



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

eNewsletter - February 2014

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Prevention, anyone?

*by Elise Miller, MEd
CHE Director*

Yesterday, I attended the memorial service of another friend who died from cancer. For most of his career (which was still very much in full gear), he went around the world working with governments and other agencies to reduce pollution from mining operations. He was dedicated to improving the health of those working in the mines, their families, and their communities. As I sat with his family and dear friends, I wondered whether the heavy metals and other toxins he had been exposed to on those trips might have contributed to the onset of his cancer. We'll never know, but the [World Cancer Report](#) released last week by the World Health Organization stating that cancer rates are expected to increase by 57% worldwide in the next 20 years gave me pause.

The report indicated that within two decades cancer cases will rise from 14 million annually to 22 million, and deaths from cancer could rise from 8.6 million to 13 million annually. This could mean that health care systems around the world, many of which are already stretched to the point of breaking, will need significantly more resources to respond to this looming crisis. This could also mean that many, many more people will be attending funerals and memorial services and will carry the grief of losing loved ones too soon.

In response to last week's WHO report, [Dr. Christopher Wild](#), director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, said, "We cannot treat our way out of the cancer problem. More commitment to prevention and early detection is desperately needed in order to complement improved treatments and address the alarming rise in cancer burden globally."

Notably, another report released by WHO some years ago stated that environmental risk factors play a role in more than 80% of all diseases, including cancer. In addition, nearly one quarter of all deaths related to the total disease burden can be attributed to the environment, and for children, that percentage increases to slightly more than one-third.

In the US, we can point to decreasing mortality rates from cancer because improved medical treatments allow people to live longer. But the incidence of certain cancers such as childhood leukemia and brain cancer, as well as other disease endpoints like diabetes and obesity, continue to rise alarmingly. As poorer countries become more developed, those populations are also expected to experience an increase in the burden of diseases associated with industrialized lifestyles.

Clearly this means that investing in prevention is more urgent than ever. We know that if preventable contributors to disease, such as environmental contaminants, are not addressed, some of us may live a bit longer if we're fortunate enough to have access to good health care, but even then, the quality of those years may be sorely undermined by the struggle to manage the symptoms of chronic disease--not to mention the exorbitant medical expenditures and the emotional and social toll on the individual, their family, and community.

Will another report by WHO shift our global obsession with treating disease to a greater emphasis on prevention? Very likely not. Will we immediately implement prevention oriented regulations in the wake of horrific chemical spills like the one in Charleston, W.VA. a month ago? Probably not.

But I do believe that the dedicated efforts by each of us to press for prevention in health care, to press for stronger public health policies, to press for healthy environments for our children, and much more, do build a collective momentum in ways we cannot always see or understand. We will never know when the tipping point may come (or if it will happen in our lifetimes), but our work at every level of society can move us towards a world in which another WHO report might finally state that cancer rates have dropped by 57% and all chronic diseases are steadily on the decline.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with all of you with that goal in mind.

With warm regards,
Elise

CHE Partnership Calls

CHE Partnership call: Endocrine Disruption of the Neuro-immune Interface

Wednesday February 19, 2014 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)



Building on the January 8, 2014 teleconference featuring Dr. Rodney Dietert ([visit the call page and listen to the MP3 recording](#)) on how the developing immune system is a target for endocrine disrupting chemicals, Dr. Jamie DeWitt will discuss how certain cells of the immune system may mediate endocrine signals to direct aspects of brain development. She also will describe scenarios where endocrine disrupting chemicals can alter brain development by changing signals to the immune cells that can mediate development of sex specificity in the brain.

CHE Partnership call: Chemical Trespassers in Your Indoor Air

Tuesday February 25, 2014 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Indoor air quality in homes, workplaces, schools and other buildings may be compromised by vapor intrusion resulting from hazardous material volatilizing into the basement or ground floor of a building. These vapors might come from landfills, hazardous waste sites, leaking underground storage tanks, even drycleaners. The problem of vapor intrusion has been studied for decades, but remains difficult for public health professionals to assess and manage. Early work on this topic was related to radon, a naturally occurring agent whose radioactive nature is the basis of human health risks. Focus has now expanded to intrusion of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Depending on subsurface geology, individual building conditions, and even weather conditions, indoor air concentrations of contaminants can vary substantially from day to day across an entire neighborhood. Contaminant concentrations are not only difficult to predict, they are also expensive to measure. Despite the challenges of predicting or characterizing the vapor intrusion problem, regulatory agencies are tasked with developing regulations or guidelines to ensure protection of human health. The speakers on this call will discuss common sources of chlorinated volatile compounds in indoor air generally, and sources via the vapor intrusion pathway specifically, health concerns regarding exposures, research methods for characterizing exposure risk, and regulatory challenges at the state and federal level. The speakers will also provide a few examples of vapor intrusion sites.

