



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

eNewsletter - November 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 Pamela Miller, MS, Executive Director and Founder, Alaska Community Action on Toxics and Coordinator, CHE Alaska Regional Working Group.

A View from the North

As I reflect on the tenth anniversary of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, I am grateful--grateful for the vision of CHE, the connections with remarkable scientists and health advocates, and the incredible resources and knowledge base that CHE provides. I love that civility is a key underlying principle of every CHE conversation. I remember when I first became a CHE partner in 2002, a few of us at [Alaska Community Action on Toxics](#) would huddle together on cold, dark wintry mornings here in Alaska listening to partnership calls with intense interest. Sometimes we would invite the entire staff over to our home and share tea while we all participated in the calls. The calls sparked new ideas about how to engage in our work more effectively, possibilities for new community-based research, enlightened us about new science that informed our efforts to achieve transformative and protective policies. The CHE [Vallombrosa Consensus Statement on Environmental Contaminants and Human Fertility Compromise](#) provided the scientific basis for our environmental reproductive health and justice program, affirming much of what is witnessed by health workers and Alaska Native elders in our communities concerning involuntary infertility, miscarriages, and other reproductive health

problems.

We worked together to establish a regional partnership, CHE-Alaska, to engage Alaskans concerning environmental health issues facing Alaska and the circumpolar Arctic. In December 2005, Alaska Community Action on Toxics and CHE co-sponsored the Alaska Conference on Health and the Environment, including health professionals, researchers, and Alaska Native community leaders and traditional healers. The three-day event was also co-sponsored by others including the Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies at the University of Alaska. Panels focused on children's environmental health issues, environmental justice, the latest science about contaminants and health, and the Precautionary Principle.

In initiating CHE-AK, we wanted to foster on-going discussion about the particular vulnerabilities of the Arctic environment and Indigenous peoples to the threats of persistent organic pollutants and climate change. We aimed to engage diverse participation of people in monthly CHE-AK partnership calls. Michael Lerner was particularly encouraging with the vision that CHE-Alaska could be a "window to the Arctic." Indeed, we wanted to address issues that are especially important to Alaska yet have national and international ramifications, such as the long-range transport of contaminants to the north, food safety for Indigenous peoples, and the health effects of military and industrial toxics.

Since the beginning of 2006, CHE-AK has hosted over 70 partnership calls (recordings available at www.akaction.org) featuring leading scientists and policy experts and we now have about 1,100 people from Alaska, the lower-48 states and Canada who have asked to receive the announcements. From 40-125 participants join the calls each month including community health workers and tribal leaders from the smallest remote villages throughout Alaska, health advocates and scientists in Canada, nurses and physicians, university students, journalists, and policymakers from Alaska to Washington DC. These calls help strengthen scientific dialogue and collaborative engagement on environmental health issues, connecting people from around a state that spans huge distances from the Arctic north slope to the rainforest ecosystem of the southeast panhandle. In addition to serving Alaskans, the issues that we discuss are of interest to people across the US and Canada who are looking to learn from our speakers and each other about effective actions to take. The opportunity of serving as a regional working group of CHE helps us bring the concerns of Alaskans and the critical public health issues in the Arctic to national awareness. The accumulation of POPs in the Arctic is recognized as a concern for everyone because these chemicals know no boundaries and must be addressed at every level.

Although our work here in the challenging political environment of Alaska is sometimes discouraging, CHE offers a sustaining link with people around the world who share a deep commitment to a holistic approach toward achieving environmental health, human rights, and justice. Even in the dark mornings of Alaska, CHE inspires us to carry on our collective work!

* * * * *



Pam Miller sampling soil in Alaska.

CHE Partnership Calls

CHE Partnership call: Dr. Barry Commoner: Reflections on a Life and Work

Tuesday November 27, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Barry Commoner, a cell biologist who became an early leader of the environmental movement and an influential proponent of the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, died in September at the age of 95. His work was virtually always informed by basic ecological principles discussed in his well-known book, *The Closing Circle*. Early in his career, Commoner recognized the ecological consequences of America's post-war technology boom and was among the first to stimulate a national debate over the public's right to confront the risks and make decisions. He believed that decisions based on scientific information were ultimately political, requiring value judgments. He opposed leaving decisions solely to so-called experts and emphasized the importance of getting scientific information to the public in understandable ways.

