



This edition of the CEHN Newsletter is dedicated to the vibrant life and purpose of our dear friend and fellow advocate, Ralph Scott.

*20th
Anniversary*

*Working for Healthy Children
and Healthy Environments
for 20 Years.*



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy new year! CEHN is very excited to enter 2012 and share information on some key activities that are happening. This year we are celebrating CEHN's 20th Anniversary! It is hard to believe that it has been two decades of tireless work, promoting the health and safety of children from environmental hazards.

We are also pleased to welcome Joyce Martin as CEHN's new Health Policy Specialist.

In addition to these events, CEHN has been busy this winter with our Health in all Policy Project, a DC environmental justice showcase healthy communities project, and the expansion of Eco-Healthy Child Care[®] Program.

We look forward to taking this year to reflect on where CEHN has come and the great opportunities before us.

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

To help mark this milestone, CEHN is hosting a research conference titled "*Contribution of Epigenetics to Pediatric Environmental Health*" May 30th-June 1st, 2012. Please also hold September 7th, 2012 for CEHN's large anniversary event in Washington, DC at the National Press Club.

CEHN'S 2012 RESEARCH CONFERENCE: *THE CONTRIBUTION OF EPIGENETICS IN PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

On May 30 – June 1, 2012, CEHN will be convening leading experts in epigenetics and children's environmental health research at the Stanford Court Renaissance San Francisco Hotel in San Francisco, CA. This conference will highlight the role of epigenetics, the study of heritable changes in gene expression or cellular phenotype caused by mechanisms other than changes in DNA sequence, in determining the impact of the environment on pediatric disease and on children's current and future health.

The submission deadline is 11:59 PM EST on March 2, 2012. Information on sponsorship opportunities, travel information including those from outside of the U.S. can be found on CEHN's [website](#).

A tentative program of events is posted on the website. We have an excellent line-up of confirmed keynote and mini symposium speakers, and we encourage you to view their bios and learn more about their exciting and important work.

We are pleased to announce a Call for submission of late-breaking abstracts for presentation at the conference.

Online registration for the conference is open. [Register](#) today!

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Did You Know?

CEHN EVENTS:

May 30-June 1

**CA: Call for late-breaking
Abstracts now open for the
CEHN 2012 Research
Conference**

Submit Abstract

Register for Conference

September 7

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

*CEHN Upcoming
Presentations and Meetings:*

February 4

TX: Workshop at Southern Early
Childhood Association

March 8

DC: 2012 NACCRA National Child
Care Policy Symposium

March 8

DC: CEHN's Annual Meeting

March 27

KY: Eco-Healthy Child Care®
Train-the-Trainer

March 28-29

VA: Global Summit on Childhood

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



*Children's Environmental
Health Network
110 Maryland Ave. NE
Room 402
Washington, DC 20002
T 202.543.4033
F 202.543.8797
<http://www.cehn.org/>*

Support CEHN's Work:

Donate Now



CEHN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

In 1992, the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) was created by a small group of public health advocates and health professionals who answered the growing need to have a science-based organization that placed the unique needs of children in the forefront of public health practice and decision making. CEHN has been working under the same mission to promote a safe and healthier environment for children since the beginning. It has been an extraordinary 20 years!

CEHN's 20th anniversary is an important opportunity not only to highlight the extraordinary achievements in the field over the last 20 years, but also to

prepare for the next era in children's health protection. There is still a lot of work needed to ensure that all children have the basic right to homes, schools, child care, parks, and communities that do not make them sick.

As part of our anniversary celebration, CEHN is organizing a series of events, including a Research Conference in San Francisco, May 30th-June 1st, and a special anniversary event in Washington, DC on September 7th.

For information on sponsorship and partnership opportunities please contact [Kristie Trousdale](#).

MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS

It is estimated that 62% of all Arsenic, and 50% of all Mercury air pollution is derived from coal-fired and oil-fired power plants. Finally, there is an end in sight to the large amounts of mercury, arsenic, acid gases and other toxic air pollutants that are emitted from these power plants. On December 16, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) passed a national standard – that takes effect in 2015 – regulating the air pollution from these plants.

Setting national standards to reduce these emissions by up to 90% means cleaner air, a healthier environment for all children, and all U.S. citizens. According to the EPA, "These new standards will avert up to 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks every year!" CEHN participated in the release of the national standard. Click [here](#) to learn more.

DID YOU KNOW?

The greatest source of mercury exposure for most Americans is through fish consumption. Why is that? The mercury emitted from coal-burning power plants and similar sources falls from the air and is converted into methylmercury that settles in our waterways and sediments. Methylmercury moves up the food chain and increases in concentration as it does so. Long-lived predator fish – like swordfish, shark, mackerel, tuna, walleye and bass – are the species most likely to be found with high levels of methylmercury.

What to do?

Eat a variety of fish species, avoid certain predator fish species, follow recommendations on portion size and frequency. If you eat locally-caught fish, be sure to check your local and state fish advisories. Fish is a healthy food, and if you follow these recommendations, you and your family can enjoy the benefits of fish while minimizing your exposure to methylmercury in fish.

However, there are other sources of mercury to avoid. For more tips, check out the Eco-Healthy Child Care® Mercury fact sheet [here](#).