

ISDE NEWS



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The documents reported on ISDE Italia NEWS are available only for members of the Association.

To report events to send the information until 10 days before the event.

The newsletter is an official press organ of the Association Doctors for the Environment - ISDE Italia by Silvia Caruso, Melissa and Frulloni

Roberto Romizi.

We invite you to read and spread. Send us your comments at isde@ats.it

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ISDE formed in 1990, presently has membership in over 35 countries, mostly in Europe, Canada, USA and Australia. ISDE members, medical doctors and environmentalists are professionals, who in the face of growing pollution and environmental decay, are concerned about the rising incidences of pathological conditions related to environmental degradation and are resolved to offer not only answer in terms of medical care, but also to advocate, initiate, and promote effective preventive measures/actions.

ISDE intends to reach out to all, as fellow citizens of the world.

Medical professionals, institutions, associations/organizations are welcome and encouraged to join.

Please visit www.isde.org for details.

NEXT EVENTS

Health Promotion Day

This is the name of the event to be held in Geneva Sunday, 22 May 2016. The event is a chance for local and international actors to gather, exchange ideas and celebrate the promotion for health.

Info: HPDay@ngos4healthpromotion.net

69th World Health Assembly

From May 23 to 28 will take place the 69th World Health Assembly. The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

Info: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/wha/en/>

An international conference in Munich

From July 4 to 8 2016 will take place the International Conference on "The common good: the role of integrity in the support of life and human security", in Munich, Germany, organized by Global Ecological Integrity Group.

Info: www.globalecointegrity.net

The 6th International Conference on Pollution and Treatment Technology

The conference will be held July 25-27, 2016. The topics are water quality and public health, purification of drinking-water supplies treatment, disposal and discharge of wastewater methods of monitoring water quality, new water purification technologies, air pollution and public health effects of air pollution on public health, air pollution monitoring and modeling, air pollution prevention and control, global climate change and air pollution, chemical pollution and its effects on health, land pollution and its effects on health, radiation safety in atomic industry, food and drug safety control.

Info: <http://www.engii.org/ws2016/Home.aspx?id=770>

The 8th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment

The 8th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment to be held 14-16 September 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. The conference has the following objectives: to provide an international forum for the latest research findings in children's environmental health, to define the relationship between environmental contaminants and children's health, to strengthen the importance of prenatal exposure to environmental factors on pregnancy outcome and children's health, to identify opportunities to minimize childhood prenatal and postnatal exposure to environmental contaminants, to provide insight in the activities in the field of science and policy interface, to build a platform of knowledge at an international level, to develop a greater awareness among health professionals about children's health and the environment; and, to initiate future directions in research in the field of children's environmental health.

Info: <https://www.activacongresos.com/forms/abstractinchesbcn2016/> info@inchesnetwork.net or joan.grimalt@idaea.csic.es.

CHEMICAL POLLUTION

Commission fails to regulate new GMOs after intense US lobbying

The European Commission has shelved a legal opinion confirming that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) produced through gene-editing and other new techniques fall under EU GMO law, following pressure from the US government. A series of internal Commission documents obtained under freedom of information rules reveal intense lobbying by US representatives for the EU to disregard its GMO rules, which require safety testing and labelling.

Info: <http://corporateurope.org/pressreleases/2016/04/commission-fails-regulate-new-gmos-after-intense-us-lobbying>

Contaminating our bodies with everyday products

In recent weeks, two major medical organizations have issued independent warnings about toxic chemicals in products all around us. Unregulated substances, they say, are sometimes linked to breast and prostate cancer, genital deformities, obesity, diabetes and infertility.

The warnings are a reminder that the chemical industry has inherited the mantle of Big Tobacco, minimizing science and resisting regulation in ways that cause devastating harm to unsuspecting citizens. In the 1950s, researchers were finding that cigarettes caused cancer, but the political system lagged in responding. Now the same thing is happening with toxic chemicals.

Focus is on endocrine disrupters, chemicals that imitate sex hormones and often confuse the body. Endocrine disrupters are found in pesticides, plastics, shampoos and cosmetics, cash register receipts, food can linings, flame retardants and countless other products.

Info: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/29/opinion/sunday/contaminating-our-bodies-with-everyday-products.html?_r=0

15 death as a drug side effect in faers glyphosate

An analysis of selected datasets from the FDA's drug Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) leads us to hypothesize that glyphosate contamination in both food and drugs is a major contributor to chronic and acute kidney failure respectively. In chronic kidney failure, glyphosate-induced pancreatitis results in the release of trypsin, causing a leaky vasculature. The albumin-bound glyphosate escapes into the tissues, protecting the circulatory system and kidneys but resulting in multiple symptoms related to skin, gut, brain, bones, lungs, etc. The rare and poorly understood acute kidney failure response reported for protamine sulfate and Trasylol® is strikingly similar to that associated with glyphosate poisoning. Both drugs are derived from biological tissues that are plausibly contaminated with glyphosate. These drugs protect from haemorrhage, which leads to retention of glyphosate in the vasculature, are followed by circulatory collapse and a high likelihood of death as an outcome. We support our argument by comparing symptom profiles of selected subsets of FAERS with those related to glyphosate poisoning, anomalous reactions to protamine sulfate, and conditions showing strong statistical time-trend correlations with glyphosate.

