



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

eNewsletter - July 2013

[Not yet a CHE Partner? Join CHE now](#)

[Invite a colleague to join CHE](#)

[Send us feedback](#)

Contents

[CHE Partnership Calls and Special Announcements](#)

[Working and Regional Group Updates](#)

[Announcements and News Highlights](#)

[Reports, Resources and Other Updates](#)

A Boon for Reproductive Health

For those concerned about environmental impacts on reproductive health, the stars have aligned. Last month, the [University of California, San Francisco's Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment](#) (PRHE) honored three exceptional leaders: Teresa Woodruff, PhD, President of [The Endocrine Society](#), Linda Giudice, MD, PhD, President of the [American Society for Reproductive Medicine](#), and Jeanne Conry, MD, PhD, President of the [American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#). Not only do these highly gifted women head major professional societies which represent tens of thousands of researchers and health professionals around the world, they are deeply committed to expanding the scientific literature on links between environmental contaminants and reproductive health and to highlighting the need for stronger chemical policy reform.

This has not always been the case. When Alison Carlson first contacted CHE about 10 years ago, she had been knocking on doors at medical centers for some time trying to find someone who could tell her anything about links between chemical exposures and infertility. Because of her tenacity and deep concern about these issues, she eventually connected with leading researchers and health professionals in this budding field and formed the CHE Fertility



(L-R) are PRHE Director, Tracey Woodruff with Linda Giudice and CHE Fertility founder, Alison Carlson.

Working Group. In turn, her efforts were instrumental in catalyzing the first scientific consensus conference, "[Understanding Environmental Contaminants and Human Fertility Compromise: Science and Strategy](#)," in 2005. Two years later, the UCSF-CHE Summit on "[Environmental Challenges to Reproductive Health and Fertility](#)," helped pave the way for the establishment of PRHE. PRHE, currently directed by Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH, is the first program of its kind in the US.

A core focus of research in this field is on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), such as bisphenol-A, phthalates and organophosphate pesticides, which have been shown to mimic or block hormones that are essential to the healthy development of the reproductive system (in addition to other biological systems in animals and humans). The Endocrine Society, which published a [seminal scientific report on EDCs and health concerns in 2009](#), sent an

[open letter](#) in April to the European Union to include more endocrinologists in their deliberations on EDCs.

The scientific evidence linking EDCs to reproductive health concerns is burgeoning. Just yesterday a new study, "[Chemicals Tied to Reduced Fertility in IVF](#)," undertaken by Dr. Irene Souter and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital, was presented at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology meeting in London, and almost every week there are several more relevant research studies published. Having the Endocrine Society and other notable organizations that work closely with CHE, such as the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) (NIEHS), PRHE and [The Endocrine Disruptor Exchange](#) (TEDX), in turn, provides a strong foundation for ASRM and ACOG to educate their memberships broadly about this research-and how it applies in both clinical and policy settings.

In short, the evolution of the field of reproductive health and the environment has gone from (almost) zero to 100 MPH in just 10 years, and serves as another inspiring example of what a small group of committed people can do to catalyze significant and lasting change. With this triumvirate of luminaries now in key positions, the next 10 years of advances in this field are looking more attainable than ever. Of course, that will take a lot more collective, visionary and dedicated work. Towards that end, we hope you will add your expertise to these efforts by joining CHE's [Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group](#), now headed by Karin Russ, MS, RN.

With warm regards,
Elise Miller, MEd
CHE Director

* * * * *

CHE Partnership Calls

CHE Partnership call: Policy and Practice: The US Food System and Health

Tuesday July 16, 2013 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[Read more and RSVP for this call](#)

A major social determinant of health is our food system--not only what we eat, but how



Dr. David
Wallinga

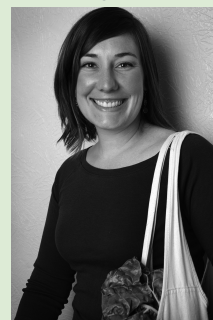
that food is grown, processed and made available to the market. From pesticide use to fertilizer nanomaterials to antibiotics in animal feed, science raises important public health concerns around agriculture, but these concerns are largely ignored at the policy level, including by the Food and Drug Administration. Every five years, the federal Farm Bill--the nation's largest piece of food and farm related legislation--strongly steers how these and related issues are handled. Congress failed to pass any Farm Bill last year, and health professionals are increasingly troubled by the direction of the 2013 version.