Featured speakers:

Madeleine Scammel, DSc, conducts research in the use of qualitative methods in the area of community-driven environmental health and epidemiologic studies, mapping and monitoring community-identified environmental health hazards, and analyzing cumulative exposures to chemical and non-chemical stressors. She is the Principal Investigator of an EPA grant to study cumulative risk to social and environmental stressors in urban populations. This grant is a community-based participatory research project located and conducted in partnership with the Chelsea Collaborative. Madeleine also directs Community Engagement and Research Translation Cores of the Boston University Superfund Research Program, and the Partnerships and Collaborations Core for the Partners in Health and Housing Prevention Research Center (PHH-PRC) at Boston University.



Kelly Pennell PhD, PE, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Kentucky. She teaches graduate and undergraduate students and conducts environmental research. Her research interests include the fate and transport of environmental contaminants, water disinfection processes, and environmental systems modeling. In addition to research and teaching, she has experience as an environmental consultant and a governmental liaison. Drawing from all of her current and previous experience, her research is situated at the interface of research, policy and practice.



Paul Locke, MS, has been with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection since 1987, and is currently the Director for Response & Remediation in the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, overseeing implementation of the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (including audits, compliance and enforcement and data management systems) as well as the Federal Sites section. As Division Director, Mr. Locke also coordinates with other MassDEP programs, such as Hazardous Waste, Wetlands and Solid Waste, whenever there is regulatory overlap with Waste Site Cleanup. He has also served as Director of Policy and Program Development, during which time MassDEP promulgated significant revisions to the MCP and first-in-the-nation standards for perchlorate.

CHE Partnership call: The Link Between Arsenic Exposure and Diabetes: A Review of the Current Research

Hosted by the CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group

Tuesday March 11, 2014 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

There is strong evidence that high levels of arsenic exposure can increase the risk of diabetes. Can lower levels of exposure as well? This is one of the questions that researchers are now trying to answer. This call features two experts who study arsenic and diabetes, Dr. Ana Navas-Acien and Dr. Mirek Styblo. Dr. Navas-Acien will discuss epidemiological evidence linking arsenic to diabetes, focusing on lower exposure levels, such as those found in the US. Dr. Styblo will review the potential mechanisms involved in the diabetogenic effects of arsenic.

CHE Cafe call: Dr. Phil Landrigan and Dr. Ruth Etzel on Children's Environmental Health

Thursday March 13, 2014 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Though a number of books have been written on children's environmental health over the years, *The Textbook of Children's Environmental Health*, published in January 2014, provides one of the most comprehensive overviews of the research and clinical applications to date. The editors of this new volume, Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc, and Ruth Etzel, MD, PhD, have been guiding lights in the burgeoning children's environmental health field over the last three decades. Their efforts to integrate environmental health into medical school curricula, galvanize support for seminal new research, and translate emerging science into more child-protective public health policy nationally and globally have prompted far wider recognition of these concerns. Join this call to hear them discuss their book in greater detail and how it can be used to generate positive action towards improving children's health.

Save the date: CHE Partnership call featuring Dr. Frederica Perera discussing EDCs

This half-hour teleconference call on Wednesday March 19, 2014 will be the third in a monthly series sponsored by the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's EDC Strategies Group. Invited speakers will present the latest research on endocrine disruption and the immune system, the metabolic system, the brain, behavior, and more. More information and a link to RSVP will be on the CHE website soon.

Special Announcements

Three CHE listservs now open to subscribers

In order to better target our various CHE audiences, streamline sharing of information and promote dialogue, CHE has opened the CHE-Washington, CHE Initiative on Children's Environmental Health (ICEH), and CHE Learning and Developmental Disabilities (LDDI) listservs to all subscribers to post news and journal articles, calls for proposals, events and all other types of announcements. These lists have previously been moderated and received one email a day containing tops news and announcements. CHE invites Partners not currently subscribed to these three lists to join the conversations. If you would like to subscribe to any the CHE-WA, CHE-ICEH, or CHE-LDDI list please email info@healthandenvironment.org.