In remembrance of Dr. Commoner's contributions and his influence on the careers of so many who came to know him through his research, writing, and teaching, CHE is hosting a call on Tuesday November 27, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern with reflections from two of his former students. David Kriebel, Professor and Chair, Department of Work Environment, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Michele Prichard, Director, Common Agenda, Liberty Hill Foundation will discuss their connections with Barry Commoner and his influences on their work.

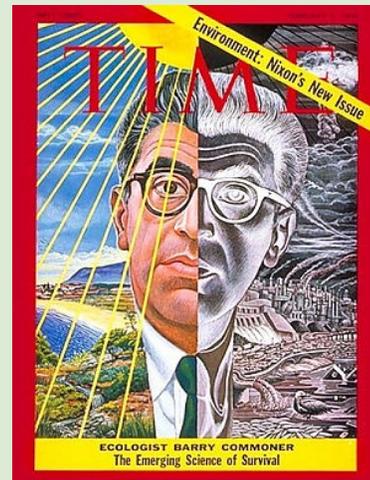
Call participants will also be invited to share brief reflections on how Barry Commoner's work has influenced them.

CHE Partnership call: Methods for Screening and Assessing Chemicals

Thursday December 13, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Screening and assessing chemicals has become a priority among a number of organizations and agencies. Because of the gaps in the data and other challenges in evaluating chemical toxicity, it is essential to understand the scope and limitations of different methods in order to make better decisions about chemical use and truly safer alternatives. To elucidate this process, Pete Myers, PhD, CEO and Chief Scientist of Environmental Health Sciences; Lauren Heine, PhD, Consulting Co-Director of Clean Production Action and co-author of the GreenScreen for Safer Chemicals; and Scott Auerbach, PhD, Molecular Toxicologist at NIEHS will discuss some of these methods and their current and potential impact on chemical policy reform and market changes.



Barry Commoner on the cover of Time

Special Announcements

CHE at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting



CHE had an active presence at the American Public Health Association's 2012 annual meeting *Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan* in San Francisco October 27th-31st. Our working group leaders presented panels in both the APHA Aging Section as well as the Environment Section, and mounted a poster on environmental contributors to diabetes. Numerous CHE partners presented throughout the four days including Michael Belliveau who addressed "The Drive for Chemical Policy Reform in the US," selected as the "Best Paper of the Year" by the Occupational Health and Safety Section of APHA." Several were honored with other awards: Richard Jackson, MD, MPH, was given the Sedgwick Memorial Medal, the highest award given at APHA, and also had a book signing for his new book *Designing Healthy Communities*; Richard Clapp, DSc, received the Scientific Research award from the Occupational Health and Safety Section of APHA; and Gina Solomon, MD, MPH, was awarded the Damu Smith Environmental Achievement Award, which recognizes crosscutting collaborative work that has enhanced understanding of economic security, ecological conservation, culture or health.

At the CHE exhibit booth we brought the message of environmental contributors to health to many of the nearly 12,500 public health professionals who attended the



Karin Russ, coordinator of CHE's Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group, discusses environmental health with APHA attendees at CHE's booth.

conference. Nonstop conversations over four days by working group coordinators proved fruitful in introducing people to the wide range of CHE's scientific resources and ongoing programs. It was a tremendous platform for sharing science and CHE materials, building partnerships, and addressing emerging health issues. An example of one outcome from a discussion by Sarah Howard was the following blog on "[Toxic Chemicals and Diabetes](#)" by author David Spero. We have many new partners who have signed up for CHE, including scientists, professors, researchers, and medical professionals.

Nearly 100 people attended our *Healthy Environments Across Generations* panel session moderated by CHE Director Elise Miller, MEd, with speakers Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, (Environmental Determinants of Health Across the Lifecourse: 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). Sarah Howard spoke with many attendees over several hours at her poster session on environmental chemicals in the development of diabetes and obesity. And on the final morning of the conference, about 30 people turned out for *A Lifecourse Approach to Health through Multiple Overlapping Environments* interactive panel session organized by Kathy Sykes, MA, of the EPA Aging Initiative and moderated by CHE's Maria Valenti with 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).

If you couldn't make it to San Francisco, or you want to catch up on the conversation, visit the [APHA Annual Meeting Blog](#).

The [APHA 2013 Annual Meeting](#) will take place November 2-6, 2013, in Boston. The meeting theme is Think Global Act Local. Call for Abstracts will open December 14, 2012 and will close mid-February.

