



Collaborative on Health and the Environment

eNewsletter - September 2012

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In recognition of CHE's 10th anniversary, colleagues who have been particularly instrumental to shaping CHE this past decade will be invited to write an introduction. This month's introduction is by Davis Baltz, MS, and Heather Sarantis, MS, Co-Directors of CHE's [Environmental Health Primary Prevention Training Institute](#).

As we recognize CHE's tenth anniversary this year, one of CHE's newer projects to highlight is the training program offered through CHE's Environmental Health Primary Prevention Training Institute. Launched in 2010, the three-day training program brings CHE's expertise in science translation to health advocates, policy analysts, educators, and community activists as they work on issues that pertain to specific disease endpoints. Designed primarily for those who have not received advanced scientific training, the goal is to deepen participants' scientific understanding of environmental links to disease, enabling them better evaluate and articulate the science that underpins their advocacy work so they can be more effective champions for a healthier world.

To date, we have developed three modules that examine the environmental health science of breast cancer; of reproductive health; and of healthy aging across the life span. Using these modules, we have hosted seven trainings, with a total of 104 participants representing a wide range of organizations and backgrounds, such as the West Fresno Health Care Coalition, California Black Women's Health Project, Asian Community Center of Sacramento, National Council on Aging, US EPA, California Department of Public Health, University of California San

Francisco, the Jane Addams Senior Caucus of Chicago, and Dia de La Mujer Latina of Houston.

Feedback from program alumni obtained during comprehensive evaluations indicate that the trainings imparted valuable new information and perspectives, as well as stimulated new directions in participants' work priorities. For example, one participant published a guide to making everyday choices that reduce exposure to toxic chemicals. Another graduate who is a childbirth educator developed an environmental health curriculum for use in public education programs and her private childbirth practice. An executive director of a breast cancer advocacy organization wrote that "the training provided valuable perspective as well as the emerging science on breast cancer and the environment, laying an excellent foundation for thinking about the future direction of the field."

Our next training is scheduled for November 12-15, 2012 and will address reproductive health and links to environmental factors. Given the strong interest we receive and limited space, we put a special emphasis on how applicants hope to integrate the new knowledge into their current work in specific ways. We hope to have a training cadre of health advocates, educators, and health care professionals from a variety of fields. For more information, see <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/ehtraining>.



The training objectives include:

- Healthy fetal and early life development.
- The impact of chemical exposures, nutrition, the built environment, social stressors and other factors on development early in life and throughout the lifespan.
- Recognition of the complexity within an ecological model that is relevant across generations.
- A critique of risk assessment as the standard regulatory approach to determine chemical safety.
- How to effectively communicate concerns when there is scientific uncertainty.

Karin Russ, who chairs [CHE's Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group](#), has reminded us in a recent CHE Newsletter that the scientific literature on environmental links to compromised reproductive health continues to build, including in utero effects that may manifest years later as "adult" diseases.

Consider for example, two recent journal studies published in 2012 as reported by [Environmental Health News](#):

- [A study](#) of female rats exposed to common environmental chemicals in the womb suggests that epigenetic changes to the developing fetus's eggs can lead to ovarian diseases later in their life. Furthermore, and importantly, the study showed that these changes can be passed on to future generations even though the younger generation animals were not exposed to the chemicals.
- An Italian [study](#) found that infertile couples had much higher levels of the class of industrial chemicals called phthalates in their urine than couples who conceived naturally. Phthalates are widely used in many consumer products and exposure is widespread across the population.

These kind of findings have profound implications for how we understand and respond to environmental hazards and risks. How do we communicate and disseminate to lay audiences

the threats to grandchildren who haven't been born yet? How can we best build momentum for new academic curricula, new organizing strategies, and new policy initiatives that prevent harm before it occurs? This is the aim of CHE's Environmental Health Primary Prevention Training Institute, and we hope you will share details about the program with your networks.