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:

- February 5, 2014: [Fire Safety Without Harm: How New Flammability Standards in California Protect the Health and Environment of Alaska](#)

- February 4, 2014: [Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age](#)
- January 21, 2014: [Chemical and Psychological Stressors and Health](#)
- January 16, 2014: [Radiation and Human Health: Three Years After The Japan Disaster](#)
- January 8, 2014: [Endocrine Disruption and Immune Dysfunction](#)

You can subscribe via podcast to receive notifications of new call recordings added to the CHE archives. [View a list of 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.

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

Join CHE on [Twitter](#). CHE now tweets during most Partnership calls. Join the online conversation by following CHE on Twitter.

CHE Asthma

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, info@healthandenvironment.org

~ EU air quality strategy puts health at center but key elements are missing

At the end of 2013 the EU Commission's launched its air quality package which gives a central place to health but no clear roadmap for achieving it. No timetable is offered for adjusting the law which matters most for health.

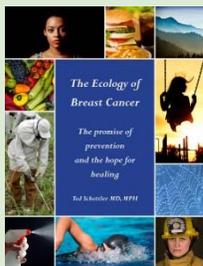
[Read more](#)

[Read an assessment](#) of the 2013 EU Year of Air released last month by NGOs

CHE Breast Cancer

~ coordinated by Michael Lerner and Jeanne Rizzo, info@healthandenvironment.org

~ Webinar: The Ecology of Breast Cancer



Join the Breast Cancer Fund for a 25-minute interview with researcher and environmental health expert, Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, about his new e-book, *The Ecology of Breast Cancer: The Promise of Prevention and the Hope for Healing* on February 27, 2014 at 4:00 pm Pacific/7:00 pm Eastern. We'll discuss Dr. Schettler's ecological model of breast cancer, the many and varied factors that contribute to the high incidence of breast cancer, and what we can do about it as individuals and as a society. The interview will be followed by a Q&A session.

[Read more and register](#)

[Listen to the CHE Partnership call featuring Dr. Schettler](#)

CHE Climate Change

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, info@healthandenvironment.org

~ World Health Organization announces Global Conference on Climate Change and Health

The three-day conference will take place August 27-29th, 2014 and will bring together leading experts in the fields of health and climate change. Further information will be made available in the coming months on the WHO website. In the meantime any inquiries should be sent to maierom@who.int.

~ HEAL reacts to Commission's proposal on EU climate and energy targets for 2030

Last month leading NGOs including HEAL called on the EU Heads of State and Government to put EU climate ambition back on track. However the EU Commission's White Paper on its 2030 climate and energy policy failed to reap greater health co-benefits for its EU citizens.

[Read more](#)

~ **Disappointment at lack of EU action on shale gas**

The EU Commission has backed away from legislation on fracking and, instead, issued 'minimum principles' and recommended voluntary guidelines for EU Member States to follow when deciding on granting licenses for shale-gas exploration. HEAL expresses disappointment at this lack of action despite the health and environmental impacts of fracking.

[Read more](#)

CHE Diabetes-Obesity

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, sarhow@gmail.com

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

[Chlorinated Persistent Organic Pollutants, Obesity, and Type 2 Diabetes](#). 2014. Lee DH, Porta M, Jacobs DR, Jr., Vandenberg LN. *Endocr.*

This review summarizes epidemiological results on chlorinated POPs and type 2 diabetes, and relevant experimental evidence. The evidence as a whole suggests that, rather than a few individual POPs, it is background exposure to POP mixtures that can increase type 2 diabetes risk in humans. There is evidence in animal studies that low dose POP mixtures are also obesogenic. However, relationships between POPs and obesity in humans have been inconsistent.

[Gender and racial/ethnic differences in the associations of urinary phthalate metabolites with markers of diabetes risk: national health and nutrition examination survey 2001-2008](#). 2014. Huang T, Saxena AR, Isganaitis E, James-Todd T. *Environ.Health* 13(1):6

The findings suggest that certain populations may be more vulnerable to phthalates with respect to disturbances in glucose homeostasis. Whether endocrine disrupting chemicals contribute to gender and racial/ethnic differences in diabetes risk will be an important area for further study.

CHE Working Group on Electromagnetic Fields

~ coordinated by Antoinette Stein, nettestein@gmail.com

~ **Workshop on electromagnetic fields (EMF) and health effects: From science to policy and public awareness**

A major workshop on electromagnetic fields and related health effects is being jointly organized by the European Commission and the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), under the auspices of the EU Council Greek Presidency. The workshop will take place March 28, 2014 in Athens, Greece.