To have the complete document request from our office

Info: isde@ats.it

Glyphosate, pathways to modern diseases

Referece: Surgical Neurology International

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup®, the most widely used herbicide on the planet. Glyphosate enjoys widespread usage on core food crops, in large part because of its perceived nontoxicity to humans. The adoption of genetically engineered "Roundup®-Ready" corn, soy, canola, cotton, alfalfa, and sugar beets has made it relatively easy to control weeds without killing the crop plant, but this means that glyphosate will be present as a residue in derived foods. Unfortunately, weeds among GM Roundup®-Ready crops are developing ever-increasing resistance to Roundup®, which requires an increased rate of herbicide application.

In 1987, glyphosate was the 17th most commonly used herbicide in the United States, but, in large part due to the introduction of glyphosate-resistant core crops, it became the number one herbicide by 2001. Its usage has increased steadily since then, in step with the rise in autism rates. Glyphosate's perceived nontoxicity is predicated on the assumption that our cells do not possess the shikimate pathway, the biological pathway in plants, which is disrupted by glyphosate, and whose disruption is believed to be the most important factor in its toxicity.

Info: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4392553/>

A new monograph of insecticides and herbicides

Published the complete monograph "Some Organophosphate Insecticides and Herbicides: Diazinon, Glyphosate, Malathion, Parathion, and Tetrachlorvinph" (Volume 112 (2015) on the "IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans".

Info: <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol112/index.php>

Glyphosate: An interesting article

We report an interesting article titled: “Differences in the carcinogenic evaluation of glyphosate between the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)”

Info: <http://jech.bmj.com/content/early/2016/03/03/jech-2015-207005.full>

Letter to the European Parliament on EFSA conflicts of interest

Open letter to the European Parliament signed by Corporate Europe Observatory and other European NGO on EFSA conflicts of interest

Info: <http://corporateeurope.org/efsa/2016/03/conflicts-interest-european-food-safety-authority-enough-enough>

EFSA, IARC, apples & oranges

We were speculating as to whether the few extra studies to which the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) had access but the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) did not were really able to account for their difference in opinion with regard to glyphosate’s carcinogenicity. We thought it unlikely. Can the two agencies' assessments of glyphosate really be non-comparable?

Info: <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=45be85a8681e4e8a77bb9c6cd&id=bcc9d9ca7e&e=7ca6383600>

OTHER NEWS

A new campaign to protect EU chemical laws

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) are launching a campaign call via a new website tradinghealthforprofit.wordpress.com and Twitter account [@TTIPingToxics](https://twitter.com/TTIPingToxics). The campaign aims to ensure that the EU-US trade talks do not undermine EU chemicals legislation. The United States and European Union are negotiating a new trade agreement called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This agreement is a threat to the EU’s ability to protect people from toxic chemical exposure. EU legislation is currently much more protective than US regulations. If chemicals are included in this trade deal, the EU could see its global leadership in protecting public health through tough laws like REACH watered down. In addition to pesticide legislation, TTIP could halt the EU’s progress on a policy to limit exposure to hormone disrupting chemicals. ISDE Italy, ISDE Europe and ISDE International have already signed the campaign.

Info: <https://tradinghealthforprofit.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/call-to-exclude-the-e28098good-regulatory-practices-chapter-from-ttip.pdf>

Increased deaths from gastric cancer in communities living close to waste landfills

Reference: International Journal of Environmental Health Research., 23rd November 2015, article by Agostino Di Ciaula.

Municipal waste landfills (MWLs) have been linked with some malignancies, but data about gastric cancer (GC) are still uncertain. Methods: Number of deaths from GC, death rates, and odds ratios (ORs) were calculated considering all residents in the 258 towns in the Apulia Region (4,099,547 subjects, years 2006–2009), living within 3 km from each of the 16 regional MWLs (n = 716,404) or in control areas (n = 3,383,143). Results: Males living close to MWLs showed a higher death rate for GC, a twofold higher mean number of GC deaths and higher adjusted ORs of GC, compared with controls areas. Conclusions: In a large population and over a wide time period, an increased risk of death from GC has been shown in males living in communities close to MWLs. Primary prevention policies acting through more sustainable waste management might probably partially reduce deaths from GC in areas with MWLs.