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:

- October 18, 2012 - [A Conversation with Dr. Jeanne Conry, President-Elect for the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#)
- October 11, 2012 - [50 Years After "Silent Spring": Pesticides, Children's Health and the State of the Science](#)
- 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](#)

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 including an excerpt from *Public Health Classic: DES Daughters* by CHE Partner Dick Clapp. 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

~ TEDX announces "An Exploratory Study of Air Quality Near Natural Gas Operations" has been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication by *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*: This exploratory study was designed to assess air quality in a rural western Colorado area where residences and gas wells co-exist. Sampling was

conducted before, during, and after drilling and hydraulic fracturing of a new natural gas well pad. [Read more](#)

~ **Bipartisan group issues report on climate change and security:** The bipartisan organization American Security Project (ASP) issued a [Climate Security Report](#) to highlight the challenges that a changing climate will present for domestic and global security.

~ **Exposure to traffic air pollution in infancy impairs lung function in children:** Exposure to ambient air pollution from traffic during infancy is associated with lung function deficits in children up to eight years of age, particularly among children sensitized to common allergens, according to a new study. Science Daily.
[Read more](#)

CHE Climate Change

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

~ **The risk of heading to the emergency room for certain conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke, kidney disease and low blood pressure rises slightly as temperature and humidity increase, according to a new study from California:** Rupa Basu, an epidemiologist at the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and her team looked at the relationship between heat and specific health conditions, rather than deaths, during the warm seasons in California from 2005 to 2008. During this period there were 1.2 million visits to emergency rooms, the researchers report in the journal *Epidemiology*. For each 10-degree Fahrenheit (corresponding to roughly 5 degrees Celsius) increase in temperature, the research team saw increased ER visits for a variety of conditions--from a 1.7 percent rise in ER visits for heart disease to a 4.3 percent rise in diabetes visits to a 12.7 percent increase in visits for low blood pressure. Conditions diagnosed as heat illness or heat stroke rose nearly four-fold for every 10-degree F climb on the thermometer, and dehydration visits increased by 25 percent.
[Read more](#)

~ **Global online event to highlight climate change: The Dirty Weather Report-- 24 Hours of Reality--Focus on Climate and Health:** Dirty energy has created a world of Dirty Weather. Today, climate disruption affects us all. And it will take all of us together to solve it. Join us for *24 Hours of Reality: The Dirty Weather Report*, when together we will stand up and demand real solutions to the climate crisis. This global event is supported by HCWH with broadcast live on the internet. HCWH Founder Gary Cohen joins former Vice-president and Nobel Laureate Al Gore, to discuss climate change and health on November 14, 2012 8:00-9:00pm US EST. Karen Ballard, Nursing Consultant and former chair of the HCWH Nurses Work Group will join on November 15, 2012 10:00-11:00am US EST. To learn more and sign up to participate visit: <http://climaterealityproject.org/>

CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals** A number of new studies link diabetes or obesity to environmental chemical exposures, including **persistent organic pollutants** (see: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23131992> and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23014754>, **arsenic** (see:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23097256> and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23093101>, **air pollution** (see: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23104765> and <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/2012/10/gstm1-gstt1-and-gstp1-polymorphisms-and-associations-between-air-pollutants-and-markers-of-insulin-resistance-in-elderly-koreans/>), **BPA** (see: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23090578> and <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/11/1/79/abstract>), and a study on **triflumizole**, a fungicide that acts as an obesogen in animals.



Sarah Howard, coordinator of CHE's Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group staffs the CHE booth at APHA

~ **Poster presented at APHA:** Sarah Howard, coordinator, CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum Working Group, presented a poster at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting, "[Environmental chemicals in the development of diabetes and obesity.](#)" It was wonderful to spend time speaking with people at the CHE booth as well.

CHE Fertility and Reproductive Health

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, karin@healthandenvironment.org

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

[Maternal smoking as a model for environmental epigenetic changes affecting birth weight and fetal programming:](#) Although the association between maternal smoking and low birthweight infants has been well established, the mechanisms behind reduced fetal growth are still being elucidated. In this review we address two important questions: Does exposure to maternal tobacco smoke in utero alter the fetal epigenome? Could these alterations be associated with reduced fetal growth? *Molecular Human Reproduction*.