[Read more](#)

~ **Thousands being interviewed in mobile phone brain cancer study**

Thousands of young people are being interviewed as the EU backs the largest study in the world into the links between mobile phone use and brain cancer in children.

[Read more](#)

~ **Cell phone use and prenatal exposure to cell phone radiation may cause headaches in children**

A new, peer-reviewed study found that children who used cell phones or were exposed prenatally to cell phone radiation were at higher risk of developing headaches by age 7.

[Read more](#)

~ **New European project on health effects of electromagnetic fields**

GERoNiMO will provide support to the EU and national regulatory bodies by improving reliability of research data on potential effects of EMF exposures and providing educated recommendations for public health policy based on a consensus of experts from diverse fields.

[Read more](#)

CHE Fertility and Reproductive Health

~ coordinated by Karin Russ,
karin@healthandenvironment.org

~ New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals

[Outdoor air pollution, preterm birth, and low birth weight: analysis of the World Health Organization Global Survey on Maternal and Perinatal Health.](#) Outdoor PM2.5 concentrations were associated with low birth weight but not preterm birth. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Urinary concentrations of 2,4-Dichlorophenol and 2,5-Dichlorophenol in the U.S. population \(NHANES, 2003-2010\): Trends and predictors.](#) Exposure to DCPs and their precursors was prevalent in the general US population in 2003-2010. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[In vitro effects of coital lubricants and synthetic and natural oils on sperm motility.](#) Sesame oil and synthetic coital lubricants impaired sperm motility and may hamper fertility. Fertility & Sterility.

[Dose-dependent incidence of hepatic tumors in adult mice following perinatal exposure to bisphenol A.](#) Our results link early life exposure to BPA with the development of hepatic tumors in rodents, with potential implications for human health and disease. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Birth outcomes and maternal residential proximity to natural gas development in rural Colorado.](#) In this large cohort, we observed an association between density and proximity of natural gas wells within a 10-mile radius of maternal residence and prevalence of CHDs and possibly NTDs. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Assessing the impact of race, social factors and air pollution on birth outcomes: a population-based study.](#) Results show a stable and negative association between air pollution exposure and adverse birth outcomes. Environmental Health.

[The effects of long-term exposure to a 2450 MHz electromagnetic field on growth and pubertal development in female Wistar rats.](#) Increased total oxidant status and oxidative stress index values in the brain and ovary tissues can be interpreted as a sign of chronic stress induced by EMF. Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine.

[Effects of maternal exposure to phthalates and bisphenol A during pregnancy on gestational age.](#) MEHHP and BPA (free + glucuronide) are associated with reductions in gestation, with effects observed only in males. Journal of Maternal-Fetal and Neonatal Medicine.

[ITE and TCDD differentially regulate the vascular remodeling of rat placenta via the activation of AhR.](#) These results suggest ITE and TCDD differentially regulate the vascular remodeling of rat placentas, as well as the expression of angiogenic factors and their receptors, which in turn may alter the blood flow in the late gestation and partially resulted in intrauterine fetal death. PLoSOne.

[Mining gene expression data for pollutants \(dioxin, toluene, formaldehyde\) and low dose of gamma-irradiation.](#) All significantly differentially expressed genes, including those shared among the stressors, can be divided into gene groups using Gene Ontology Biological Process identifiers. PLoSOne.

[Perinatal bisphenol A exposure promotes dose-dependent alterations of the mouse methylome.](#) The comprehensive methylome map presented here provides candidate loci underlying the role of early BPA exposure and later in life health and disease status. BMC Genomics.

[Bisphenol A exposure alters developmental gene expression in the fetal rhesus macaque](#)

[uterus](#). Second or third trimester BPA exposure does not significantly affect fetal uterus development. However, differences in expression of key developmental genes after third trimester exposure suggest that BPA could alter transcriptional signals influencing uterine function later in life. PLoS One.

[Exposure to perfluorooctane sulfonate in utero reduces testosterone production in rat fetal leydig cells](#). The present study shows that PFOS is an endocrine disruptor of male reproductive system as it causes reduction of T production and impairment of rat fetal Leydig cells. PLoS One.

[High fat diet and in utero exposure to maternal obesity disrupts circadian rhythm and leads to metabolic programming of liver in rat offspring](#). Offspring from obese rat dams have detrimental alternations to circadian machinery that may contribute to impaired liver metabolism in response to HFD, specifically via reduced PPAR expression prior to obesity development. PLoS One.

