



Collaborative on Health and the Environment eNewsletter - July 2011

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Your Brain on My Mind

A virtual flood of new studies on cognitive function influenced by air pollution, second-hand smoke, nutrition and other environmental factors have been published in the last couple weeks. One notable study on autism by researchers at UCSF and Stanford suggests that environmental conditions may contribute as much to autism as genetic heritability ([Read more](#)). Given that autism has long been considered almost exclusively "genetic", this research will likely have a profound impact on how scientists, health professionals and parents think about how autism may occur in some individuals and not in others and why the numbers of those diagnosed with autism is significantly increasing.

Another study published in *Molecular Psychiatry* concluded that long-term exposure to air pollution can lead to physical changes in the brain, and prompt memory and learning problems, and even depression ([Read more](#)). In *Pediatrics* this week, research findings suggested that secondhand smoke exposure can increase the odds of developing certain mental and behavioral disorders by 50 percent ([Read more](#)). And in the most recent *Environmental Health Perspectives*, a study found associations between perfluorochemicals found in common consumer products and impulsivity and attention deficit disorder ([Read more](#)).

Additional examples include a fascinating exchange last week among researchers on CHE's Neurodegenerative Disease and Environment listserv (cheneuro), regarding how and why wheat (as well as additives in wheat fertilizer such as lead and cadmium) may be associated with psychiatric problems and other mental health concerns (a noted reference: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20471632>). And at the annual Teratology Society conference held in late June, a whole session was devoted to "Thyroid and Iodine: Impacts on Pregnancy and Child Health." Several researchers presented on findings suggesting that suboptimal dietary iodine in women of reproductive age, along with exposures to other neurotoxicants in air, water and food, may undermine healthy thyroid function, thereby raising the risk of developing learning and neurobehavioral disorders

[\(Read more\)](#).

If your mind is swimming now and you're wondering about your own cognitive health just reading this, you're not alone. Frankly, I would rather stop thinking about how and why our brains may not function as well as they could if we weren't doused regularly in chemical contaminants. I would far prefer, as I think most of us would, that we could use our minds to their fullest potential simply creating and supporting healthy, vibrant communities -- places in which everyone has meaningful work, nutritious food, preventative health care and access to nature.

But our work is cut out for us if we are ever going to achieve anything close to that vision. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson knows that better than anyone right now as she takes an unwavering stance against those willing to compromise human and environmental health for short-term economic gain ([Read more](#)).

In this multi-faceted, multi-layered effort, CHE's role is to provide a centralized resource and forum for sharing and discussing the emerging science as well as incubating initiatives to translate the research into prevention-oriented public health policy. In that context, your expertise and insights are critical now more than ever. We want to learn from you so that our collective work is imbued with greater creativity and wisdom. Please join us in whatever ways are most meaningful, energizing and useful to you -- by doing so, all of us will benefit.

With Warm Regards,
Elise Miller, MEd
Director, Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE)

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This essay is available on [CHE's blog](#) for comment and further discussion.

CHE Partnership Calls

CHE Partnership call: Breast Health and Early Life Exposures, cohosted by CHE Fertility, CHE Breast Cancer and CHE Cancer

Thursday July 21, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Pacific / 4:00 p.m. Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

A recent review published in Environmental Health Perspectives reports the conclusions of an international workshop on the current science related to early-life environmental exposures and mammary gland development. The Mammary Gland Evaluation and Risk Assessment Workshop met in Oakland, California, in November 2009. More than 60 international experts, including biologists, epidemiologists, toxicologists, physicians, public health officials, and breast cancer activists reviewed the evidence from animal and human studies of environmental toxicants and breast development. Workshop scientists concluded that chemical exposures during critical periods of development may influence breast growth, ability to breastfeed, and cancer risk.

Join CHE for this call on the current state of the science on environmental exposures and breast health with article authors Ruthann Rudel of the Silent Spring Institute, Suzanne Fenton of the National Toxicology Program, and Susan Makris of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development. The authors will present findings on some of the chemicals that affect breast development, including bisphenol A (BPA), atrazine, dioxin, PBDEs, PFOA, dibutylphthalate (DBP), and nonylphenol. Drs. Fenton and Makris will delve into the regulatory implications of the workshop findings. The call will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

Featured speakers will include:

- **Ruthann Rudel, MS**, Silent Spring Institute
- **Suzanne Fenton, PhD**, NIEHS, National Toxicology Program
- **Susan Makris, MS**, EPA, Office of Research and Development, National Center for Environmental Assessment