[Higher PFCs when pregnant linked to smaller daughters at birth:](#) A pregnant woman's exposure to chemicals that make consumer products stain and water resistant may affect the growth and weight of her daughter at birth and later in life as a toddler. A British study has found that newborns whose mothers had higher levels of the polyfluoroalkyl compounds PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS during pregnancy weighed between 3 and 5 ounces less than girls born to mothers with lower levels. *Environmental Health News*.

[Risk of cryptorchidism and hypospadias among boys of maternal hairdressers--a Danish](#)

[population-based cohort study](#): National population-based registers were used to determine maternal occupation and identify cases of cryptorchidism and hypospadias. The cohort comprised all children born in Denmark from 1980-2007. Our nationwide cohort study shows that, despite exposure to a complex chemical milieu, hairdressers do not have an increased risk of having boys with cryptorchidism and hypospadias. *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health*.

[Non-monotonic dose effects of in utero exposure to DEHP on testicular and serum testosterone and anogenital distance in male mouse fetuses](#): Epidemiological studies suggest that di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) decreases masculinization of male fetuses. Numerous rat studies report DEHP reduces fetal testosterone production at doses greatly exceeding human exposure. Because data from our highest dose did not differ significantly from controls, this dose could have been incorrectly assumed to be the NOAEL had we only tested very high doses, as is typical in studies for regulatory agencies. *Reproductive Toxicology*.

[Association between organic dietary choice during pregnancy and hypospadias in offspring](#): Mothers of boys operated for hypospadias were frequency matched on geography and child birth year to mothers of healthy boys in a case-control study. Overall organic choice of food items during pregnancy were not associated with hypospadias in the offspring. However, frequent current consumption of high fat dairy products (milk butter) while rarely or never choosing the organic alternative to these products during pregnancy was associated with increased odds of hypospadias. *Journal of Urology*.

[Prenatal and perinatal environmental influences on the human fetal and placental epigenome](#):

We review data on three types of exposures-nutritional, glucocorticoid, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals-and discuss how these may be associated with epigenetic changes in the fetus and the placenta, a key mediator of in utero environment. In addition, we outline some considerations for investigation of epigenetic effects in the fetus and placenta that are important to consider in the design of studies for the future. *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*.



CHE Healthy Aging Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org

~ **New resources from the *Healthy Environments Across Generations* conference:** *New Healthy Environments Across Generations* interview videos with Dr. David Wallinga and Dr. Larry Rosen have been posted to the [conference webpage](#). Dr. Wallinga is a senior advisor to the [Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy](#), who addresses how our concept of community change has not caught up to new ways of thinking about community, capturing the passion of the younger generation, how to employ art to encourage people to become involved, and long term investments in getting people to work together and across their silos. Dr. Larry Rosen is an integrative pediatrician and founder of the [Whole Child Center](#), who speaks about the ecological and life cycle approach he employs in his practice, how we are the environment and how we are not separate (not something historically that medicine has paid attention to), critical environmental feedback loops, and how healthcare is practiced has an impact on the environment as well.

Visit the [conference webpage](#).

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

~ **Institute of Medicine's *Nutrition and Healthy Aging in the Community*, workshop summary:** The workshop aimed to improve awareness and understanding of the technical

and policy challenges related to nutrition needs of older adults in community settings. This document summarizes the workshop.

[Download the summary](#)

~ **Kairos Dancing Heart™ featured on PBS:** KAIROS dancing heart™ founded by Maria Genné, Director of KAIROS ALIVE!, is an award winning, evidence-based arts program and a best practice model for working with frail elders, and a partner of CHE's at the New York *Healthy Environments Across Generations* event bringing a "Breath of Fresh Art" throughout the conference. In September, KAIROS Dancing Heart™ was featured in the PBS documentary, *Arts & the Mind*.

[Visit KAIROS' website](#)

Visit PBS's website to [view the documentary](#)

~ **Recent and upcoming meeting, conferences and presentations**

October 27-31st: CHE attended the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in San Francisco. Consider submitting an abstract for the next [APHA 2013 Annual Meeting](#) which will take place November 2-6, 2013, in Boston, MA, with the theme *Think Global Act Local*. Call for Abstracts opens December 14, 2012 and closes mid-February.

November 14-18, 2012: [Gerontological Association of America 65th Annual Scientific Meeting](#), San Diego, CA. CHE is supporting the organization of a breakfast hosted by AARP and the EPA Aging Initiative focused on age-friendly communities.