[Bisphenol A promotes human prostate stem-progenitor cell self-renewal and increases in vivo carcinogenesis in human prostate epithelium](#). Human prostate stem-progenitor cells are direct BPA targets and that developmental exposure to BPA at low doses increases hormone-dependent cancer risk in the human prostate epithelium. Endocrinology.

[Domain-specific effects of prenatal exposure to PCBs, mercury, and lead on infant cognition: Results from the Environmental Contaminants and Child Development study in Nunavik](#). PCBs, MeHg, and Pb each showed specific and distinct patterns of adverse associations with the outcomes measured during infancy. Environmental Health Perspectives.

CHE Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org

~ How is the Farm Bill a health bill for seniors and others?

A new Federal Farm Bill was passed recently that has implications for the health of all Americans, including older Americans who may depend on nutrition assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). How does the new Farm bill affect nutrition for low-income people, organic farm subsidies, land stewardship, and other matters vital to our health? Dr. David Wallinga addresses these question in his latest Healthy Food Action blog post.

[Read more](#)

~ Dancing Veterans

Warrior's Dancing Heart™ is a program for military veterans designed by the intergenerational dance company [Kairos Alive](#). Kairos' mission is to share the joy of intergenerational interactive participatory dance and story, and to liberate its power to nurture and heal. KAIROS alive! work draws upon modern dance, movement improvisation, folk dance and oral history traditions from around the world, and the lives of inspiring people.

~ National Civic Review on the healthy communities movement

Read the first of two special issues of the [National Civic Review](#) on the past 25 years of the Healthy Communities movement and on work to improve the health and equity of the environments where we live, learn, work, gather, and play.

~ Upcoming Events

[Making the Connection 2014: Environmental Health Across the Lifespan](#)

February 28-March 1, 2014, Madison, WI

This conference is hosted by the Wisconsin Environmental Health Network. Maria Valenti will present on healthy aging and the environment.

CHE Regional Working Groups Update

CHE Alaska

~ coordinated by Pamela Miller, pamela@akaction.org

~ CHE-AK Working Group call: Evidence-Based Advocacy to Protect Children's Environmental Health: A Discussion of the Latest Science with Dr. Ruth Etzel

Wednesday March 12, 2014 at 9:00 am Alaska/10:00 am Pacific/1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Over the past four decades, the prevalence of autism, asthma, ADHD, obesity, diabetes, and birth defects have grown substantially among children around the world. Not coincidentally, more than 80,000 new chemicals have been developed and released into the global environment during this same period. Today the World Health Organization attributes 36% of all childhood deaths to environmental causes. Because children are exquisitely sensitive to their environment, exposure during their developmental "windows of susceptibility" can trigger cellular changes that lead to disease and disability across the life span. Join Dr. Ruth A. Etzel, co-editor of the *Textbook of Children's Environmental Health* for an update on the mounting scientific evidence linking pediatric disease with environmental exposures.

CHE HEAL

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

~ Opposing special investor clause in future EU-US trade agreement

A group of NGOs including HEAL wrote to the Ambassador of the US Trade Representative in Europe to express their opposition to the inclusion of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) arrangements in the TTIP currently being negotiated between the US and the EU.

[Read more](#)

~ New EU project on protecting children from EDCs

On February 19-20th, HEAL's Executive Director will participate at an event organized by HEAL member Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) to launch their ChildProtect project on EDCs.

[Read more](#)

~ BPA health cost estimate should prompt EU action

The European Union should phase out the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in food contact materials following the publication of first-ever estimates of associated health costs. The US study published in [Health Affairs](#) says that removing BPA from 'food uses' might prevent 6,236 cases of childhood obesity and 22,350 cases of newly incident coronary heart disease per year in the US, with potential annual economic benefits of \$1.74 billion (€1.28 billion).

[Read more](#)

HEAL in *The Parliament* this month: ['EU must regulate 'exposure' to Bisphenol A'](#) by Génon K. Jensen

~ Delays of EU EDC strategy continue

Continuous setbacks of the EU Commission's revised strategy on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) mean lost opportunities for prevention of chronic disease and healthcare savings. At the beginning of 2014, the strategy is still not out.

[Read more](#)

~ 3,800 Spanish public health experts call on Spain's Minister of Health and EU Commission to adopt a stricter regulation of EDCs

The Spanish Society of Public Health and Health Administration (SESPAS), which brings together 12 scientific societies and 3,800 professionals and scientists of the field of public health in Spain, wrote to Spanish and European authorities to act guided by the public interest.

