens of new studies examining the impacts of pesticides on children's health--impacts that include learning and behavioral problems, altered timing of puberty, and cancer.

Although the data are relatively new, the impacts of agricultural chemicals on children's health and development was a core concern of Ms. Carson. While there have been improvements in pesticide regulation and use, this report documents there is still much to accomplish in order to protect this and future generations.

On this call Emily Marquez, PhD, Staff Scientist at the Pesticide Action Network will discuss the highlights and findings of the new report and Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH, Senior Scientist at the Child and Family Research Institute at the British Columbia Children's Hospital and

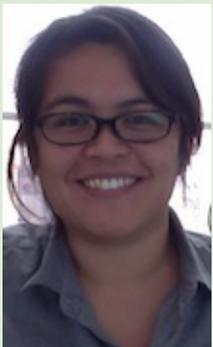
Professor of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University will discuss the impact of pesticide exposures during pregnancy and early childhood development.

Featured speakers:

**Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH**, is a Senior Scientist at the Child & Family Research Institute, BC Children's Hospital and Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. The goal of his research is to prevent common diseases and disabilities in children, such as asthma and ADHD. To quantify the contribution of risk factors, he tests various ways to measure children's exposures to environmental toxicants using novel biomarkers measured during pregnancy and early childhood. Dr. Lanphear also designs experimental trials to test the efficacy of reducing children's exposures to environmental hazards on asthma symptoms and behavioral problems.



**Emily Marquez, PhD**, is a Staff Scientist at PAN. Dr. Marquez began studying reptiles as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, working on effects of sex steroids on sex determination and development in snakes, turtles, and lizards. While in graduate school at Boston University, she studied live-bearing snakes and wrote her thesis on the impact of contaminated soil on expression of genes that play a role in reproduction, using turtles as a model. Before joining PAN in 2012, Emily did postdoctoral research at UC Davis and UC Berkeley. She has also volunteered at the nonprofit Bikes Not Bombs, teaching bike mechanics to youth from the Boston area. Emily manages PAN's Grassroots Science Program, including community monitoring of air and water for pesticide exposure.



**CHE Cafe call: CHE Cafe call: A Conversation with Dr. Jeanne Conry, President-Elect for the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**

Thursday October 18, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Medical clinicians often do not have the time nor training to address environmental health issues, especially in an era where there are an ever-increasing important health topics to discuss with patients in ever-shrinking increments of time. Dr. Jeanne Conry, President-elect of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is a very notable exception.

Dr. Jeanne Conry was awarded the 2012 US EPA Environmental Health Heroes of the Pacific Southwest in the category "Children's Environmental Health". In a recent [CHE interview](#) she noted, "I'm a women's health advocate. Our patients rely on us for information. They come to us because they trust us. We are inspired to learn more about environmental hazards to protect them." Currently she is participating in a collaboration between ACOG, the UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment (PRHE) and representatives from federal agencies that play a role in regulating chemicals in the US with a goal to impress upon the regulatory agencies the major impact that chemicals can have on reproduction.



Join CHE for this conversation with Dr. Jeanne Conry as she discusses her work in the field of environmental and reproductive health as well as her vision for the future of clinical work,

emerging science, and policy challenges and opportunities.

## Special Announcements

### **CHE at American Public Health Association's Annual Conference and Expo, San Francisco, October 27-31, 2012**

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. This year in San Francisco CHE staff, partners and colleagues will speak on several panel presentations and host a booth at the conference Expo.

Please join us at the CHE Exhibit Booth (#2206) where you will find many of CHE's publications and materials and have opportunities to meet CHE's Director, Elise Miller, as well as working group coordinators Karin Russ (Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group), Sarah Howard (Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group) and Maria Valenti (Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative). The exhibition hall opens Sunday October 28th at 2:30 pm and remains open throughout the conference.

Also, please join us at the following presentations and events ([APHA online program](#)):

#### **October 29, 2012, 2:30-4:00 pm, Healthy Environments Across Generations, Session #3329**

Elise Miller, MEd, CHE's Director, will moderate this panel featuring speakers Ted Schettler, MD, MPH (Environmental Determinants of Health Across the Life Course: Multiple Opportunities for Health Promoting Interventions), Peter J. Whitehouse, MD, PhD (Intergenerational School: A Cross-cutting Health Model), Kathy Sykes, MA (Healthy Environments for Healthy Aging) and Karin Russ, MS, RN (Earliest Environment: Disease Prevention Begins in the Womb).