This call will be moderated by Karin Russ, CHE Fertility National Coordinator. It will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

Special Events and Announcements

Save the Date! *Promoting Intergenerational and Environmental Health Across the Lifespan* conference announced for 2012

CHE and the Healthy Aging and the Environment Initiative are partnering with AARP, the US EPA Aging Initiative, The Intergenerational School, The Whole Child Center, The Center for Children's Environmental Health Center at Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Gray is Green, and WEACTION for Environmental Justice to organize a conference, entitled *Promoting Intergenerational and Environmental Health Across the Lifespan*, to be held in New York City in June 7-8, 2012. This day and a half, interactive event will focus on diverse factors that influence both human and ecological health across the lifespan. These include the many levels of the built, food, chemical, psychosocial, and socioeconomic environments, and the practices and policies that promote or impede health at all ages. The conference venue is the newly renovated New York Academy of Medicine, that offers us not only programmatic partnership, but will help us fulfill our goals to conduct an ecologically-sustainable and multicultural conference serving the needs of all ages and all communities. More detailed information and registration information will be posted as it becomes available.

[Download and print the Save the Date card](#)

Breast Cancer and the Environment Workshops hosted by Commonweal and the CA Breast Cancer Research Program

A woman's lifetime risk for developing breast cancer is one in eight. What's going on? And what can you do? Join us for a workshop on breast cancer, disparities and the environment

This summer Commonweal and the California Breast Cancer Research Program are hosting a series of workshops throughout California to explore the links between breast cancer and environmental exposures as well as the disproportionate impact the disease has on different groups of women. The workshops will also explore ways that community groups and academic institutions can partner on research projects to help reduce people's future risk for the disease.

The workshops are open to anyone who is interested, especially community members, representatives of community-based and non-profit organizations, researchers, and health providers.

Upcoming dates and locations:

July 20	San Bernardino
July 22	Merced
July 27	Sacramento
July 28	Nevada City
Aug 4	Watsonville

For more information and to register, please visit http://www.cbcrp.org/community/cribs_workshop.php or email community@cabreastcancer.org.

CHE Environmental Health Primary Prevention Training

CHE is hosting a series of trainings on breast cancer and environmental health science. These trainings will focus on teaching evidence-based science in lay language to be used

in a range of settings, including advocacy, determining research priorities and public education. The goal is to provide basic scientific knowledge so trainees can become more effective as champions for a healthier world.

The next trainings will take place September 27-29 and November 7-9. All trainings will be held at Commonweal in Bolinas, CA.

Training topics include:

- Overview of healthy breast development.
- Origins of breast cancer.
- Exposures to toxic chemicals throughout the human life cycle, and how they can increase risk for disease.
- The use of biomonitoring (measuring environmental chemicals in the body) as an education and advocacy tool.
- The "web of causality" that makes breast cancer etiology so complex to fully understand.
- How to respond effectively when there is not scientific certainty - also referred to as the precautionary principle.
- Practical exercises using your scientific understanding to strengthen your advocacy efforts.
- Suggestions for steps in your daily life that can reduce risk.

For more information, please contact Heather Sarantis of Commonweal at heather@healthandenvironment.org. An application form is available on the CHE website. Please visit: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/ehtraining>

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:

- July 12, 2011 - [The World Gets Hot\(ter\) with Mark Hertsgaard](#)
- June 30, 2011 - [Navigating the Science: Evaluating Research Quality](#)
- June 16, 2011 - [Cumulative Impacts on Health: New Community Based Research Projects, Part 2](#)
- June 9, 2011 - [Cumulative Impacts on Health: New Community Based Research Projects, Part 1](#)

And of course, you can always explore our [archived resources](#)

CHE Working and Regional Group Updates

Stay in touch with CHE via Facebook and the CHE blog:

Visit CHE's blog at <http://ourhealthandenvironment.wordpress.com/>
CHE's [Facebook page](#)

New working group: CHE Climate Change

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

This new CHE working group is taking the lead to disseminate information on climate change and public health and to address this knowledge gap. In creating a CHE climate change and health working group, CHE is bringing together public health and medical experts concerned about this issue. The Climate Change and Health Working Group helps to keep its members on top of current published literature and holds quarterly conference calls. In the future, the group will also host webinars involving experts in the field of climate change and health.

If you are interested in joining this working group, please sign on as a

[CHE Partner](#), and indicate your interest in your application. If you are already a CHE Partner and would like to join the listserv for this group send an email request to: checlimate-subscribe@lists.healthandenvironment.org.