[Read the English press release](#)

[Read letters \(in Spanish\) submitted to the Ministry of Health](#)

~ Save the date! Pesticide Action Week, March 20-30th

The 9th annual Pesticide Action Week aims to raise



awareness about the impacts of pesticides on our health and the environment as well as promoting alternative methods. HEAL is an official partner of the event. With more than 1,000 events worldwide (e.g. conferences, film screenings, workshops, exhibitions) with the participation of 16 countries and 35 national and European partners, the public can become involved and aware of the risks of pesticides in our lives. [Read more](#)

~ **Global NGOs welcome WHO support for new**

Mercury Convention

NGOs welcome the adoption of a new resolution by the WHO's Executive Board, agreeing to both endorse and lend support for countries to address the health-related aspects of the new Minamata Convention on Mercury. The objective of this Convention is to protect human health and the environment from human made mercury emissions through a range of provisions -- including, for the first time in a global multilateral environment agreement, a dedicated health article.

[Read more](#)

CHE Oregon

~ coordinated by Colin Price, colinp@oeconline.org

~ **6th Annual Northwest Environmental Health conference**

The conference on April 8, 2014 at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon 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. Registration is now open.

[Read more](#)

CHE Washington

~ coordinated by Aimee Boulanger and Steve Gilbert, info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group meeting**

The CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group will meet next on Thursday February 13, 2014 at 9:30 am (Pacific). This meeting is open to those interested in children's environmental health exposures in Washington State. At this meeting participants will discuss the recent [Children's Environmental Health Forum: Healthy Environments for Healthy Babies: Preventing Harmful Environmental Exposures Before and During Pregnancy](#). The presentation will be "Overview of NIEHS Superfund Research Program at the University of Washington and Beyond."

[View the full meeting agenda](#)

Location: University of Washington Superfund Research Program Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle

RSVP: Gail Gensler, gail.gensler@kingcountry.gov or [206-263-3082](tel:206-263-3082) . To participate by phone: [1-866-756-1071](tel:1-866-756-1071) , access code: 9016859.

~ **3rd Children's Environmental Health Research Matters conference**

The Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) will host this half-day conference on March 5, 2014 at the University of Washington Tower, Seattle, WA. The program includes presentations on pediatric asthma morbidity, genomics, environmental stress biomarkers and maternal and child health, biomonitoring, and arsenic exposure during pregnancy. Registration is now open.

[Read more](#)

Announcements and News Highlights

Healthy Food Action announces webinar series

Healthy Food Action will host a series of webinars titled: *Food Pollution: What clinicians (and parents) need to know*. The first webinar will take place Friday February 14th and

is titled: *Head bangers: Heavy metals in the food supply.*

[Read more and register](#)

At least 33 states to consider toxics policies in 2014

Safer States summarizes pending legislation in each state.

[Read more](#)

Call for abstracts: International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)

The call for scientific abstracts is now open for the 26th annual meeting. This year's theme is: "From Local to Global: Advancing Science for Policy in Environmental Health." The meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, USA on August 24-28th, 2014. Updates on this meeting can be found on our conference website: www.isee2014.org.

Call for abstracts: American Public Health Association (APHA)

The call for scientific abstracts is now open for the 142nd annual meeting. This year's theme is: "Healthography: How Where You Live Affects Your Health and Well-being." The meeting will be held Nov. 15-19, 2014 in New Orleans. Deadlines range from February 10-14th depending on topic area.

Endocrine Society seeking suggestions for sessions

The Annual Meeting Steering Committee is looking for program ideas that are innovative and incorporate basic research, clinical investigation, and clinical practice. Submit your ideas to the [ENDO 2015 Suggestion Site](#) by Feb. 25, 2014.

Environmental Health News (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

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February 2014 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

February 2014 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

***Chem Fatale* now available in Spanish**

Women's Voices for the Earth has translated *Chem Fatale* report and fact sheet on toxic chemicals in feminine care products and impacts to women's health into Spanish.

[Read more](#)

EPA adds chemicals to Safer Chemical Ingredients List

The *Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL)* serves as a resource for manufacturers interested in making safer products, health and environmental advocates seeking to encourage the use of safer chemicals, and consumers seeking information on the ingredients in safer chemical products. The EPA recently announced the addition of 50

chemicals to the SCIL. The list was created in September 2012 and now contains almost 650 safer chemicals and includes more than 150 fragrance chemicals.

[Read more](#)

CHE lists hundreds 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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