**October 30, 2012: Poster session:** Environmental chemicals in the development of diabetes and obesity. Sarah Howard, MS, Coordinator of CHE's Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group will present.

#### **October 31, 2012, 8:30-10:30 am, A Lifecourse Approach to Health Through Multiple Overlapping Environments, Session #5030**

Kathy Sykes, MA, will moderate this interactive panel session featuring speakers Ted Schettler, MD, MPH (Healthy Communities Across Generations: A Lifespan Perspective), Maria Valenti (HealthQuest: 5 Steps to Reverse Rising Disease Trends and Help the Planet Too), Peter Whitehouse, MD, PhD (Intergenerativity: Brain Health and Lifespan Learning), Daniel George, PhD, MSc (Social Networks and Their Influence on Brain Aging), and Crystal D. Crawford, JD (Healthy Environments Across Generations: Improving Black Women's Health Towards Improving the Health of All Communities).

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#### **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:

- September 20, 2012 - [Healthy Environments Across Generations: What We Learned and What Comes Next](#)
- July 19, 2012 - [The Dose Vs. the Poison: "Low-Dose" Effects of Environmental Chemicals](#)
- June 21, 2012 - [Expanding Our Understanding of Autism: Beyond Genetics to Whole Systems Approaches](#)

You can subscribe via podcast to receive notifications of new call recordings added to the CHE archives. [View past calls and subscribe to the podcast.](#)

## CHE Working and Regional Group Updates

Stay in touch with CHE through social media:

Visit [CHE's blog](#) to read recent posts including *CHE's Top 10 Environmental Health Stories from Mid 2012*, a *Review of the Berlin Workshop Concerning Low Dose Effects and Non-monotonic Dose response for EACs (Endocrine Active Chemicals)* by Sharyle Patton, and an interview with Dr. Jeanne Conry of ACOG by Karin Russ. Comments on CHE Blog posts are always welcome.

Visit CHE's [Facebook page](#).

Join CHE on [Twitter](#).

### CHE Asthma

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **How is indoor air quality in your school?** The quality of the indoor air is important for health and well being, as we spend the majority of our time indoors. The participants brought together in SINPHONIE, the observatory network in Europe on schools indoor pollution and health, analyzed the sources of air pollution such as hazardous chemical emissions, bad ventilation or damp and mold problems. They also brought together information on the children's health status.

Children are particularly vulnerable to effects of indoor air pollution. The 53 health and environment ministers of the WHO European Region recognized this threat to children's health and committed in 2010 in the [Parma Declaration](#) and commitment to act. For the first time, ministers adopted time-bound goals to protect children's health from a variety of environmental threats. One of the aims is to provide each child with a healthy indoor environment in child care facilities, kindergartens, schools and public recreational settings and make these environments smoke-free by 2015.

SINPHONIE will also provide recommendations for policy-makers on how to improve indoor air quality in schools, including an analysis of guidelines and measures taken in individual EU member states.

~ **EEA shows city population at highest risk:** The report confirms the urgency in addressing air pollution as a public health and environmental protection issue. Air pollution has been linked to many short- and long-term health impacts. These include irritation of the

airways and respiratory tracts, causing and exacerbating asthma in children, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in adults, and contributing to rising rates of cardiovascular disease and lung cancer.

Given that national healthcare budgets are under increased pressure from costs associated with chronic respiratory and cardiovascular disease, preventing ill health through improved air quality should be a top priority; not only will save health care costs, it will also increase quality of life for European citizens.

The EU Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potocnik has designated 2013 as the EU Year of Air. The aim is to focus on a strengthening of air quality laws to tackle the problems associated with air pollution. HEAL and our member organizations and partners will provide expertise on the process of reviewing EU air policy. We will especially highlight impacts on vulnerable groups, such as children or those suffering from asthma and airways disease. We also aim to put a spotlight on the win-win situations for health that can be reaped from linking EU climate and air policy.