Sarah Pressman Lovinger, MA, MD, moderates this working group. Dr. Lovinger is a Chicago native, has been writing and practicing medicine in community health centers for years. In addition to her work as the Fishbein Fellow at the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2002-03, she blogs about health and the environment for *The Huffington Post*. She also teaches an undergraduate seminar class at Northwestern University, "Climate Change: A Public Health Emergency."

[Visit the CHE Climate Change Working Group webpage](#)

Cumulative Impacts Working Group hosted by CHE and SEHN

~ coordinated by Elise Miller and Carolyn Raffensperger

~ This Working Group receives information about and participates in the [Cumulative Impacts Project](#). This is a project of CHE with the [Science and Environmental Health Network](#) (SEHN), along with an advisory group of environmental health and justice advocates, scientists, scholars, and agency staff members.

"Cumulative impacts" refers to the total harm to human health and the environment that results from combinations of assaults and stressors over time. The Cumulative Impacts Project is dedicated to promoting science, law, and policy that will reduce cumulative impacts.

The Cumulative Impacts Working Group conducts monthly conference calls about a project or issue related to cumulative impacts on human health and the environment, often with one presenter followed by discussion. We hope you will join us!

[Contact](#) the Cumulative Impacts Project to learn more, join the working group, suggest resources for the website, and add your ideas.

CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum

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

~ New academic studies and reports:

The Institute of Medicine released a report, *Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies* [Read the report](#)

Persky V, Piorkowski J, Turyk M, et al. 2011. Associations of polychlorinated biphenyl exposure and endogenous hormones with diabetes in post-menopausal women previously employed at a capacitor manufacturing plant. *Environ.Res.* PM:21684538.

Lee DH, Lind PM, Jacobs DR, Jr., Salihovic S, van BB, Lind L. 2011. Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Organochlorine Pesticides in Plasma Predict Development of Type 2 Diabetes in the Elderly: The Prospective Investigation of the Vasculature in Uppsala Seniors (PIVUS) Study. *Diabetes Care* PM:21700918.

Svensson K, Hernandez-Ramirez RU, Burguete-Garcia A, et al. 2011. Phthalate exposure associated with self-reported diabetes among Mexican women. *Environ.Res.* PM:21696718.

Lin Y, Wei J, Li Y, Chen J, et al. 2011. Developmental Exposure to Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate Impairs Endocrine Pancreas and Leads to Long-term Adverse Effects on Glucose Homeostasis in the Rat. *Am.J.Physiol Endocrinol.Metab* PM:21673306.

Kim Y, Lee BK. 2011. Association between urinary arsenic and diabetes mellitus in the Korean general population according to KNHANES 2008. *Sci.Total Environ.*

PM: 21723589.

Choi J, Li C, McDonald TJ, Comuzzie AG, Mattern V, Nathanielsz PW. 2011. Emergence of insulin resistance in juvenile baboon offspring of mothers exposed to moderate maternal nutrient reduction. *Am.J.Physiol Regul.Integr.Comp Physiol* PM:21653880.

Makaji E, Raha S, Wade MG, Holloway AC. 2011. Effect of Environmental Contaminants on Beta Cell Function. *Int.J.Toxicol.* PM:21705745.

Pozzilli P, Guglielmi C, Caprio S, Buzzetti R. 2011. Obesity, autoimmunity, and double diabetes in youth. *Diabetes Care* 34 Suppl 2:S166-S170. PM:21525450.

Jousse C, Parry L, Lambert-Langlais S, Maurin AC, et al. 2011. Perinatal undernutrition affects the methylation and expression of the leptin gene in adults: implication for the understanding of metabolic syndrome. *FASEB J.* PM:21670064.

Tang-Peronard JL, Andersen HR, Jensen TK, Heitmann BL. 2011. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals and obesity development in humans: A review. *Obes.Rev.* PM:21457182.

Godfrey KM, Sheppard A, Gluckman PD, et al, et al. 2011. Epigenetic Gene Promoter Methylation at Birth Is Associated With Child's Later Adiposity. *Diabetes* PM:21471513.

Monica LP, Lind L. 2011. Circulating levels of bisphenol A and phthalates are related to carotid atherosclerosis in the elderly. *Atherosclerosis* PM:21621210.

CHE Fertility

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, karin@healthandenvironment.org

~ New academic studies of interest:

Environment more important than genetics in autism. Environmental factors play a more important role in causing autism than previously assumed and, surprisingly, an even larger role than genetics, according to a new study out of UCSF and Stanford that could force a dramatic swing in the focus of research into the developmental disorder. *San Francisco Chronicle*, California.

