



# Collaborative on Health and the Environment

## February 2015



### Upcoming Partnership Events

**CHE Partnership call:**  
[EDCs, Oil and Gas Development, and Ground Water with Dr. Susan Nagel](#)  
Wed, Feb 18  
*Hosted by the EDCs Strategies Working Group*

**CHE Partnership call:**  
[Placental Toxicants and Disruption to Development](#)  
Wed, Feb 25  
*Hosted by the CHE Fertility*



### Cancer: 'It's Not Beyond Us'

*Elise Miller, MEd  
Director*

Hundreds of events were organized worldwide in recognition of World Cancer Day last week. The theme this year: 'It's not beyond us'. CHE Partner [Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director of Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#) gave the [keynote address](#) at Malta's World Cancer Day event, noting that few countries are currently calling for strengthened

*and Reproductive Health  
Working Group*

**CHE Partnership call:**

[Environmental Influences on  
the Thyroid System](#)

Thurs, Feb 26

**CHE Partnership call:** [Flame  
Retardants and Public Health:  
Fire Safety Without Harm](#)

Wed, March 4

*Hosted by the CHE Alaska  
Working Group*

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

## Special Announcements

### **A Story of Health: New Multimedia eBook released**

CHE recently released  
[A Story of Health](#), a  
multimedia eBook which  
explores how our  
environments interact with  
our genes to influence health  
across the lifespan. We tell [A](#)

environmental policies to help prevent cancer. Jensen also observed that only within the last 18 months has "the World Health Organization's (WHO's) cancer agency (IARC) officially recognized air pollution as a contributor to lung cancer...and a positive association between higher levels of air pollution and an increased risk of bladder cancer." Given the scientific evidence that has been mounting for decades linking pollution and other chemical exposures with various forms of cancer, this acknowledgement of environmental contributors to cancer seems a terribly long time in coming, particularly for those who are debilitated and die from these conditions every year.

Sadly, worldwide statistics regarding cancer only continue to look worse in the coming years. [WHO states](#) that deaths from cancer are projected to rise to over 11 million by 2030, up from 8.2 million in 2012, and the number of new cases each year is expected to increase by 70% in the next two decades. In the US, federal research dollars for cancer have remained essentially flat in recent years (and are likely not to increase given current Congressional priorities). Most of those funds go to study cancer treatments and screening technology, not prevention.

So my question simply is: Given 30% of cancers around the world are considered

across the lifespan. We tell [A Story of Health](#) through the lives of fictional characters and their families - Brett, a young boy with asthma; Amelia, a teenager with developmental disabilities; and toddler Stephen, recently diagnosed with leukemia.

The eBook offers **FREE** continuing education credits through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

## Resources

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

CHE's searchable [Portal to Science](#) of reports, books, videos, databases, and other resources.

[CHE's searchable calendar](#) of events related to environmental health.

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

preventable, how can we say cancer is 'not beyond us' if we continue to give mostly lip service to the prevention end of the equation?

Fortunately, a number of highly dedicated organizations, like HEAL in the EU, the Breast Cancer Fund in this country, and many others, continue to bring attention to the science on environmental contributors to cancer. The President's Cancer Panel report, "[Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now](#)", published in 2010, was a major breakthrough in this arena. Even last month the article, published in *Science*, that asserted that [most cancers are bad luck](#) was met with a strong response from colleagues who pointed to the wealth of scientific literature on links between environmental contaminants and cancer. [See: [NRDC blog: No, Cancer is Not Mostly Bad Luck - The Role of Environmental Factors](#) and [Cancer Risk: Role of Chance Overstated](#) in *Science*.]

For CHE's part, our most recent push to highlight cancer prevention is in the form of [A Story of Health](#), a multi-media eBook launched just a couple weeks ago. If you missed CHE's call on childhood leukemia - "Stephen's Story" in *A Story of Health* - then you can [listen to the MP3 recording](#).

Maybe, just maybe, WHO will announce 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.

World Cancer Day 2030 that because of stronger environmental policy and the prioritization of prevention that we've turned the tide on cancer - that far fewer people than anticipated have died of cancer and the incidence is going down. But that possibility is indeed beyond us unless...unless we continue to increase the drumbeat of preventive action and make it no longer possible to ignore.

Warm wishes,



*If you are interested in learning more about cancer and the environment you can join [CHE's Cancer Working Group](#) and related listserv.*

## 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](#)

[Cumulative Impacts](#)

[Database](#)

[Diabetes/Obesity](#)

[Integrative Health](#)

[Learning and Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Cancer](#)  
[Children's Health](#)  
[Climate Change](#)

[Electromagnetic Fields \(EMF\)](#)  
[Fertility/Reproductive Health](#)  
[Healthy Aging](#)

[Pet](#)  
[Neurodegenerative Disease](#)  
[Science](#)

## State-based and International Groups

[Alaska](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Washington](#)

[Europe/HEAL](#)

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