



20th
Anniversary



Working for Healthy Children
and Healthy Environments
for 20 Years.

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Did You Know?

*Eco Healthy Child Care®:
Insect Bites & Stings*

Swimming Pool Safety

CEHN EVENTS:

May 30-June 1

**CA: CEHN 2012 Research
Conference: *The Contribution
of Epigenetics in Pediatric
Environmental Health***

Register for Conference

September 7

**DC: Save the Date! CEHN 20th
Anniversary Gala at the
National Press Club**

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been an exciting start to CEHN's 20th Anniversary year! We are just a month away from our research conference, "The Contribution of Epigenetics in Pediatric Environmental Health" which will be held in San Francisco, CA May 30th - June 1st, 2012. Scientific leaders in areas such as cancer, development, nutrition, asthma, and endocrine disruption will be participating in the program.

CEHN will also lead a policy session and the final conference session that will highlight opportunities for future direction. The importance of communicating science effectively and the public health/public policy implications to this emerging and growing field of research will be discussed. We are grateful for the range of sponsors that have combined to make this event a reality. Registration is still open and I encourage you to review the program [here](#).

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POLICY ACTIVITIES

In Washington, DC, early blossoms signal not only spring but the busy appropriations season on Capitol Hill. This year, the Network was kept as busy as bees in speaking up for children's environmental health.

In March, CEHN Executive Director Witherspoon testified before the House subcommittee that handles appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency. The Network will also be submitting testimony to the subcommittees with jurisdiction over funding for the Health and Human Services Department, including the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the National Institute of

Environmental Health Sciences.

The Network also communicated with the Executive branch on two topics important to children's environmental health. One concern was delays in awarding funds for research that had already been authorized and funded. The other was the need to finalize ethical rules for studies that intentionally expose people to hazardous chemicals. We coordinated a coalition letter to the Office of Management & Budget on these topics. As of early April, at least one of the delayed research proposals had been released.

*EHCC Upcoming
Presentations and Meetings:*

May 1-4

LA: Lead and Healthy Housing
Grantee Conference

May 10

VA: George Mason University
Child Development Center
workshop

May 22

OR: EHCC Train-the-Trainer

June 10-13

IN: NAYEC 21st National Institute
for Early Childhood Development

June 28-30

CA: NEHA 76th Annual
Educational Conference (AEC) &
Exhibition

July 10

HI: EHCC Train-the-Trainer

July 12

HI: EHCC Train-the-Trainer

August 8-9

KY: Infant-Toddler Institute

August 9

OK: EHCC Train-the-Trainer

Additional Eco-Healthy Child
Care® events listed [here](#).

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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In these challenging times of public health and environmental public health funding cuts, it is especially important for all of us to stand firm and let our decision-makers know how detrimental these cuts will be for the health of children in the short and long term. I testified before the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in March and CEHN submitted written testimony in April to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

This spring has provided some key opportunities for CEHN. I was very honored to be one of fifty women to receive an invitation to attend the White House Summit on Women and the Environment in March.

In April, I spoke on a panel at the National Academy of Sciences Workshop "Biological Factors that Underline Individual Susceptibility to Environmental Stressors, and Their Implications for Decision-Making". In addition, CEHN's Policy and Training Director contributed an essay to Physicians for Social Responsibility's Environmental Health Policy Institute on the need for chemical policy reform.

CEHN's 20th Anniversary Gala event is quickly approaching! Please save the evening of Friday September 7th for this celebration that will be held in Washington, DC in the National Press Club. This will be an evening of reflection on the past and opportunities for the future of the field of children's environmental health. Stay tuned for much more information coming soon.

*–Nsedu O. Witherspoon, MPH
CEHN Executive Director*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Eco-Healthy Child Care®'s (EHCC) 2012 expansion states include: AK, HI, KY, OK, OR and PA!
- EHCC's Train the Trainer (TtT) session has been approved for continuing education units (CEUs) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention!
- EHCC has updated its [Arsenic Fact Sheet](#).
- The Children's Environmental Health Network has formed an EHCC Science Task Force; this committee is reviewing the 16 EHCC fact sheets to ensure the recommendations provided are in line with the latest research in the field.

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Support CEHN's Work:

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ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE® : INSECT BITES & STINGS

Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and bees are buzzing. Here are some steps to protect children from insect bites and stings.

- Dress children in lightweight long sleeves and pants while outdoors.
- Use mosquito netting over infant carriers.
- Avoid areas that attract or breed insects, including garbage cans, standing water, orchards and gardens in bloom.
- Avoid attracting insects with uncovered food and sweets, scented soap, perfume and hair spray.
- Do not use a product that combines sunscreen and repellent. Apply sunscreen first, followed by repellent.
- Do not allow children to handle repellents; apply the product to your own hands and then put it on the child.
- Avoid children's hands, eyes and mouth.
- After returning indoors, wash your child's treated skin and clothes with soap and water.
- Store repellents safely out of reach of children.

Information on DEET^{1,2}:

- DEET should not be used on infants under two months old. Older children should receive no more than one application a day.
- Use the lowest effective concentration of DEET; 10% is effective for about 2 hours and 30% lasts 4 hours. Greater concentrations should not be used on children.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Many children will frequent swimming pools during the next few months. Swimming is an important life skill and provides exercise and recreation for many. It is essential to maintain adequate disinfection regimens for pools to prevent infectious illness outbreaks. Many U.S. health departments recommend maintaining the chlorine levels in pools between 1.0 – 3.0 parts per million (ppm), with the optimum at approximately 2.0 ppm. The goal is to provide the minimum necessary protection against infectious microorganisms, while minimizing human exposure to chlorine and its

disinfection by-products (DBPs), some of which are known carcinogens. No causal relationships have been established between recreational swimming exposure to DBPs and cancer risk or other adverse health effects in children, but research in this area continues. To minimize exposure to DBPs from swimming, perform frequent chlorine level checks and pool maintenance, ensure that indoor pools are properly ventilated, remind children to not drink pool water, and shower after swimming. Swim safe, and have fun this summer!