December 10, 2012: Healthy Aging in Massachusetts: Where Do We Go From Here?, statewide summit organized by the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, Newton, MA. Maria Valenti will present a poster on healthy aging and the environment.

February 7-9, 2013: [New Partners for Smart Growth](#), Kansas City, CHE has been accepted to present a 90-minute panel *Designing Healthy Environments Across Communities and Generations* in partnership with the UW Population Health Institute- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program. Speakers will include CHE working group coordinator Maria Valenti, moderator; Ted Schettler, SEHN and CHE; Erika Svendsen, US Forest Service; Angela Russell, Community Engagement Lead on the County Health Rankings project at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; Leslie A. Meehan, Director of Healthy Communities for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and Arthur M. Wendel, Team Lead, Healthy Community Design Initiative, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

March 3-6, 2013: [Environmental Health 2013: Science and Policy to Protect Future Generations](#), Boston, Massachusetts. Several CHE working group members have submitted abstracts for this conference which "will provide a forum for the discussion of most recent scientific results on the interactions of the environment and human health, and provide a place for translating scientific evidence into strategies to direct future research and policy action."

March 12-16, 2013: [Aging in America Conference](#), Chicago. CHE has been accepted to present two 90-minute panels at this major conference, including *Safer Chemicals, Healthier Aging: A Prescription for Positive Change* with presenters Medha Chandra, Pesticide Action Network North America; Kathey LaRoche, The Health Councils of Florida; Ted Schettler, SEHN and Collaborative on Health and Environment; and Kathy Sykes, US Environmental Protection Agency. The second panel, *Healthy Environments Across Generations: A Lifecourse Approach to Health* will feature presenters Ted Schettler of SEHN and CHE; Yolanda Savage-Narva,

America Walks; Harry (Rick) Moody, AARP; Peter Whitehouse, Intergenerational School; and Jennie Smith, Elders Share the Arts. CHE will also be organizing an Aging and the Environment breakfast with AARP.

CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

CHE Alaska

~ coordinated by Pam Miller, pamela@akaction.net

~ **Working group call: Pollution from Pesticides: How Transnational Chemical Corporations Violate Basic Human Rights**

Wednesday November 28, 2012 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

The rights to health, life, livelihood, and food are internationally recognized basic human rights. A Permanent People's Tribunal ruling against the world's six largest pesticide companies in a collective international human rights case marks an important step in holding corporations accountable for human rights abuses and protecting people from toxic trespass. We will discuss the significance of the court's ruling, give an update on United Nations actions to ban the world's most dangerous chemicals, and discuss next steps for ensuring justice and the protection of health.

Join this call to learn more about:

- The collective human rights case brought against the "Big 6 " with Kathryn Gilje, Senior Organizer, Pesticide Action Network;
- The Arctic case prepared by Alaska Community Actions on Toxics (ACAT) with scientific evidence about the threat of persistent pesticides on the health of Indigenous Peoples with Vi Waghiyi, Environmental Health and Justice Director, ACAT;
- The case of the Lake Apopka farmworkers in Florida that were exposed generationally to organochlorine pesticides implicated in mutations of alligators, death of water birds, and impacts on wildlife, with Jeannie Economos, Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project Coordinator for the Farmworker Association of Florida

CHE HEAL

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

~ **"Health and Environment Film Prize": Deadline 19 November for entries:** As part of the Health and Environment Alliance's 10th anniversary in 2013, a prize for the best film addressing how environmental factors affect health will be awarded for the

first time as part the International Environmental Film Festival (Fife) in Paris, February 19-26, 2013 (see: www.iledefrance.fr/fife-english).

**30th International
Environmental Film Festival**
February 19th-26th, 2013



HEAL believes film documentaries are a powerful and exciting way to raise the profile of health and environment issues, and has supported screenings in Europe such as "[Living Downstream](#)" from CHE partner Sandra Steingraber.

Do help to make this the success it deserves to be by encouraging anyone you may know to

submit entries. More information on the film festival and possible submission is available on the festival's [webpage](#).

~ **European Parliament report on Endocrine Disruptors:** The European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety is currently debating a report on the protection of public health from endocrine disruptors.

The first draft of the report, which is still open to change by amendments to be voted on December 18th, currently shows strong concern about the public health impacts, and underlines the need to reduce human exposures. It also calls for the EU to consider introducing a separate regulatory hazard classification for endocrine disruptors, and to introduce appropriate testing requirements for EDCs in all related EU legislation.