CHE Partnership Calls

CHE Partnership call: Healthy Environments Across Generations: What We Learned and What Comes Next

Thursday September 20, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

On June 7-8, 2012 over a hundred and fifty participants gathered at the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) for the Healthy Environments Across Generations meeting which focused on the impacts that multiple, interacting environments can have on health (including the socioeconomic, chemical, food, built, natural, and psychosocial environments) as well as intergenerational and creative approaches to improve public and planetary health. CHE partnered with NYAM, AARP, the US EPA, The Intergenerational School, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, The Whole Child Center, and Gray is Green, along with over 60 co-sponsors, to put on this event. The absence of PowerPoint, the presence of cross-disciplinary conversational formats, the integration of the arts and music, and the amplification of our collective experience through social media, sketches and videography generated a range of creative ideas and collaborative opportunities that are now beginning to be molded into concrete actions. This CHE partner call on Thursday September 20, 2012 at 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern will feature several of the "content framers" who attended the event at NYAM. They will speak to what they learned and what they are doing (and intend to do) differently in order to make real the vision and values articulated at this meeting.

Featured speakers:

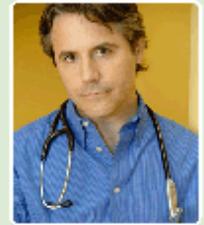
- **Donna Butts**, Executive Director, Generations United. For more than 30 years, Butts has worked tirelessly to promote the well-being of children, youth and older adults through nonprofit organizations across the country and around the world. She began her career in her home state of Oregon as a youth worker with the YWCA, where she worked one-on-one with teens and saw the positive effects of intergenerational programs firsthand.



- **Kim Knowlton, DrPH**, Senior Scientist, Health and Environment Program, Natural Resources Defense Council. Dr. Knowlton is also assistant clinical professor of environmental health sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; and chair of the Global Climate Change and Health Topic Committee of the American Public Health Association's Environment Section. Her work focuses on the health effects of climate change; advocating for strategies to prepare for and prevent these impacts, especially for our most vulnerable communities; and making health a more central feature of national, state, and local climate change adaptation plans.



- **Lawrence Rosen, MD**, The Whole Child Center. Dr. Rosen is a board-certified general pediatrician committed to family-centered, holistic child health care. He founded one of the country's first "green" pediatric practices, The Whole Child Center, in Oradell, NJ, and consults at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center, serving as Medical Advisor to the Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center.



- **Erika Svendsen, PhD**, Research Social Scientist, US Forest Service.

Dr. Svendsen is a research social scientist with the US Forest Service,



Northern Research Station. (NRS) and is based in New York City. Dr. Svendsen's research focuses on urban environmental stewardship and issues related to governance, social-ecological resilience and human well-being. Her work includes understanding the spatial, temporal and sacred aspects of stewardship systems, studying both organizations and individuals.

The call will be moderated by Elise Miller, MEd, CHE's Director. The call will last one hour and will be recorded for archival purposes.

Save the Date: CHE Cafe call featuring Dr. Jeanne Conry, October 18th

Steve Heilig, CHE Director of Public Health & Education, and Director of Public Health & Education, San Francisco Medical Society will speak with Dr. Conry on October 18, 2012 about her recent award from the EPA as an "Environmental Hero" and her work with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). More information will be posted to the CHE website soon.

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 19, 2012 - [The Dose Vs. the Poison: "Low-Dose" Effects of Environmental Chemicals](#)
- June 21, 2012 - [Expanding Our Understanding of Autism: Beyond Genetics to Whole Systems Approaches](#)
- May 24, 2012 - [Advancing Risk Assessment: Progress and Ongoing Obstacles](#)

You can subscribe via podcast to receive notifications of new call recordings added to the CHE archives. [View past calls and subscribe to the podcast.](#)

CHE Working and Regional Group Updates

Stay in touch with CHE through social media:

Visit [CHE's blog](#) to read recent posts by Carolyn Raffensperger, Executive Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network on *Geonotic Disease: A New Taxonomy*; Richard Clapp on the US House's passage of the Camp Lejeune Compensation Bill; Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, CHE's Science Director, commenting on *Paternal Age, de Novo Mutations and Autism Risk*; and Karin Russ, MS, RN, National Coordinator for CHE's Fertility and Reproductive Health Working Group, on reports citing more evidence of declining sperm quality. Comments on CHE Blog posts are always welcome.

Visit CHE's [Facebook page](#).