On this call Dr. David Wallinga, MD, MPA, founder of Healthy Food Action (and formerly IATP Senior Scientist) discusses the prospects for policy-led change in the health of the US food system, at the federal level as well as at the community level. In contrast to the gridlock around the Farm Bill, local communities around the



Dr. Preston
Maring

country are innovating and changing food system policy and practice in important ways. Ashley Colpaart, MS, RD, Chair-Elect of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Hunger and Environmental Nutrition practice group also discusses the relationship between health services, nutritious food and a sustainable environment. Finally Dr. Preston Maring of Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center will discuss his work to bring farmers markets to Kaiser Permanente facilities across multiple states.



Ashley
Colpaart, MS,
RD

Special Announcements

CHE's Chemical Policy Reform webpage

On [CHE's blog](#), we report on recent significant developments in federal chemicals policy reform with the introduction by the late Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and David Vitter (R-LA) of a new, bipartisan bill called the Chemical Safety Improvement Act (CSIA). The introduction of the CSIA has generated intense new interest in how to reform our nation's regulation of industrial chemicals. The question is whether CSIA is strong enough to reform the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in a meaningful way. A range of organizations across the political spectrum has issued statements about the new bill. Visit [CHE's Chemical Policy Reform webpage](#) to read more.

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:

- June 20, 2013: [The Rise of the US Environmental Health Movement: A Conversation with Kate Davies](#)

- June 18, 2013: [Primary Prevention of Asthma: A Roadmap](#)
- June 6, 2103: [Stress as an Endocrine Disruptor: Maternal Psychosocial Stress During Pregnancy and Fetal Development](#)

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

CHE Asthma

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ WHO report underlines need for stronger EU action on air pollution

A recent scientific review by the WHO of evidence on health aspects of air pollution (REVIHAAP project) shows the need for the EU to step up efforts to improve air quality. The project provides new and more extensive evidence of harm to health in adults and children. [Read more](#)

~ Key to effective policymaking on air quality is to find synergies between policy areas

In the latest edition of Europe's World HEAL Executive Director Genon Jensen outlined that the key to effective policymaking on air quality is to find synergies between policy areas. [Read more](#)

CHE Climate Change

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ WHO toolkit on health costs of climate adaptation

The WHO Regional Office for Europe recently launched a new tool to help estimate the health costs of climate change and adaptation measures in various sectors to protect health. Member States, citizens or advocacy groups can also use the tool to estimate the benefits of adaptation measures to minimize these effects. In particular, it can help strengthen the case for health adaptation in settings where climate change adaptation measures are just beginning. [Read more](#)

~ WHO calls for input on climate change and health research priorities The aim of this questionnaire is to build consensus and understanding on research priority areas related to climate change and health. For this purpose we ask respondents to consider 8 different pathways through which climate change may affect health. Responses due no later than July

19th.

[See the questionnaire](#)

CHE Fertility and Reproductive Health

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, karin@healthandenvironment.org

~ CHE Blog: Responses to RCOG statement on dealing with chemicals during pregnancy

Recently, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists published the Scientific Impact Paper No. 37 entitled "Chemical Exposures During Pregnancy: Dealing with Potential, but Unproven, Risks to Child Health." Visit the CHE Blog to see official comments from leading CHE partners. [Visit CHE's blog](#) to read the full post

~ CEHN Article of the Month: Methyl bromide and birth outcomes

"Residential Proximity to Methyl Bromide Use and Birth Outcomes in an Agricultural Population in California" has been selected by the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) for its July Article of the Month summary. These summaries discuss the potential policy implications of current children's environmental health research. [Download the PDF](#)

~ Opinion: Working together: Research- and science-based regulation of BPA

Through the combined and collaborative efforts of the NIEHS and FDA, many important questions surrounding BPA and risks to human health have been or will be addressed in the near future. The promise of this collaborative approach extends well beyond BPA. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Read more](#)

~ EPA defends chemical testing of low-dose hormone effects

The US Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that current testing of hormone-altering chemicals is adequate for detecting low-dose effects that may jeopardize health. Environmental Health News.

