Happy Summer! I hope you are all enjoying this fantastic time to decompress, enjoy the outdoors, time with family and friends, and recharge.

CEHN's summer is filled with a variety of exciting news. On July 9th, CEHN’s Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program received the Inaugural 2013 Innovation Award from the National Environmental Health Association, during their Annual Conference in Washington, DC. We are quite honored and excited to gain the attention of the premier environmental health organization in the world! More information can be found here.

CEHN's next research conference will be focused on Food Exposures, Pediatric/Reproductive Health, and the Environment. The Planning Committee is organizing now and the conference is anticipated to take place the second half of 2014. Much more to come!

We invite all who can to join us for CEHN's Eighth Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception!! This event will take place from 5:30pm - 8:00pm, Thursday October 17th at the offices of the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, DC. Distinguished award recipients include Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program and Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. In addition, CEHN's N.O.W. Student Leadership Award Recipient will be honored. To register for this event please go to our Award Webpage.

I encourage you to read further about the exciting program updates that CEHN's staff are working to accomplish on behalf of our children.

As always, thank you for your continued support of CEHN!

--Nsedu O. Witherspoon, MPH
CEHN Executive Director

Global Climate Change
President Obama released a multi-faceted and health-based Climate Change Action Plan, which gathered strong support from a wide range of public interest organizations. The Network commented: “By considering energy options and responsible steps toward reducing carbon pollution, our nation has an opportunity to support the vital protection of our children’s health, today and for future generations to come.”

CEHN's statement also noted that “Climate change will alter the global environment and present major challenges to the health and welfare of children. Children in communities that are already disadvantaged will be the most harmed. continue p.3
CEHN and its Eco-Healthy Child Care® program were presented with the first Environmental Health Innovation Award at the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) annual conference on July 9th. The Environmental Health Innovation Award was created to recognize a NEHA member or organization for creating a new idea, practice, or product that has had a positive impact on improving the environment/public health and the quality of life. Change that promotes or improves the environment is the foundation of this award.

The EHCC program supports child care providers in creating child care settings that are as environmentally healthy as possible. EHCC brings basic concepts and practical steps for healthier environments to a professional community -- child care providers -- who have a tremendous impact on the health of the environments in which millions of U.S. children spend a major portion of their time.

EHCC offers a unique endorsement and marketing model for participating child cares, as well as training and technical assistance.

As a result, we are seeing increased awareness among child care professionals of the impact of the child care environment on health and development.

EHCC was also highlighted recently in the Environmental Health Perspectives’ article, *Environmental Exposures in the Context of Child Care*.

Finally, CEHN’s EHCC staff assisted in the review of the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education’s *Stepping Stones to Caring for Our Children*, 3rd Edition (SS3). This publication details “138 essential standards intended to reduce the rate of morbidity and mortality in child care and early education settings”. For a full list of the standards, click here.

**Sunscreen**

Proper skin protection for children is essential. Have children:

- Avoid the sun during midday when rays can cause the most damage.
- Wear a hat and sun protective clothing.
- Use SPF 30 or above and reapply it at least every 2 hours.

Any type of sun protection is better than none at all. Consider these sunscreen facts when purchasing:

- Chemical sunscreens absorb UV light and can be absorbed into skin. Scientists continue to study what, if any, effects the chemicals may have once absorbed into the body.
- UV light breaks down chemical sunscreens, generating harmful free-radicals.
- Physical sunscreens sit on the skin and reflect UV light, and because they are not absorbed, they are recommended for people with sensitive skin.
- Physical sunscreens that are transparent on the skin contain nanoparticles of zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. Opt for the lotion rather than the spray application to reduce the risk of inhalation of small particles.
- Infants under 6 months of age should be kept out of the sun. Talk with your pediatrician about sun safety.
Recent studies have detailed how children’s physical and social health may be harmed.” To view CEHN’s Position Statement on Climate Change click [here](#).

Additionally, the Network joined other public health organizations in endorsing H.R.2023, the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act, introduced by Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA). The bill would help the public health community address the challenges of climate change.

**Chemicals Policy Reform**

The nation mourned the passing of Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), the author of legislation that would update the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). TSCA, passed in 1976, has been proven to be a weak and ineffective statute in protecting human health, especially children’s health.

Earlier this year, Lautenberg, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and 27 other U.S. Senators introduced S.696, the Safe Chemicals Act of 2013, which would reform TSCA to better protect human health.

Just before his death, Lautenberg also introduced a compromise bill with Sen. David Vitter (R-LA): the Chemical Safety Improvement Act. While commending their efforts toward a bipartisan bill, many in the public health community have great concerns about this legislation.

**Air Quality**

The Network submitted [docket comments](#) in support of the U.S. EPA proposed rule to strengthen tailpipe emission and fuel standards for passenger cars and trucks. The proposed new standards are well-supported by a broad range of epidemiological and clinical studies.