CHE Asthma

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **New findings: Prenatal Exposure to Pesticide Additive Linked With Childhood Cough:** Children exposed in the womb to the widely used pesticide additive piperonyl butoxide (PBO) have heightened risk of noninfectious cough at ages 5 and 6, according to researchers at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (the Center) at the Mailman School of Public Health and of Columbia University Medical Center.

The findings, which appear in the August 31 online edition of the journal *Environment International*, support the premise that the children's respiratory system is susceptible to damage from toxic exposures during the prenatal period. A common symptom, childhood cough can disrupt normal daytime activities and interrupt sleep for both child and parent. [Read more](#)

CHE Climate Change

~ coordinated by Genon Jensen, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **New Australian report *Our Uncashed Dividend***

The report, released at Canberra Hospital on 14 August by Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), an NGO, and a partner organization of HEAL in the field of international climate policy. The large and growing body of evidence from health and medical research drawn together for the study shows substantial health benefits linked to measures to cut emissions. It demonstrates that a shift from burning fossil fuels in coal fired power plants as well as for road transport in Australia would improve public health and save at least AUD 6 billion (approx. EUR 5 billion) and thousands of lives each year.

The report by the CAHA and The Climate Institute got support from the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA). Its release is an important signal in times of slowly progressing international climate negotiations that immediate action and ambitious climate targets will also reap important economic and social benefits in the short term.

The report *Our Uncashed Dividend*, which encompasses detailed figures from HEAL's 2010

report, [Acting NOW for Better Health](http://caha.org.au/resources/reports), is available at: <http://caha.org.au/resources/reports>

~ **EU debates measures for climate change adaptation**

The European Commissioner for Climate, Connie Hedegaard, is in the process of developing the EU Adaptation Strategy to climate change, which will probably be launched in early 2013 and builds on the 2009 white paper [Adapting to Climate Change](#). The HEAL secretariat participated in the public consultation to the strategy and provided support to member organizations to file their own submissions. The overall aim of EU action on adaptation is to enhance the preparedness and the ability of countries in Europe to respond to impacts deriving from climate change, for example threats to human health.

Health issues will probably be one of the focal areas of the EU Adaptation Strategy, as health had already been covered by an individual staff working document complementing the 2009 white paper. In some countries a national adaptation strategy already exists, for example in Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, and Denmark; while other countries are in the stage of preparation. A European platform, CLIMATE-ADAPT, aims to pool the available information on European and Member States' activities in the field of climate adaptation and allow for experience exchange related to sectors and climatic conditions.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has worked to create country profiles on climate change and health which have adaptation as a specific focus. Such profiles exist for Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, and Sweden.

[Visit the CLIMATE-ADAPT website](#)

Cumulative Impacts Working Group hosted by CHE and SEHN

~ coordinated by Elise Miller and Carolyn Raffensperger

~ **Website resources:** On the Cumulative Impacts Project website you can subscribe to a news feed, view the calendar of events listing upcoming meetings, webinars, teleconferences, trainings, and calls for proposals, and search for key resources related to cumulative impacts.

[Visit the website](#)

CHE Diabetes-Obesity Spectrum

~ coordinated by Sarah Howard, for more information contact

info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals** James-Todd T, Stahlhut R, Meeker JD, et al. 2012. [Urinary Phthalate Metabolite Concentrations and Diabetes among Women in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey \(NHANES\) 2001-2008](#). Environ. Health Perspect.

Mauil EA, Ahsan H, Edwards J, et al. 2012. [Evaluation of the Association between Arsenic and Diabetes: A National Toxicology Program Workshop Review](#). Environ. Health Perspect.

Everett CJ, Thompson OM. 2012. [Associations of dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs with diabetes and pre-diabetes: Is the toxic equivalency approach useful?](#) Environ. Res.

Shankar A, Teppala S, Sabanayagam C. 2012. [Urinary Bisphenol A Levels and Measures of Obesity: Results from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2003-2008](#).

ISRN. Endocrinol. 2012:965243.

Li DK, Ferber JR, Odouli R, Quesenberry CP, Jr. 2012. [A Prospective Study of In-utero Exposure to Magnetic Fields and the Risk of Childhood Obesity](#). Sci. Rep. 2:540.

Trasande L, Blustein J, Liu M, et al. 2012. [Infant antibiotic exposures and early-life body mass](#). Int. J. Obes.(Lond).