Medical experts say that current EU air quality standards do not protect our health (see the [European Respiratory Society's "10 principles for clean air"](#)). In comparison to the health-based guidelines set by the World Health Organization (which are based on a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence on health effects), concerns focus on the less strict EU standards for particulate matter and ozone. The EU Year of Air should conclude with greater awareness of the toll on health from poor air quality, proposals on how to reduce air pollution at source and the strengthening EU air quality standards.

HEAL hopes this Year of Air will also provide many opportunities to discuss policy options and measures to improve indoor air quality and give the issue greater prominence on the EU agenda.

## **CHE Climate Change**

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **UK reports the health impacts from climate change:** The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) welcomes the report by the Health Protection Agency as it highlights again the need for health to be at the center of climate change deliberations. While the HPA report predicts health impacts for the UK that are quite worrisome, it also shows that health protection results from well-designed policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While climate change is already taking its toll on human health and preparing for future challenges is imperative, greater damage can only be averted through mitigation.

As co-chair of the WHO Climate Change and Health Task Force, the UK has led efforts to put both adaptation and mitigation on the agenda of health ministries throughout the 53 country European region resulting in a Framework for Action in 2010. HEAL would like to see more countries assessing how people's health is at risk from climate change and how climate action on the other hand brings large benefits to well being and good health.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions will similarly decrease air pollution and thus produce rapid benefits for health. A recent report by HEAL showed that moving from a 20% to a 30% EU emissions reduction target for 2020 will create additional health benefits for the European Union of up to €30.5 billion every year. In the UK, this translates to about €1 billion savings per year made up from less incapacity due to breathing problems, fewer working days lost, less asthma medication and fewer hospital admissions because of cleaner air. From a health

perspective, there is no time to waste.

The WHO European Regional Framework for Action on health and climate change is available online [here](#).

The UK HPA report on health impacts from climate change in the UK can be found [here](#).

### **CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum**

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **Conferences:** The University of Michigan Department of Pediatrics and the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) co-sponsored a symposium on the "[Developmental Origins of Metabolic Disease](#)" that featured fascinating presentations on how early environmental exposures to factors such as nutrition and chemicals can affect the risk of metabolic diseases like diabetes and obesity later in life. Epigenetic mechanisms play a key role in these processes. Some effects appear to be transgenerational, and some may be altered or even reversed by nutritional interventions.

### ~ **New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals**

Trasande L, Attina TM, Blustein J. 2012. [Association between urinary bisphenol A concentration and obesity prevalence in children and adolescents](#). JAMA 308(11):1113-1121.

Persky V, Piorkowski J, Turyk M, et al. [Polychlorinated biphenyl exposure, diabetes and endogenous hormones: a cross-sectional study in men previously employed at a capacitor manufacturing plant](#). Environ. Health 11(1):57.

Maisonet M, Terrell ML, McGeehin MA, et al. 2012. [Maternal Concentrations of Polyfluoroalkyl Compounds during Pregnancy and Fetal and Postnatal Growth in British Girls](#). Environ. Health Perspect.

Song L, Xia W, Zhou Z, et al. 2012. [Low-level Phenolic Estrogen Pollutants Impair Islets Morphology and beta-Cells Function in Isolated Rat Islets](#). J. Endocrinol.

Hao C, Cheng X, Xia H, Ma X. 2012. [The endocrine disruptor monoethyl-hexyl-phthalate promotes adipocyte differentiation and induces obesity in mice](#). Biosci. Rep.

Hao CJ, Cheng XJ, Xia HF, Ma X. 2012. [The endocrine disruptor 4-nonylphenol promotes adipocyte differentiation and induces obesity in mice](#). Cell Physiol Biochem. 30(2):382-394.

Hao CJ, Cheng XJ, Xia HF, Ma X. 2012. [The endocrine disruptor diethylstilbestrol induces adipocyte differentiation and promotes obesity in mice](#). Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol. 263(1):102-110.

### **CHE Fertility and Reproductive Health**

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, [karin@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:karin@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **MP3 available: CHE Fertility call, *The Male Factor: Environment, Development and Fertility*** Environmental factors may alter the course of development of male reproductive organs and impact later adult fertility. Chemicals and other environmental influences may impact the quality of sperm production. This call featured Dr. Shanna Swan from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Dr. Niels Jorgensen from the Department of Growth and

Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Denmark.

