



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

May 2015



Upcoming Partnership Events

CHE Partnership call:

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

Wed, May 20

Hosted by the CHE EDC Strategies Group

CHE Partnership call:

[International Actions to Protect Health and Environment: A Report from the Stockholm Convention on](#)



Exposing the Beastly Side of Beautiful Nails

Elise Miller, EdM
Director

This past week something rather remarkable happened: First, the *New York*

Times published two major investigative pieces on the [pervasive exploitation](#) and [occupational health hazards](#) experienced by workers in the nail salon industry. And then the really astonishing part-- [Governor Cuomo of New York issued emergency measures](#) two days later to

[The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)

Thurs, May 21

Hosted by the CHE Alaska Working Group

CHE Partnership call: [An Interview with Dr. Frederica Perera, Recipient of the Prestigious Heinz Award](#)

Thurs, May 28

CHE Partnership call: [From Molecules to Business: Better Living Through Green Chemistry](#)

Thurs, June 4

CHE Partnership call: [A Story of Developmental Disability, A Story of Health: The Influence of Environmental Exposure and Opportunities for Prevention](#)

Thurs, June 11

CHE Partnership call: [Assessing the Carcinogenic Potential of Low-dose Exposures to Chemical Mixtures in the Environment: The Challenge Ahead](#)

Wed, June 17

Hosted by the CHE EDC

combat the horrendous inequities and toxic chemical exposures that manicurists face. Rarely do we see such swift, decisive government action in response to reports highlighting environmental and social injustices--and rarely do we see the convergence of evidence-based science, skilled health advocacy, first-rate journalism, and responsive government result in such an immediate, positive outcome. Of course it will take much longer yet for large scale changes that fully protect these workers to take place, but this is an impressive first step.

That said, it's also important to note that this didn't all happen in a few days, but in fact, has been years in the making. Research on the health impacts of phthalates, toluene, and formaldehyde--three of the chemicals found in products nail salon workers use regularly and noted in the *New York Times* article "[Perfect Nails, Poisoned Workers](#)"--started in some cases decades ago. Recently, the number of scientific studies indicating these chemicals may be associated with various forms of cancer, reproductive health problems, and neurological impacts has increased significantly, providing stronger and stronger grounds for reducing exposures.

But we all know that the best research can't shift political will without scientists, health professionals, and health advocates working

Hosted by the CHE EDC
Strategies Group

CHE Partnership call:
[Gestational Diabetes and
Environmental Chemical
Exposure](#)

Tues, June 23

Hosted by the CHE Diabetes-
Obesity Spectrum Working
Group

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

Resources

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

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

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

CHE's podcast of

together to consistently and effectively translate and highlight these concerns. Quite a number of CHE's partners have been involved in one way or another in this process--from conducting scientific studies to working on major initiatives, such as the [Campaign for Safe Cosmetics](#).

Even that kind of collaborative effort, however, may not be enough to move the needle unless smart, skilled journalists are supported to do this kind of investigation by respected media institutions, such as the *New York Times*. And finally, even top-notch media reports don't lead to immediate and appropriate responses unless there are elected officials willing to take bold action to improve conditions for vulnerable populations.

In this case, all of these factors coalesced to lay bare the beast lurking beneath the beauty business and confront it head on. This is collaboration at its best. This is what we at CHE want to encourage more of by bringing attention to the emerging science so that all of us working our respective, yet related sectors can most effectively press decision makers to put public health first.

Warm wishes,

CHE's podcast or
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.



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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