CHE Fertility and Reproductive Health

~ coordinated by Karin Russ, karin@healthandenvironment.org

~ CHE Fertility working group call: The Male Factor: Environment, Development and Fertility

Thursday September 20, 2012 at 9:00 am Pacific / noon Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

Environmental factors may alter the course of development of male reproductive organs and impact later adult fertility. Chemicals and other environmental influences may impact the quality of sperm production. This call features Dr. Shanna Swan from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Dr. Niels Jorgensen from the Department of Growth and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Denmark.

~ **Awards: EPA honors Dr. Jeanne Conry, ACOG, as 'Environmental Hero'**: The US Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest Region announced the 12 winners for the 2012 annual environmental awards to acknowledge significant contributions to protecting the environment. Dr. Jeanne Conry of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists was honored in the category of Children's Environmental Health. US EPA.

[Read more](#)

~ New articles and research published in academic and scientific journals

[Wildfires: Smoke linked to lower birth weights](#). Pregnant women exposed to wildfire smoke during Southern California's epic 2003 fire season had babies with lower birth weights, University of California Berkeley researchers have found. Riverside Press-Enterprise, California.

[Pre-eclampsia and locally derived traffic-related air pollution: a retrospective cohort study.](#)

Pre-eclampsia is a common complication of pregnancy and is a major cause of fetal-maternal mortality and morbidity. In this study, each IQR increase in levels of traffic-related air pollution in whole pregnancy and third trimester was associated with a 12% (1%-25%) and 30% (7%-58%) increased risk of pre-eclampsia, respectively. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

[Early puberty? Girls exposed to household chemical menstruate earlier, CDC study finds.](#)

Girls exposed to high levels of a common household chemical [dichlorobenzene] had their first period seven months earlier than girls with lower exposures, according to new research by federal scientists. Environmental Health News.

[Dietary patterns and semen quality in young men.](#) This study examines the question: are different dietary patterns associated with semen parameters in young men? The consumption of a 'Prudent' dietary pattern was significantly associated with higher progressive sperm motility and unrelated to sperm concentration and morphology. Study findings support the

suggestion that a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, chicken, fish and whole grains may be an inexpensive and safe way to improve at least one measure of semen quality. Human Reproduction.

[Findings from a 15 year longitudinal analysis of weekly sperm samples](#). Studies suggest that global semen quality is declining, but the debate remains open owing to geographic variation. This study evaluates temporal trends of sperm parameters - namely concentration, motility and total motile sperm count - in sperm donated during the period 1995-2009 in Israel. Despite the lowering of criteria for sperm parameters satisfactory for donation that were implemented in 2004, 38% of applicants for sperm donation are now rejected based on semen quality. *Isr Med Assoc J*.

[Walnuts improve semen quality in men consuming a western-style diet](#). This tests the hypothesis that 75 gm of whole-shelled walnuts/day added to a Western-style diet of healthy young men would beneficially affect semen quality. Findings demonstrated that walnuts added to a Western-style diet improved sperm vitality, motility and morphology. *Biol Reprod*.

~ **New resource:** All That Matters brochures. These brochures from the UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment are nontechnical, patient-centered guides that provide tips and suggestions for avoiding toxic chemical exposure at home, in the workplace and in the community.

[Read more](#)

~ **Call for proposals:** Transgenerational Inheritance in Mammals After Environmental Exposure. This funding opportunity announcement (FOA), issued by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, is intended to encourage grant applications that use mouse or rat models to investigate whether exposure to environmental toxicants can induce adverse phenotypic outcomes that are transmitted to subsequent, unexposed generations, a phenomenon known as transgenerational inheritance. The closing date is December 18, 2012.

[Read more](#)

~ **FOA:** Assessing and Addressing Community Exposures to Environmental Contaminants (R01). This Funding Opportunity Announcement from NIEHS and NINR encourages applications using community-engaged research methods to investigate the potential health risks of environmental exposures of concern to the community and to implement an environmental public health action plan based on research findings. Expiration date September 8, 2015.