[Listen to the MP3 recording](#)

~ **Pregnancy complications up to twice higher in women born preterm** Scientists have known for some time that women whose weight was low at birth have a higher risk of health issues during pregnancy, including gestational hypertension, gestational diabetes and preeclampsia. However, it was unclear whether being born preterm alone had an impact. This research establishes that, independently of weight at birth (i.e. whether too small or normal for gestational age), baby girls born preterm show a significant increase in their risk of developing pregnancy complications, and that the risk increases the more premature the woman was born. Newswise.

[Read more](#)

~ **New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals**

[3D Models of MBP \(metabolite of BPA\) in human estrogen receptors.](#)

Bisphenol A [BPA] is a widely dispersed environmental chemical that is of much concern because the BPA monomer is a weak transcriptional activator of human estrogen receptor alpha and estrogen receptor beta in cell culture. PLOS ONE.

[Exposure During Pregnancy to Glycol Ethers and Chlorinated Solvents and the Risk of Congenital Malformations.](#) Exposure to solvents during pregnancy has long been suspected of increasing the risk of congenital malformations, but the lack of prospective assessment of specific solvent exposures has prevented definitive conclusions. Dose-response trends linked occupational solvent exposure to the risk of major congenital malformations--especially oral clefts, urinary tract malformations, and male genital malformations. Epidemiology.

[Hypertensive disorders in pregnancy and cognitive decline in the offspring up to old age.](#)

Using mothers' blood pressure and urinary protein measurements from the maternity clinics and birth hospitals, the authors defined normotensive or hypertensive pregnancies in mothers of 398 men, who participated in the Helsinki Birth Cohort 1934-1944 Study. Neurology.

[Maternal urinary BPA during pregnancy and maternal and neonatal thyroid function in the CHAMACOS study.](#) In this study, the average of the maternal BPA concentrations was associated with reduced TSH in boys, but not in girls. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Urinary BPA concentrations and early reproductive health outcomes among women undergoing IVF.](#) In this study, higher urinary BPA concentrations were found to be associated with decreased ovarian response, number of fertilized oocytes and decreased blastocyst formation. Human Reproduction.

[Bisphenol A alters early oogenesis and follicle formation in the fetal ovary of the rhesus monkey.](#) This analyses of third-trimester fetuses exposed to single daily oral doses during the time of follicle formation revealed an increase in multiocyte follicles analogous to that reported in rodents. However, two unique phenotypes were evident in continuously exposed animals: persistent unenclosed oocytes in the medullary region and small, nongrowing oocytes in secondary and antral follicles. Because effects on both stages of oogenesis were elicited using doses that yield circulating levels of BPA analogous to those reported in humans, these findings raise concerns for human reproductive health. PNAS.

[Brominated flame retardant \(TBPH\) and testicular development.](#) Two days of TBMEHP

exposure in the rat produced maternal hypothyroidism with markedly decreased serum T3, hepatotoxicity, and increased multinucleated germ cells (MNGs) in fetal testes without anti-androgenic effects. *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

[Dioxin \(TCDD\) Induces Epigenetic Transgenerational Inheritance of Adult Onset Disease and Sperm Epimutations](#). The current study examined the ability of dioxin (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo[p]dioxin, TCDD) to promote epigenetic transgenerational inheritance of disease and DNA methylation epimutations in sperm. *PLOS ONE*.

[Surrounding greenness and exposure to air pollution during pregnancy](#)

Living in homes surrounded by grass and trees can reduce pregnant women's exposures to traffic-related air pollution, according to a study in Barcelona, Spain. *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

## **CHE Healthy Aging Initiative**

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, [mvalenti@igc.org](mailto:mvalenti@igc.org)

~ **New resources from the *Healthy Environments Across Generations* conference:**

New *Healthy Environments Across Generations* interview video with Dr. Richard Jackson, recent winner of the prestigious Heinz Award and a pediatrician, professor and chair of the department of environmental health sciences at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health.

Visit the [conference webpage](#).

Join the ongoing conversation on [Facebook](#).

