

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Wednesday, May 19, 2004

AGENDA

Overarching goals:

- 1) Enhance understanding among groups in the LDD sector and key environmental health organizations of existing science linking certain chemical exposures to learning and developmental disabilities (LDDs);
 - 2) Encourage further support for scientific research on these linkages;
 - 3) Highlight existing initiatives of LDD groups that are already educating their constituencies about how to be more effective in protecting children and future generations from exposures to neurotoxicants;
 - 4) Foster greater collaboration between LDD groups, researchers, health care professionals, environmental health advocacy organizations and others concerned with environmental contributors to neurological development;
 - 5) Determine specific educational and policy opportunities regarding environmental contributors to LDDs; and
 - 6) Engage a "critical mass" of those in the LDD sector and other interested organizations to help move these opportunities forward.
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- 8:00 a.m. **Registration** (Coffee and breakfast foods available for purchase in the Natcher Building cafeteria)
- 8:35 a.m. **Welcome**
Frank Hatch, Chair of the Board of Directors, The John Merck Fund
- 8:45 a.m. **Overview of LDDI and the Conference Agenda**
Elise Miller, MEd, Executive Director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health and National Coordinator of the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative
- 9:00 a.m. **Keynote: Translating the Science on Neurotoxicants into Effective Policy**
Lynn Goldman, MD, MPH, Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

- 9:30 a.m. **Morning Plenary: An Overview of Current and Cutting-Edge Science**
Moderator: Ruth Hennig, Executive Director, The John Merck Fund
- **Ted Schettler, MD, MPH**, Science Director, Science and Environmental Health Network
 - **Pete Myers, PhD**, Founder and Chief Executive Director, Environmental Health Sciences
 - **Martha Herbert, MD, PhD**, Pediatric Neurologist, Center for Morphometric Analysis/Pediatric Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Break-out Sessions**
- A. **Research** – Further discussion on current and emerging research
Moderator: Steve Gilbert, PhD, DABT, Director, Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
- **Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH**, Director of the Cincinnati Children's Environmental Health Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati.
 - **Jennifer Nyland, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
 - **Isaac Pessah, PhD**, Director, Center for Children's Environmental Health, University of California, Davis
- B. **Education** – Further information on the basics
Moderator: Michele Gagnon, Environmental Health Project Director, American Association on Mental Retardation
- **David Wallinga, MD, MPA**, Co-Director, Food and Health Program, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
 - **Barb Sattler, RN, DrPH**, Director, School of Nursing, Environmental Health Education Center, University of Maryland School of Nursing
 - **Jo Behm, RN, MS**, Past President, Governmental Relations and Legislative Action Chair, Learning Disabilities Association of California
- C. **Advocacy** – Current efforts of learning and developmental disabilities groups
Moderator: Sharon Davis, PhD, Director of Professional and Family Services, The Arc of the United States
- **Betty Mekdeci**, Executive Director, Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc.
 - **Sallie Bernard**, Executive Director, Safe Minds
 - **Sandy Cort**, Board Member and Past President, Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
- 12:45 p.m. **Lunch** (food available for purchase in the Natcher Building cafeteria)
- 1:40 p.m. **Afternoon plenary: Innovative New Initiatives**
Moderator: Stewart Hudson, President, Emily Hall Tremain Foundation
- **Jane Browning**, Executive Director, Learning Disabilities Association of America
 - **Doreen Croser, MS**, Executive Director, American Association on Mental Retardation

- 2:45 p.m. **Break-out Sessions:**
- A. **Research** – Research opportunities and needs
Moderator: Pete Myers, PhD, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Health Sciences
- **Michael Friedlander, PhD**, Director, Civitan International Research Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine
 - **Sarah Knox, PhD**, Behavioral Scientist, National Children’s Study, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
 - **Tom Zoeller, PhD**, Professor, Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- B. **Education** – Strategies for reaching out to other constituencies and groups
Moderator: Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science Director, Science and Environmental Health Network
- **Sharon Davis, PhD**, Director of Professional and Family Services, The Arc of the United States
 - **Kathy Lawson**, Program Director of the Healthy Children Project of the Learning Disabilities Association of America
 - **Wendy Nehring, RN, PhD, FAAN**, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Nursing, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- C. **Advocacy** – Creating further partnerships between learning and developmental disability groups and environmental health organizations
Moderator: Amy Kostant, Program Director, Environmental Media Services
- **Monica Moore**, Co-Director, Pesticide Action Network North America
 - **John Balbus, MD, MPH**, Director, Health Program, Environmental Defense Fund
 - **Steve Boese, MSW**, New York State Director, Healthy Schools Network
- 4:15 p.m. **Break**
- 4:30 p.m. **Wrap-up: Where do we go from here?**
- Brief review of the day’s highlights from break-out sessions
 - Discussion on how we can effectively integrate research, education and advocacy efforts on these issues and collectively move towards stronger public environmental health protection
- 5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. **Reception at Natcher Center**

Thursday, MAY 20th

For those interested in visiting with policymakers on specific legislation related to neurotoxicants, please meet at **8:15 a.m. at the Learning Disabilities Association offices in Washington, DC, located at Hall of States Building, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, phone number 202-624-8581**. This office is within walking distance of Union Station and the Senate buildings.