[Read more](#)

CHE Healthy Aging Initiative

~ coordinated by Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org

~ **New resources from the *Healthy Environments Across Generations* conference:** Several new videos featuring content framers from the conference have been posted to the conference webpage, including AARP's Rick Moody, PhD; Peter Whitehouse, MD, PhD of the Intergenerational School; Natalie Jeremijenko, PhD of NYU's Environmental Health Clinic; and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, from the Science and Environmental Health Network and CHE. In these videos speakers discuss intergenerational health, systems thinking, what steps can be taken to provide healthy environments for future generations and more.

Visit the [conference webpage](#)

Join the ongoing conversation on [Facebook](#)

~ **A Profile of Older Americans 2012: Key Indicators of Wellbeing:** Highlights include:

- Numbers - The older population is growing rapidly and is expected to nearly double by 2030 to 72 million.
- Economics - Although there was a significant decrease in the proportion of older people with income below poverty and with low income between 1974 and 2010, over 1/3 of elders still live at or near the poverty level.
- Economic disparities - In 2007, the median net worth of households headed by white people age 65 and over (\$248,300) was almost three times that of older black households (\$87,800). In 1998 it was about six times!
- Housing Cost Burden - In 2009, about 40 percent of elder households spent more than 30 percent of household income on housing and utilities.
- Health Care burden - Health care costs increased significantly among older Americans from \$9,850 in 1992 to \$15,709 in 2008.
- Killing diseases - Death rates for heart disease and stroke declined by slightly more than 50% since 1981, while those for chronic lower respiratory disease increased by 57%.
- Chronic conditions - The percentage of people age 65 and over who are obese increased from 22%-38% from 1988-94 to 2009-10. The prevalence of diabetes increased for all racial and ethnic groups and sexes 65+, from 13% in 1997-98 to nearly 21% in 2009-10.

[Download the full PDF](#)

~ **Perspectives on the Future of the Sociology of Aging**, by Linda J. Waite, Editor. This report is a collection of papers from a workshop organized to "evaluate the recent contributions of social demography, social epidemiology, and sociology to the study of aging and seek to identify promising new research directions in these sub-fields." From the Panel on New Directions in Social Demography, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.

[Read the report](#)

~ **AARP Public Policy Institute launches a new Livable Communities website.** The new site combines AARP's livable communities policies and resources into one easily navigable web location. The site has a homepage with a description and recent publications, and three main sections: policy, resources, and how to get involved.

[Visit the website](#)

~ **Wellness Warriors** has been launched by the founder of Rancho La Puerta and the Golden Door spas. With a goal "to build a culture of wellness throughout the United States," this new network seeks to help everyone have say in policymaking to help promote health and prevent disease.

[Visit the website](#)

~ **Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families: Hundreds of thousands of grandparents are helping raise their grandkids.** To help grandchildren grow up healthy, and to improve health for all ages, visit [Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families](#) and learn how to help prevent exposures to toxic substances by reading the updated report [Chemicals and our Health: Why Recent Science is a Call to Action](#).

~ **Upcoming meeting, conferences and presentations**

September 12, 2012: AARP Aging and the Environment Lunch, AARP headquarters, Washington, DC.

September 19, 2012: "[Talk of Ages](#)" at Lasell College/Lasell Village, Newton, MA. Maria Valenti will discuss how multiple, interacting environments can affect health across generations. She will be joined by CHE partner Cindy Luppi from Clean Water Action.

October 27-31, 2012: [American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco. CHE members and colleagues will be presenting a symposium on Healthy Environments Across Generations at the 2012 APHA meeting. The theme of this year's APHA meeting is Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan, a subject near and dear to our hearts and work.

November 14-18, 2012: [Gerontological Association of America 65th Annual Scientific Meeting](#), San Diego, CA.

December 10, 2012: Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, statewide summit, Newton, MA.

CHE Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

~ coordinated by Elise Miller, info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **New Article on Exposures and Disability published by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association:** "Protecting Brain Development: How Toxic Chemical Exposures Interact With Nutrition and Genetics to Put Children at Risk" has been published in the August issue of *Perspectives on School-Based Issues*, one of the journals from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The article describes recent findings of interactions of toxic exposures with nutritional factors such as high fructose corn syrup, iodine, and eating breakfast. Co-authored by Maureen Swanson of Learning Disabilities Association of America's Healthy Children Project and Nancy Hepp of Collaborative on Health and the Environment, the article concludes with actions that communication sciences and disorders (CSD) professionals can take to improve health outcomes for their students and their communities.