~ ***Design for Retirement and Healthcare Environments* report:** The American Society of Landscape Architects' [Healthcare and Therapeutic Garden Network](#) was a cosponsor of our Healthy Environments Across Generations event and member Jack Carmen of [Design for Generations](#) provided a "wellness tour" of the Central Park Conservatory Garden. The ASLA Professional Practice Network's mission is to "promote the concept of therapeutic gardens to administrators, healthcare professionals, and other key-decision makers who are influential in determining the creation of this alternative form of therapy." Among resources available is the "Design for Retirement and Healthcare Environments Report" which can be accessed from the website [here](#).

~ **International Day of Older Persons:** In a statement issued on October 1st, which is [International Day of Older Persons](#), UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon underscored the need to "rethink how individuals live, work, plan and learn throughout their lifetimes, and that we re-invent how societies manage themselves." He emphasized that rapid population aging and a steady increase in longevity worldwide "represent one of the greatest social, economic and political transformations of our time. These demographic changes will affect every community, family and person."

~ **Join the [EPA Aging Initiative listserv](#)** and get the latest updates on programs and policies that address both environmental health issues and environmental stewardship regarding the aging population. This site also contains a wealth of resources on aging and health such as the "Age Healthier, Breathe Easier" factsheet.

~ **Upcoming meeting, conferences and presentations**

October 27-31, 2012: [American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco.

November 14-18, 2012: [Gerontological Association of America 65th Annual Scientific](#)

[Meeting](#), San Diego, CA.

December 10, 2012: Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, statewide summit, Newton, MA.

February 7-9, 2013: [New Partners for Smart Growth](#), Kansas City, "Designing Healthy Environments Across Communities and Generations" panel presentation in partnership with the UW Population Health Institute County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program.

March 12-16, 2013: [Aging in America Conference](#), Chicago. CHE has submitted three collaborative panels on environmental justice, safer chemicals, and healthy environments across generations, partnering with many other organizations across disciplines.

## CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

### CHE Alaska

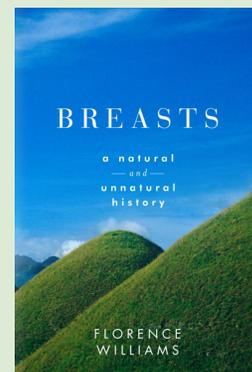
~ coordinated by Pam Miller, [pkmiller@akaction.net](mailto:pkmiller@akaction.net)

~ **Working group call: The Unnatural History of Breasts: Industrial Chemicals, Breast Cancer, and Early Puberty**

Wednesday October 24, 2012 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

The incidence of breast cancer worldwide has doubled since 1940, and continues to rise. Young girls are developing breasts earlier than ever before. What role might chemicals in the environment be playing in these profound changes? Join science journalist Florence Williams for a discussion of the unsettling findings she uncovered in researching her new book *Breasts: A Natural and Unnatural History*. Learn why breasts are humanity's first responders to environmental changes and how they are, as Florence writes, "a particularly fine mirror of our industrial lives." Find out how certain chemicals may interact with hormone levels, altering breast development and increasing a woman's risk of breast cancer and why some chemicals are being looked at as possible culprits in early puberty.



Featured speaker: **Florence Williams**, is a contributing editor at *Outside Magazine* and a freelance writer for *New York Times*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, *High Country News*, *O-Oprah*, *W.*, *Bicycling* and numerous other publications. She was a Scripps Fellow at the Center of Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado in 2007-2008. She has received many awards, including six magazine awards from the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the John Hersey Prize at Yale. Her first book, *Breasts: A Natural and Unnatural History*, was recently published by W.W. Norton. The manuscript was named a finalist for the 2011 Columbia/Nieman Lukas Work-in-Progress Award.

### CHE HEAL

~ coordinated by Lisette Van Vliet, [lissette@env-health.org](mailto:lissette@env-health.org)

~ **Global consensus achieved on EDCs**: At the international conference (Nairobi, September 17-21), delegates agreed to include new measures related to the United Nation's voluntary chemicals management programme, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). One key development was the decision to add endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) as an emerging policy issue, to develop a work plan and to

implement a series of activities on EDCs with an emphasis on the needs and risks posed by these chemicals for developing countries.