[Read more](#)

~ ICE/ENDO accepting suggestions for 2014 meeting

The 16th International Congress of Endocrinology will be held jointly with The Endocrine Society's 96th Annual Meeting on June 21-24, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois. The Steering Committee is especially interested in suggestions on topics, speakers and new and innovative formats that will incorporate basic research, clinical investigation and clinical practice, with a goal of providing a venue for bridging the gaps in science and practice. The deadline for suggestions is July 24, 2013; 5:00PM EST.

[Visit the website](#)

~ PRHE Reach the Decision Makers 2013 accepting applications

The University of California San Francisco's Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment announces its Reach the Decision Makers 2013 Training Program. Are you a scientist, community-based leader, public health or health care professional with experience in environmental or reproductive health? You should consider joining the Reach the Decision Makers training program! Applications are due August 9, 2013 at 5:00pm PST.

[Read more](#)

~ Call for suggestions for the 16th International Congress of Endocrinology & The Endocrine Society's 96th Annual Meeting & Expo

The Annual Meeting Steering Committee seeks suggestions for topics, speakers and new and innovative formats that will incorporate basic research, clinical investigation and clinical practice, with a goal of providing a venue for bridging the gaps in science and practice. The deadline for suggestions is July 24th.

[Read more](#)

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

[Prenatal exposure to persistent organochlorines and childhood obesity in the US](#)

[Collaborative Perinatal Project](#). In some previous studies, prenatal exposure to persistent organochlorines such as DDE, PCBs and HCB has been associated with higher body mass index (BMI, kg/m²) in children. Adjusted results did not show clear evidence for an association between organochlorine exposure and obesity; however, a suggestive finding emerged for dieldrin. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[High bioavailability of Bisphenol A from sublingual exposure](#). The data indicated that the systemic bioavailability of BPA deposited sublingually was high (70-90%) and that BPA transmucosal absorption from the oral cavity led to much higher BPA internal exposure than obtained for BPA absorption from the gastro-intestinal tract. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Paternal Stress Exposure Alters Sperm MicroRNA Content and Reprograms Offspring HPA](#)

[Stress Axis Regulation](#). Parental lifetime exposures to environmental challenges are associated with increased offspring neuropsychiatric disease risk, and likely contribute to stress dysregulation. These results demonstrate that paternal experience across the lifespan can induce germ cell epigenetic reprogramming and impact offspring HPA stress axis regulation, and may therefore offer novel insight into factors influencing neuropsychiatric disease risk. Journal of Neuroscience.

CHE Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org

~ **Upcoming events and meetings**

[Generations United 17th International Conference](#) in Washington DC, July 30-August 2nd. We will participate in a multi-sector panel on environmental health on August 1st organized by Kathy Sykes of the EPA Aging Initiative.

The [Atlanta Area Agency on Aging](#) and other partners have organized a summit on healthy aging. We will be providing a plenary presentation on September 17th.

CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

CHE Alaska

~ coordinated by Pamela Miller, pamela@akaction.org

~ **CHE Alaska call: Lessons from Libby, Montana: Mining, Asbestos and Public Health**
Wednesday July 24, 2013 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern.