[Read the abstract](#)

CHE Regional Working Groups Updates

CHE Alaska

~ coordinated by Pam Miller, pkmiller@akaction.net

~ **Working group call: Preventing Harm to Children: The Healthy Schools Movement**
Wednesday September 26, 2012 at 9:00 am Alaska / 10:00 am Pacific / 1:00 pm Eastern

[RSVP for this call](#)

This call will offer a one-hour discussion with Claire Barnett, founder and director of [Healthy Schools Network, Inc.](#), the leading national voice for children's environmental health at school. School-age children spend the majority of their waking hours at school where they may be exposed to pesticides, toxic chemicals in cleaning supplies, pollution from idling vehicles and other contaminants that have been linked to childhood cancer, asthma, and

learning disabilities. Join this call to:

- Learn about the major environmental health concerns at school and steps you can take to make your school safer for children and workers.
- Hear an update on the latest research on children's environmental health and policy initiatives.
- Find out what's happening in Alaska's schools, how the national Healthy Schools movement is working to ensure all schools are environmentally safe and healthy, and how you can get involved.

Featured speaker: Claire L. Barnett, MBA, Founder and Executive Director, Healthy Schools Network, Inc. and Coordinator, national Coalition for Healthier Schools. The Healthy Schools Network has challenged the nation with a call to action to ensure that schools are environmentally responsible to all children, to personnel, and to communities. As a child health advocate, Barnett convened the fledgling Network in 1995 as a New York statewide coalition; it has since shaped and won new funds and multiple laws on school environments in the nation's third largest educational system (NYS) and the nation's single largest school district (NYC). She holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

CHE HEAL

~ coordinated by Lisette Van Vliet, lissette@env-health.org

~ **HEAL annual review 2011**: The publication showcases how environmental action results in better health and in economic growth and puts a spotlight on the win-win scenarios that make Europe more sustainable while bringing down rates of cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes or asthma.

[Read the editorial or download the full annual review](#)

~ **British Medical Association new report on road noise and health impacts**:

Recent studies stress the costs to society and our economy from road noise. The British Medical Association (BMA) has just urged that health be prioritized in transport planning and policy decisions. BMA's concerns tie into a recent study from Denmark on increased heart attack risks because of road traffic noise. BMA's recent report [Healthy Transport, Healthy Lives](#) looks at the costs to the UK of increased vehicle numbers and traffic volume and the benefits of promoting active travel (walking and cycling) and other sustainable transport measures.

Noise is one of the three factors that BMA lists as having a negative impact on health, together with increase in road traffic injuries, and greater exposure to air pollution.

The doctors confirm that transport-related noise pollution (predominantly from roads, railways and airports) can adversely affect the cardiovascular system, mental health status, and the school performance in children. The report states that transport is the leading cause of noise pollution, and that measures to tackle noise at source have the greatest potential to reduce exposure.

These findings from the UK tie into results of a recent study from Denmark on the [link between exposure to long-term residential road traffic noise and heart attacks](#): the researchers found that for every 10 dB higher exposure to noise the risk of a heart attack increases by 12%.

The study is significant as it brings together results on health effects from noise of over 50,000 participants living in Danish urban areas (Copenhagen and Aarhus). The authors adjusted their findings with known risk factors for myocardial infarction such as blood pressure, high cholesterol levels and diabetes or air pollution, and are so able to establish a clear dose-response relationship between residential exposure to road traffic noise and increased heart attack risk. They also found indications that road traffic noise had a high effect on myocardial infarction in people who never smoked.

Researchers and the medical community are increasingly concerned on people with low socio-economic status are at greater risk of health impacts of noise pollution, as they are more likely to live near busy roads. Both the BMA report as well as a comprehensive analysis on [environmental health inequalities](#) carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) point to this too often overlooked connection. The Danish study confirms that participants living at residences with a road noise level of over 60 decibel (dB) had a lower education, smoked more, ate less fruit and vegetables, were less physically active and diabetes rates were higher.