The amended Committee report will then proceed to the full European Parliament for a vote in early February. See the [current draft report](#) (available in all the EU languages).

~ **Revising the EU strategy on endocrine disruptors: nearing a decisive moment:** HEAL has published an article on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in a leading international epidemiology and public health journal, the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. In its commentary, HEAL argues that there is an urgent need for revising the EU strategy on endocrine disruptors.

Read the [introduction of the full article](#)

[Download the accepted article](#)

~ **European projects measure chemicals in people across Europe for the first time:** (Nicosia, Cyprus, 25 October 2012) An analysis of 4,000 urine and hair samples in 17 European countries suggests all mothers and children have chemicals in their bodies that should not be there. The samples were taken as part of first-ever biomonitoring survey by COPHES/DEMOCOPHES, two EU-funded research projects and released October 25, 2012. The findings reveal that the human body is contaminated with small levels of mercury, cadmium, cotinine (a measure of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke) and five phthalates (which are endocrine disrupting chemicals used in plastics). Six of the 17 countries involved also tested people for bisphenol A, parabens and triclosan, which are also endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). For more information, read the [HEAL press release](#) and the [Cyprus EU presidency press release](#).

~ **Delegates decision prolongs toxic pollution:** (Geneva, Switzerland) Government delegates to a committee of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) have failed again to take urgent action on a group of harmful toxic chemicals, known as short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), and instead have postponed the decision for another three years at least, thus continuing the global contamination of the environment, wildlife, and humans with these harmful chemicals.

See the [joint public interest press release](#)

CHE Washington

~ coordinated by Aimee Boulanger and Steve Gilbert, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **Webinar: The toll of coal: Health impacts of coal export in the northwest** Dr. Steven Gilbert, Director, Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders and Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington, will review coal's life cycle and discuss how the mining, transportation, burning, and waste management of it adversely influences human

and environmental health on November 20, 2012 from noon to 1:00 pm Pacific. Dr. Gilbert will also discuss the neighborhood impacts of coal trains including: train traffic and ship traffic, noise pollution, vehicle and pedestrian injuries, potential delays in emergency response, and how communities are organizing around these issues.

[More information and register to participate](#)

Announcements and News Highlights

NIH Director introduces new blog

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins debuted his new NIH Director's Blog last week. The blog, he wrote, is designed to "highlight new discoveries in biology and medicine that I think are game changers, noteworthy, or just plain cool." Posts so far have featured video from a recent "Celebration of Science" event held at NIH and information about the Human Connectome Project, an NIH-funded project created to map the brain's neural connections.

[Visit the blog](#)

NIEHS launches new global environmental health newsletter

This bimonthly online newsletter provides a snapshot of the Institute's current GEH activities, profiles of areas of GEH research, funding information, and useful resources. This newsletter is just one aspect of the NIEHS's continuing commitment to providing leadership and building a community of practice around Global Environmental Health issues. It comes at a time when scientific advances and global environmental change are transforming the way global public health professionals address environmental health challenges.

[Read more](#)

EPA's preliminary TRI data for 2011 show increase in releases from prior year

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued its most recent set of preliminary data on toxic chemical releases and transfers at industrial facilities nationwide, with the data showing an increase in releases for 2011. Bloomberg BNA.

[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](#)

Friend EHN on Facebook by searching for Environmental Health News

November 2012 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

November 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: An Integrated Framework for Assessing the Value of Community-Based Prevention.

This report from the Institute of Medicine proposes a framework to assess the value of community-based, non-clinical prevention policies and wellness strategies. The framework represents a valuable step toward realizing the elusive goal of appropriately and comprehensively valuing community-based prevention.

[Read more](#)

New website: UCSF Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) launches new website

The UCSF PEHSU is a part of a network across North America dedicated to providing expertise on the connection between children's health and the environment. Children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental contaminants because they are still developing and their behavior can expose them more hazards. The UCSF PEHSU aims to reduce these risks by providing training for health professionals, offering consultations to families and communities, and developing educational resources on environmental health issues that affect children.

[Visit the website](#)

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

Thank you for taking the time to read the latest about CHE. As always, we welcome your questions and suggestions. Please direct comments to Elise Miller, Director of CHE, at elise@healthandenvironment.org.

Best wishes,

Elise Miller, MEd, Director

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

Erika Sanders, Administrative Coordinator

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