[Read more](#)

Prenatal BPA exposure and adult obesity. Prenatal exposure to low levels of BPA caused rats to become obese and unhealthy as adults, finds a new study. Pups exposed to a low dose through their mothers while in the womb and nursing -- but fed a balanced diet as they grew -- were fatter and had a suite of metabolic problems later in life when compared to unexposed rats.

[Read more](#)

~ Call for abstracts:

APHA Late Breaking Abstracts. Late Breaker abstracts in *Epidemiology* due by: July 15, 2011; Late Breaker abstracts in *Maternal Child Health* due by: July 22, 2011.

The APHA is now accepting late breaker abstracts. For the *Epidemiology* Section, abstracts must describe studies completed after the general February 2011 abstract deadline to be considered for presentation. In addition, abstracts must be 250 words or less with the standard background, methods, results, and discussion sections. Abstracts submitted without results will not be reviewed. The *Maternal Child Health* Section invites the submission of late breaker abstracts related to maternal child health; any topic area in MCH will be considered. For more information, see:

<http://www.apha.org/meetings/sessions/latebreakercall.htm>

CHE Healthy Aging and Environment Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, for more information contact

info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **New Publication: *Healthy Aging and the Environment: A Pocket Guide***

Our new 16-page illustrated pocket guide to healthy aging and the environment will be released at the Generations United international conference, Rethinking and Revitalizing Intergenerational Connections, in Washington DC, July 26-29th. *The Guide* is based on the findings of the report *Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging* and packages often complex information into an accessible and engaging format. It describes the important benefits of individual healthy actions as well as those at the policy level that are necessary to providing opportunities for healthy living for all. This includes access to healthy food, regular exercise, healthy natural and built environments, positive social interactions, stress reduction, and avoidance of toxic exposures. One goal for producing this is to help decision makers understand how multiple environmental factors, alone and together, influence the risk of disease and disability across the lifespan. In turn, we hope this will help mobilize efforts to identify key intervention points and crosscutting solutions that can help reverse rising disease trajectories, which are placing ever-mounting stress and economic burdens on families, communities, and the nation. *The Guide* will be posted on the CHE website when available.

~ **Presentations:** On June 13, 2011, Maye Thompson RN, PhD gave a well-received presentation on healthy aging to a group of women executives from many different sectors visiting Portland for Leadership America at the School of Nursing at the request of the Dean. About 30 people from all over the country attended, with great questions and follow-up afterwards.

Please see the [Healthy Aging section of the CHE website](#) for additional information on recent and upcoming presentations across the country.

CHE-LDDI

~ coordinated by Elise Miller, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **Transitions:** Erika Hagensen, MPH, MSWc, who served as the national coordinator of LDDI for over a year, officially resigned from CHE on June 30th to attend fully to her pregnancy. During her short tenure, Erika made myriad and invaluable contributions that bolstered LDDI's strength and reach. Though we could not be more thrilled about her pending motherhood, she will be sorely missed. LDDI's activities, however, will continue--including presenting on The Arc's national webinar August 9, planning three workshops on neurotoxicants and LDDs in Texas, North Carolina and Southern California, and raising awareness about the nexus between developmental disabilities, aging and the environment. For more information, please contact Elise Miller, CHE's Director at elise@healthandenvironment.org.

~ **Webinar announced: Autism and Environment: What Do We Know?, Saturday July 23, 2011 from noon - 3:00 p.m. Eastern**

What are the whole body symptoms of autism? How can environmental changes make existing autism better? What do chemical exposures do to the developing brain? What are state-of-the-art treatments for autism symptoms? Four renowned autism experts discuss the rise in autism vis a vis environmental and chemical changes in the world and clinical steps used to treat autism now. Speakers will be Martha Herbert M.D., Ph.D., Claudia Miller, M.D., M.S., Suruchi Chandra, M.D. and Anju Usman, M.D. These generous clinicians and researchers will share their expertise on neurodevelopment and autism on a Saturday to allow working parents and families to attend from the convenience of their own home computer. For more information contact Donna Ferullo at dferullo@autism-society.org or visit the [Environmental Health Initiatives webpage](#) on the ASA website.