HEAL is very pleased with the recognition of EDCs as a global concern, especially the specific reference to protecting vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women and children. The release of a new WHO publication, "Endocrine disruptors and child health: Possible developmental early effects of endocrine disruptors on child health", underscored the need for this focus.

HEAL hopes this new prioritization and commitment within the SAICM framework will facilitate science-based information exchange, dissemination, and networking on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and that it will improve the availability and access to information on such chemicals and help close current knowledge gaps on effects of EDCs and ultimately reduce exposure and harm from EDCs.

A workshop addressing the report *2012 Report on the State of the Science of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals* was also held in Nairobi and was jointly developed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. Technical details on this long-awaited report were presented. The report itself should be released in the near future.

Additional resources:

- [Press release from IPEN](#): *African region plays leading role at global negotiation for safe chemicals management plan*
- [Web coverage of the conference, including interventions and summary report](#)
- [Press release](#) of *Reseau Environment Sante: Les perturbateurs endocriniens, une cause mondialement reconnue!*
- [WHO/UNEP EDC presentations](#)
- WHO (2012): [Endocrine disruptors and child health: Possible developmental early effects of endocrine disruptors on child health](#)
- [HEAL EDC workshop](#): Chronic Diseases and Endocrine Disruptors (Brussels, September 14)
- [European Parliament public workshop](#): Endocrine Disruptors and Impact on Health (Brussels, September 18)

~ **HEAL Policy Workshop on Chronic Diseases and Endocrine Disruptors (EDCs):**

HEAL held a policy workshop on chronic diseases and endocrine disruptors (EDCs) on September 14, 2012 in conjunction with HEAL's Annual General Assembly. The morning workshop featured external speakers and presentations of case studies from HEAL's own member organisations.

Loukas Georgiou, Health Attaché, Cyprus Permanent Representation, Cyprus EU Presidency discussed chronic disease in relation to the work of the EU Health Council

and the Cyprus Presidency Conference on 'Healthy Aging across the Lifecycle'. Robert Barouki, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), Paris Descartes University gave a talk on the science of prenatal exposure and EDCs drawing on the outcome of the recent Paris PPTOX conference; a scientific consensus statement which includes implications for public policy. The statement was written by five leading international



Speakers table (left to right): Mr Loukas Georgiou, Cyprus Permanent Representation; Mr Robert Baroucki, INSERM; Ms Lisette van Vliet, HEAL; Ms Carol Kwiatkowski, TEDX

scientists (Dr Barouki, Peter D. Gluckman, Philippe Grandjean, Mark Hanson, and Jerrold J. Heindel. It now has 87 cosignatories from scientists all over the world. Already published in the journal [Environmental Health](#), it will soon be featured in *The Lancet*.

Carol Kwiatkowski, Executive Director of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX), USA demonstrated the [Critical Windows of Development](#) timeline: A science based tool for exploring environmental origins and disease.

The case studies included the partnership between Réseau Environnement Santé and the Parisian-based health insurance Mutuelle Ile-de-France, in which posters make up part of an exhibition on EDCs; the report from

the Flemish Cancer League (Belgium) on Cancer and Environment; the EDCs campaign from the Health Defense Organisation/Fundacion Vivosano in Spain; and printed materials from the BPA campaign of Breast Cancer UK.

These were followed by an animated panel discussion involving Peter Korytar from the European Commission, DG Environment, including exchanges on the role of educating health professionals, the consumer demand, and the need to create incentives for green design and green chemistry. Participants heard that EU Health Ministers have shown interest in prevention measures that address the early stages of life and that this will be reflected in the Health for Growth programme. Other policy developments and opportunities were discussed.

[View the photo album](#) from the workshop

## CHE Oregon

~ coordinated by Chris Hagerbaumer, [chrish@oeconline.org](mailto:chrish@oeconline.org)

~ **Call for Presenters: 5th Annual NW Environmental Health Conference:** The Oregon Environmental Council is currently accepting applications to present at the conference. Applications are due no later than November 9, 2012. For more information, visit [www.oeconline.org/nwehc](http://www.oeconline.org/nwehc).

The conference will host leading scientists, researchers, and health professionals in the multidisciplinary field of Environmental Health to continue our robust dialogue on the interrelationship between the environment and health and healthcare practices.