There is no scientific evidence suggesting that safe levels of asbestos exposure are attainable. Asbestos exposure is linked to the development of numerous respiratory diseases, including mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis and pleural disease. A federal report on asbestos in Ambler, Alaska recommends that gravel in a local quarry not be used due to

asbestos contamination and subsequent public health risks. Yet there are reports that this gravel is being used for road and home construction within Ambler during this summer's building season. This happened soon after state legislation (HB 258) was passed "providing immunity for the state and for landowners, extractors, suppliers, transporters, and contractors for certain actions or claims arising in connection with the use of gravel or aggregate material containing naturally occurring asbestos in certain areas"--opening up the Ambler deposit to construction uses across the state. Michelle Boltz, Nurse Practitioner with the Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD) in Libby, Montana will discuss health risks of asbestos exposure and how exposure to a unique type of asbestos known as Libby amphibole asbestos has resulted in hundreds of illnesses and deaths from occupational and non-occupational environmental exposures associated with vermiculate mining and milling operations resulting in the entire town being designated as a Superfund site and Public Health Emergency. [Join this call](#) to learn more about asbestos related disease and resources for identifying potential health risks associated with asbestos fiber inhalation and models of community response to widespread asbestos contamination.

CHE HEAL

~ coordinated by Lisette Van Vliet, lissette@env-health.org

~ European countries outline plans to cut pesticide use

At the end of last year EU member states submitted their national action plans on the sustainable use of pesticides to the EU Commission. The plans outline the ways in which member states will encourage Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to reduce the use of pesticides. They show a variety of approaches to implementing the rules and set out quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables to reduce risks and impacts of pesticide use on public health and the environment.

[Read more](#)

~ Priority given to health in 7th EU Environmental Action Programme

HEAL commends both the Irish EU presidency and the European Parliament on the recent agreement to give priority to health in the 7th EU Environment Action Programme, strengthening health prevention measures on exposure to hazardous chemicals and on air quality.

[Read more](#)

~ Weed killer found in European biomonitoring samples

A recent report shows that traces of the world's best-selling weed killer, glyphosate, has been found in biomonitoring samples of human urine across Europe. The findings from the research, carried out by Friends of the Earth, raise concerns about increasing levels of exposure to this weed killer.

[Read more](#)

~ Living close to heavy traffic strongly linked to heart disease deaths Recent research from a study of over a million individuals in Rome shows that there is a strong link between long-term exposure to vehicle pollution and deaths from heart disease and lung cancer.

[Read more](#)

Announcements and News Highlights

White House honors "Champions of Change"

On Tuesday, July 9th, the White House honored eleven people as "Champions of Change" who are working on the front lines to protect public health in a changing climate. The President's Climate Action Plan recognizes the need for responsible steps to cut carbon pollution, so we can protect our kids' health and begin to slow the effects of climate change. These Champions are raising awareness about these health consequences and helping their communities prepare for climate-related health impacts.

[Read more](#)

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](#)

[Sign up for EHN's free weekly e-newsletters](#) focused on children's health and energy and health

Friend EHN on Facebook by searching for Environmental Health News

July 2013 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

July 2013 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

WHO launches new Chemical Risk Assessment Network

WHO has announced the launch of a network of leading risk assessment institutions from around the world, to improve chemical risk assessment globally. The network will scale up action and facilitate sustainable interaction between institutions on chemical risk assessment. The network is a voluntary, collaborative initiative.

[Read more](#)

New film takes a fresh look at the chemical revolution

Unacceptable Levels examines the results of the chemical revolution of the 1940s through the eyes of affable filmmaker Ed Brown, a father seeking to understand the world in which he and his wife are raising their children. Brown presents the story of how the chemical revolution brought us to where we are, and of where, if we're not vigilant, it may take us.

[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

You are receiving this message because you are subscribed to the CHE National listserv. This message comes to you from the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, online at: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/>.

We encourage sharing of resources and welcome recipients of this email to forward it to others. However we do ask that you forward this message in its entirety, complete with its attribution and footer.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to erika@healthandenvironment.org by erika@healthandenvironment.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Collaborative on Health and the Environment | P.O. Box 316 | Bolinas | CA | 94924