~ **The Arc National Webinar, Tuesday August, 2011 at 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern**

Can Exposures to Toxic Chemicals Contribute to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities? Which toxins are associated with IDD's? Which ones pose the greatest threat? Is there anything that can be done to minimize the risk of exposure? Join us for this fascinating webinar about how environmental toxins may contribute or exacerbate

IDDs, and how one chapter is putting this knowledge into action. You will walk away with research-based facts that will be helpful for the individuals and families your chapter serves. Session speakers include Elise Miller, MEd, Executive Director of The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and Meredith Salmi with The Arc of the Greater Twin Cities in Minnesota.

For more information on this webinar or The Arc's webinar series, or for questions, please contact Laurie Ertz at ertz@thearc.org or visit www.thearc.org.

New working group: CHE Pet

~ coordinated by Michael Lerner, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

CHE-Pet is a listserv for CHE Partners interested in the health of animals, especially pets, farm animals, sentinel species, and other species with which we share affective bonding. CHE-Pet has relevance to human health because pets share our home environment and sentinel species warn us of harmful changes that may be relevant to humans.

This working group is coordinated by Michael Lerner, PhD, President of Commonweal, Sharyle Patton, Director of CHE Special Projects and Steve Heilig, MPH, Director of Public Health & Education for both CHE and the San Francisco Medical Society.

If you are interested in joining this group (including subscribing to the group's listserv), please sign on as a [CHE Partner](#), and indicate your interest in your application. If you are already a CHE Partner and would like to join the listserv for this group send an email request to: chepet-subscribe@lists.healthandenvironment.org.

CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

CHE Alaska

~ coordinated by Pam Miller, pkmiller@akaction.net

~ **CHE Alaska teleconference:** Coal Mining in Alaska: Hazards to Human Health and the Environment

Monday August 1, 2011 at 9:00 am Alaska Time/ 10:00 am Pacific/ 1:00 pm Eastern

RSVP: To join this free call and receive the dial-up instructions, please RSVP to Alaska Community Action on Toxics at diana@akaction.org or (907) 222-7714

There is increasing pressure to develop Alaska's coal for foreign export and domestic use, yet coal development poses serious threats to human health and the environment. The coal mining industry is the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in the United States according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Inhaling coal dust also causes black lung disease in coal mine workers. Coal mining is also hazardous to people living nearby who have been found to have higher rates of cardiopulmonary disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, lung disease, and kidney disease. Communities near coal mines may also face health problems linked to water pollution, as exposed rock from rubble deposits and abandoned mines releases heavy metals and other pollutants that contaminate drinking water and surface water. Join us to learn more about the health hazards of coal mining and community concerns about the proposed Wishbone Hill and Chuitna coal mines in Alaska.

Featured speakers will include:

- **Michele Prevost, MD**, orthopedic surgeon and Palmer resident living within one mile of the proposed Wishbone Hill mine
- **Jessica Dryden Winnestaffer** (invited), Environmental Stewardship Department Director, Chickaloon Native Village

CHE-HEAL

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

~ UNFCCC Climate Change negotiations: doctors highlight health implications

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) was represented by Professor Hugh Montgomery, co-founder of the UK Climate & Health Council, at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) UN Climate Change Conference held this June in Bonn, Germany. Of the conclusions made on the global climate change talks, in Hugh's blog he wrote: "It is absolutely clear that many delegates have somehow forgotten the urgency they profess to feel. We must find a way of communicating with them once again -- hoping that passion may once again fuel politics."

[View UNFCCC Climate Change conference presentations and webcasts](#)

~ Upcoming conference on "The Health and Security Perspectives of Climate Change -- How to secure our future wellbeing", 17 October 2011 at the BMA House in London, UK

This conference is co-sponsored by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and will bring together high level climate, health and security specialists to discuss joined up strategies and policies for addressing this threat in the run up to the Durban Climate negotiations in December. As detailed on this conference's website: "Climate change is the greatest current threat to public health. This is the view shared by Dr. Margaret Chan, director general of WHO, and a growing number of the world's health professionals. Less well known is the view of leading military experts -- those working to prevent and manage conflicts around the world: that climate change is also the greatest future threat to security."

[View programme and register for "The Health and Security Perspectives of Climate Change" conference](#)

~ Groups call for public research to benefit society, not big business

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) has joined other public interest groups calling for social, political, economic and environmental issues to be properly addressed in future EU research and innovation (R&I) funding, following the European Commission Green Paper "Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding".

[Read the paper](#)

Nearly 100 groups from 22 European countries signed an Open Letter on Public Research Should Benefit Society, Not Big Business to the European Commission, European Parliament and national governments. Many of HEAL's members and partners supported this letter.