~ **New scientific study reveals adverse effects of mixtures of pesticides:** Générations Futures and Antidote Europe, an independent research organization, initiated a scientific study looking at harmful effects of mixtures of some commonly used pesticides. The aim of the study was to evaluate health risks of chemical mixtures versus single pesticides.

Professor Michael Coleman, who led the study on cell impacts stressed that the work showed that some pesticides, alone or in combination, can induce stress and significantly affect human cells. They can also interfere with basic cellular processes such as energy production. These effects were demonstrated at concentrations similar to those found in our food. This work suggests that we should make greater efforts to restrict pesticide use in crops intended for food.

The results build upon a study about pesticides and chemicals contamination of children's daily food, which HEAL and GF launched in 2010. Under the Toxics Menu investigation, non-organic food items making up the typical daily intake of a 10 year old were bought in various supermarkets and tested for chemical residues. The results showed the chemical cocktail that children were exposed to from food alone. Findings showed 128 trace elements representing 81 different chemical substances. These substances included 36 different pesticides and 47 suspected carcinogens.

The results of this scientific study were recently published under the title: [A preliminary investigation into the impact of a pesticide combination on human neuronal and glial cell lines in vitro](#), MD Coleman et al.

[Read more](#)

CHE Washington

~ coordinated by Aimee Boulanger and Steve Gilbert, for more information contact info@healthandenvironment.org

~ **CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group meeting: Marketing to Moms: Tips for Successful Outreach to Mothers to Help Them Reduce Environmental Exposures**

Thursday September 13, 2012, 9:30-11:30 am

RSVP: Please RSVP to Julia Singer at julia.singer@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-3042.

Location: US Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

Participate by phone: 1-866-299-3188, access code: 206-533-2148

Lynn Colwell and Corey Colwell-Lipson, mother-daughter green lifestyle experts and green-brand marketing mavens will discuss specific outreach methods and techniques based on their belief that creating relationships is the most powerful tool for reaching the vast mom market. They will highlight low and no-cost action steps.

Announcements and News Highlights

Denmark defies EU with planned ban on phthalate chemicals

Danish Environment Minister Ida Auken has decided to ban four industrial chemicals linked to disrupting the human endocrine system, pushing Denmark ahead of the European Union which has already started a process of phasing phthalates. Euractiv, Belgium.

[Read more](#)

EU study sparks regulation debate over 'high-risk' shale gas

Tough new regulations could be slapped on the shale gas industry if the EU acts upon legislative and environmental failings identified in its most comprehensive analysis yet of the sector, released September 7, 2012.

[Read more](#)

* * *

EHN and its sister site, The Daily Climate, offer a wealth of valuable information each day at no cost to subscribers. The daily email subscriptions and the 350,000-item news archive have recently been supplemented by a Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Environmental Health News: email, Facebook, Twitter and a website archive

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Friend EHN on Facebook by searching for Environmental Health News

September 2012 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* available online

[Read more](#)

September 2012 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 Updates

ChemHAT (Chemical Hazards and Alternatives Toolbox) launched

With ChemHAT's searchable database, you can easily read about the scientific findings on the short and long-term health effects of over 10,000 commonly used chemicals. [Visit the website](#)

The Endocrine Society: Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals and Public Health Protection: A Statement of Principles from the Endocrine Society

A new position statement from The Endocrine Society provides a strong argument for scientists in industry, government, and academia to work together, across disciplines, to improve testing of chemicals as potential endocrine disruptors. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Read the EHP article](#)

[Read The Endocrine Society statement](#)

New report: How Far Have We Come in Reducing Health Disparities?: Progress Since 2000 -- Workshop Summary

In 2001, the IOM released its landmark report, Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century, highlighting the importance of a focus on health care quality rather than a focus on only access and cost issues. Building upon these reports and events, the IOM held a workshop on April 8, 2010, that discussed progress to address health disparities and focused on the success of various federal initiatives to reduce health disparities. This document summarizes the workshop.

[Read more](#)

EPA launches the Eco-Health Relationship Browser

The Eco-Health Relationship Browser illustrates the linkages between human health and ecosystem services-benefits supplied by Nature. This interactive tool provides information about our nation's ecosystems, the services they provide, and how those services, or their degradation and loss, may affect people.

[Visit the website](#)

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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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