



# Collaborative on Health and the Environment

## April 2015



### Upcoming Partnership Events

#### **CHE Partnership call:**

[A High Price to Pay: Obesity, Diabetes, and Associated Costs of Exposure to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in the European Union](#)

Tues, April 28

*Co-hosted by HEAL*

#### **CHE Partnership call:**

[A Fish Tale: A Review of the Science of Fish](#)



### Our Undeniable Human Experiment

Elise Miller, EdM  
Director

Last week was "National Public Health Week," an initiative of the American Public Health Association (APHA). The organizers posted an [infographic](#) highlighting some disturbing statistics about the health of Americans, including how poorly the US does overall relative to other developed countries (and even some developing ones). While this is not new news, the graphics are

[Science of Fish Contamination, Consumption, and Advisories](#)

Thurs, May 7

**CHE Partnership call:**

[Ambient BTEX Exposure and Hormone-related Health Conditions in Humans](#)

Wed, May 20

*Hosted by the CHE EDC Strategies Group*

Visit the [CHE Partnership call archives](#) and [CHE Working Group call archives](#) to listen to MP3 recordings of past calls.

## Special Announcements

### Quarterly Top 10 list now available

CHE offers this selection of research, news and announcements that were of special significance during the first quarter of 2015. Items include research that made a noteworthy contribution to the field, news and announcements that took a conversation to a new level.

well-designed and the facts are well worth restating:

- the US ranks 34th in life expectancy
- inequities, such as less access to nutritious food, healthy communities, good education, etc., are far higher in the US than other high-income countries and have the greatest impact on people of color
- though nearly 50% of Americans suffer from preventable, chronic disease, only 3% of health care spending is on prevention
- and so forth....

One way to help effect positive action on these critical issues is through visual media. Notably, several video and film documentaries have been released or are about to be released this year on the impact of toxic chemicals on human health. All of them feature a number of prominent and highly respected scientists and advocates in the environmental health field--from Linda Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS, Director at NIEHS and NTP; to Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH, Director at the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at UCSF; to Andy Igrejas, Campaign Director at Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families. Though CHE's membership is quite diverse and some may not agree with aspects of how the science is characterized in these films, the

and/or new audience and some welcome action.

This quarter's selections include a discussion of the role of bad luck in cancer, the continuing saga of federal chemical policy reform, the costs of hormone-disrupting chemicals, a couple of success stories, and plenty of research on the impacts of several common toxics on health.

Visit the [CHE blog](#) to see this quarter's list. We invite comment and feedback.

## Resources

[A Story of Health](#) multimedia eBook, which uses the setting of a family reunion as a backdrop to explore how multiple environments influence our health across the lifespan.

[CHE's Toxicant and Disease Database](#)

[CHE's searchable calendar of](#)

message is undeniable: We are continuing to conduct a vast chemical experiment on ourselves, and the health picture--nationally and globally--is not pretty.

This month, "[The Human Experiment](#)", narrated and produced by Sean Penn, was released and is currently being shown all over the country. It's been touted as Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" but focused on chemicals. Another is "[Toxic Hot Seat](#)" (released earlier this year), a documentary on the investigative report by the *Chicago Tribune* which exposed the corporate coverups regarding the uselessness and toxicity of flame retardants (Not coincidentally, Ashley Furniture, the largest retailer of furniture in the country, announced last month that it is no longer going to use flame retardants). Also recently publicized is "[Stink](#)" by Jon Whelan, which provides a gripping narrative from the perspective of one father's attempt to find out why so many everyday products expose us to toxic chemicals associated with chronic health conditions. Similarly, "[Catalyst: Our Chemicals Lives](#)" asks the question: "Is there adequate regulation and testing, or are we in the midst of an uncontrolled, human experiment?"

Though CHE itself is not in the business of making films, we are well aware that bringing attention to the emerging science on environmental contributors to chronic disease

events related to environmental health.

[CHE's blog](#) of commentary on current topics.

[CHE's podcast](#) of teleconference call recordings.

[CHE's news feed](#) of news articles, studies, reports, calls for proposals, job openings and other announcements. Relevant items are sent to CHE's listservs several times each week, or visitors can subscribe via RSS.

and disability is not enough. The research also needs to be translated for decision-makers and the public. In this light, we applaud all of our CHE's colleagues who are finding creative ways to make sure that significant new research is accessible to those outside our field. Art not only saves lives, it makes them healthier.

Warm wishes,



## Working Groups and Initiatives

Visit the webpages of CHE's groups for the latest news, research, and announcements:

### Topic-based Working Groups

[Asthma](#)

[Autism](#)

[Breast Cancer](#)

[Cancer](#)

[Children's Health](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[Cumulative Impacts](#)

[Database](#)

[Diabetes/Obesity](#)

[Electromagnetic Fields \(EMF\)](#)

[Fertility/Reproductive Health](#)

[Healthy Aging](#)

[Integrative Health](#)

[Learning and Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Mental Health](#)

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