[Read the Open Letter](#)

[Read related press release](#)

~ Health insurance group takes up environmental health

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) represents an important voice in discussions on the social economy and universal access to health care, including access to health information. In a strategic partnership AIM will now be working with Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) to improve prevention of chronic diseases caused, or facilitated, by environmental factors. This stems from their commitment to promoting the understanding and prevention of environmental effects on public health and to facilitating mutual benefit groups' participation in policies concerning environmental health.

Some national mutual groups and societies that are members of AIM are already working on environment and health matters. For example, in France, the Mutuelle Familiale and the National Federation (Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française)

have signed a partnership agreement with Réseau Santé Environnement (RES), a HEAL member organisation, to collaborate on environmental health projects.

Additionally, a group of Belgian mutual societies have founded a working group on environmental health and produced a brochure on the subject for their members (in French, Dutch and English coming soon). [View more details in HEAL's Information Release](#).

~ **Emerging public debate on health and environment impacts of fracking**

In Europe, the public debate on fracturing shale gas and oil is finally gaining momentum, following the many concerns voiced from the health and environment community about the implications of this new technology. A highly influential member of the European Parliament, MEP Jo Leinen, has just proposed to introduce an EU law on energy quality to weigh the environmental impact of how the fuel is obtained, ie oil from tar sands or shale gas. The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is very pleased to hear of this proposal to tackle shale gas and oil fracturing. HEAL has been one of the first organisations to flag the multi-faceted health & environment problems of fracturing in Europe, because of the concerns on its impact on air and water quality and the toxic chemicals involved, as well as the climate change implications.

HEAL highlighted the health concerns surrounding shale gas at a meeting on 13th July on "Shale Gas Drilling and Underground Water -- A Discussion" chaired by MEP Cristina Gutierrez-Cortines, President of the European Water Forum at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Industry, Research and Energy Committee of the European Parliament (ITRE) will also be holding a hearing on shale gas entitled "Prospects for shale gas in the EU", currently set for October 5, 2011 at the European Parliament in Brussels. Programme in development, [visit the ITRE website](#) for more details.

~ **CHE Washington**

~ coordinated by Steve Gilbert, sgilbert@innd.org and Aimee Boulanger, aboulanger@whidbey.com

~ **Washington State Environmental Health Association and CHE-WA present "Children's Environmental Health Training"** Children spend a large portion of their time in their home, and this training will focus on providing safe, healthy, lead-free environments for young children in and around their homes. During this 6-hour course, you and your colleagues will discuss the connections between housing and children's environmental health and participate in case studies designed to strengthen your ability to identify and resolve common children's environmental health issues. The training will be offered on three separate dates throughout Washington in early August. [Visit the WSEHA website for training dates and registration information](#)

Announcements and News Highlights

New article: Global Prevention of Environmental and Occupational Cancer by Phil Landrigan, et al

[Read the article](#) in *Environmental Health Perspectives*

Film "Semper Fi" profiles Marine families' struggle for Justice by Richard Clapp

This film, which won two awards at the Tribeca Film Festival in NYC in April, 2011, chronicled the decades-long story of drinking water contamination at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, the largest Marine Base on the East Coast. The film-makers chronicled the journey of discovery led by Marine drill instructor Jerry Ensminger, one of whose daughters was conceived and born while the family was living in base housing at Camp Lejeune. The film details her diagnosis with leukemia and her harrowing treatment until she died at age nine.

[Read the article](#) in *The Pump Handle*
[Listen to the MP3 recording](#) of CHE Partnership call: *Do Chemicals Cause Breast Cancer? Tell it to the Marines!*

July 2011 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

July 2011 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 Update

CHE Toxicant and Disease Database Updated

CHE has completed an update of our popular Toxicant and Disease Database. This resource enables the user to find quickly the connections between hundreds of toxicants and more than 200 diseases and conditions, classified by weight of evidence. We have added new information from several sources, including the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); the National Toxicology Program; and California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), which administers the Proposition 65 program.

[Read more about the database](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services adds eight substances to its *Report on Carcinogens*, a science-based document that identifies chemicals and biological agents that may put people at increased risk for cancer.

The industrial chemical formaldehyde and a botanical known as aristolochic acids are listed as known human carcinogens. Six other substances -- captafol, cobalt-tungsten carbide (in powder or hard metal form), certain inhalable glass wool fibers, o-nitrotoluene, riddelliine, and styrene -- are added as substances that are reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens. With these additions, the *12th Report on Carcinogens* now includes 240 listings.

Read more at <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/roc12>

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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