The 2013 conference will focus on epigenetics: how environmental factors, particularly chemicals in our environment, can change the expression of our genes, impacting health and disease over generations. Epigenetics is emerging as a crucial topic, especially in pediatric healthcare. The National Institutes of Health plans to make transgenerational impacts of endocrine disruptors a priority for research funding. Other presentations will cover topics as diverse as environmentally driven health disparities and sustainable practices in health care.

Registration for the conference opens January 7, 2013. For more information, please contact [nwehc@oeconline.org](mailto:nwehc@oeconline.org), or visit [www.oeconline.org/nwehc](http://www.oeconline.org/nwehc).

## CHE Washington

~ coordinated by Aimee Boulanger and Steve Gilbert, for more information contact [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

~ **CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group meeting** Thursday October 11, 2012 at 9:30 am to 11:30 am Pacific

Gail Gensler (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program) will present a slideshow retrospective of the first five years of the CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group-accomplishments, challenges, next steps. This will be an excellent way to be introduced to the group and to kick off our planning for 2013.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Gail Gensler at [gail.gensler@kingcountry.gov](mailto:gail.gensler@kingcountry.gov) or 206-263-3082.

Location: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, 130 Nickerson, Suite #105, Seattle, WA 98109

Participate by phone: 1-206-684-1467

## Announcements and News Highlights

### **UCLA's Richard Jackson wins Heinz Award for his work on healthy design of cities**

Dr. Richard Jackson, a pediatrician, professor and chair of the department of environmental health sciences at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health, has been honored with the prestigious Heinz Award for his environmental and public health research, which has sparked a national conversation about the relationship between the physical design of our communities and rising health risks. UCLA Newsroom.

[Read more](#) [Read CHE's interview](#) with Dr. Jackson

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EHN and its sister site, The Daily Climate, offer a wealth of valuable information each day at no cost to subscribers. The daily email subscriptions and the 350,000-item news archive have recently been supplemented by a Facebook page and Twitter feed.

### **Environmental Health News: email, Facebook, Twitter and a website archive**

[Visit the website](#)

[Visit the EHN archives page](#)

Friend EHN on Facebook by searching for Environmental Health News

### **October 2012 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online**

[Read more](#)

### **October 2012 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

### **New report: CDC National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals: Updated Tables, September 2012**

The *Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, Updated Tables, September 2012* provides new data since the release of the *Fourth Report, 2009*. These data include updated tables for 119 chemicals in the *Fourth Report, 2009* and tables for 34 new chemicals. Review this publication for the most recent and complete biomonitoring data.

[Read more](#)

### **New report: Exposure Science in the 21st Century: A Vision and a Strategy**

This report from the the National Academies investigates the contact of humans or other organisms with those agents (that is, chemical, physical, and biologic stressors) and their fate in living systems.

[Read more](#)

### **New book: *Girl, Disrupted* adapted and translated into French**

WECF has launched a report in French called *Menace sur la santé des femmes*. The report explains what hormone disruptors are and how these chemicals affect women's reproductive systems--particularly at critical stages of development. It highlights key scientific research regarding contaminants linked to conditions including early puberty, infertility, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, breast cancer and others. This report is based on the 2008 report [\*Girl, Disrupted: Hormone Disruptors and Women's Reproductive Health\*](#)

[Read more](#)

### **New book: *Is It Safe? BPA and the Struggle to Define the Safety of Chemicals***

Author Sarah A. Vogel, Managing Director of the Environmental Defense Fund's Health Program, writes: "We are all just a little bit plastic. Traces of bisphenol A or BPA, a chemical used in plastics production, are widely detected in our bodies and environment. Is this chemical, and its presence in the human body, safe? What is meant by safety? Who defines it, and according to what information? *Is It Safe* narrates how the meaning of the safety of industrial chemicals has been historically produced by breakthroughs in environmental health research, which in turn trigger contests among trade associations, lawyers, politicians, and citizen activists to set new regulatory standards."

[Read more](#)

### **New video: Primary Care + Public Health in the Community**

This video, produced by the Institute of Medicine, highlights a recent report on the integration of primary care and public health.

[Learn 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](mailto: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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