Info: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26540187

The impact of climate change on children

UNICEF is releasing this new report, *Unless We Act Now: The Impact of Climate Change on Children* that documents with data and analysis what this crisis means for the world's children. Clear scientific consensus indicates that climate change will increase the frequency of droughts, floods and severe weather. These threats pose grave risks for everyone. But children – especially the poorest and most vulnerable – will bear the brunt of the effects. The report calls for prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable in adaptation efforts, reducing inequities among children so all have a fair chance to recover from climate-related disasters, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Info: the report <http://unicef.us9.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=0d50642adfcadcb3ec9260d47&id=158221fae6&e=c17b576072>, the press release <http://unicef.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0d50642adfcadcb3ec9260d47&id=7ebafe4351&e=c17b576072>

The executive summary of the report <http://unicef.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0d50642adfcadcb3ec9260d47&id=429ea904d8&e=c17b576072>

Social regulation of gene expression in human leukocytes

Social environmental influences on human health are well established in the epidemiology literature, but their functional genomic mechanisms are unclear. The present study analyzed genome-wide transcriptional activity in people who chronically experienced high versus low levels of subjective social isolation (loneliness) to assess alterations in the activity of transcription control path ways that might contribute to increased adverse health outcomes in social isolates.

Info: <http://www.genomebiology.com/2007/8/9/r189>

Why cancer screening has never been shown to “save lives”

Reference: The Bmj

The claim that cancer screening saves lives is based on fewer deaths due to the target cancer. Vinay Prasad and colleagues argue that reductions in overall mortality should be the benchmark and call for higher standards of evidence for cancer screening.

Despite growing appreciation of the harms of cancer screening, 1 2 3 advocates still claim that it

“saves lives.”⁴ This assertion rests, however, on reductions in disease specific mortality rather than overall mortality. Using disease specific mortality as a proxy for overall mortality deprives people of information about their chief concern: reducing their risk of dying.^{5 6} Although some people may have personal reasons for wanting to avoid a specific diagnosis, the burden falls on providers to provide clear information about both disease specific and overall mortality and to ensure that the overall goal of healthcare—to improve quantity and quality of life—is not undermined. In this article we argue that overall mortality should be the benchmark against which screening is judged and discuss how to improve the evidence upon which screening rests.
Info: <http://www.bmj.com/content/352/bmj.h6080>

An italian survey conflict of interest

Reference: The Bmj

A core mission of medical societies is dissemination of scientific information. They foster research in distinct fields of medicine, promote medical education and develop clinical guidelines. Authoritative medical associations are also influential in modulating practice, counselling administrators, advising politicians regarding public healthcare programmes and regulating professional conduct. Thus, the social role of these organisations entails exceedingly important clinical and ethical implications. However, some authors are concerned that economic aspects are interfering with the moral foundations of medical associations. In particular, a progressive imbalance has been observed in funding derived from membership dues and grants, and contracts awarded by government or charitable foundations, in favour of support from for-profit organisations. This situation may generate a conflict of interest (COI), which has been defined as ‘a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.

Info: <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/6/1/e008370.full>

International Incidence of Childhood Cancer

Reference: International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

New estimates by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) show that the global occurrence of childhood cancer is higher than previously assessed. Worldwide, approximately 215 000 cancers are diagnosed per year in those younger than 15 years and about 85 000 cancers in those aged 15–19 years. These estimates are based on data collected by more than 100 population-based cancer registries in 68 countries around the world in 2001–2010. The full data, which will be published later this year as the third volume of *International Incidence of Childhood Cancer* are part of a collaborative project of IARC and the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR). Supported by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the publication will provide a unique source of information on worldwide childhood cancer incidence.

Info: <http://iicc.iarc.fr/index.php>

Health status of male steel workers at an electric arc furnace in Trentino

Reference: Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology

The aim of this retrospective cohort study was to determine if the workers of an Electric Arc Furnace (EAF), which recycles scrap, had higher mortality and morbidity due to possible exposure to pollutants at work. EAFs do not run on coke ovens. In EAFs 40 % of the particulate matter (PM)

is made up of PM 2.5. The foundry dust contained iron, aluminum, zinc, manganese, lead, chromium, nickel, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls and dioxins. The results of study are that an excess mortality was found in the exposed workers as compared to the general population and to the internal group. The mortality rate was increased for all tumours, for lung cancer, for ischemic heart diseases, for chronic liver disease and for injury and poisoning. There was a statistically significant increase of diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases in exposed workers.
Info: <http://occup-med.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12995-016-0095-8>

Child development

Online the publishing Child Development. Read all!

Info: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdev.12423/abstract>

Magnetic fields (ELFMF) as a possible carcinogen

In 2002 the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified extremely low frequency magnetic fields (ELFMF) as a possible carcinogen on the basis of epidemiological evidence. Experimental bioassays on rats and mice performed up to now on ELFMF alone or in association with known carcinogens have failed to provide conclusive confirmation.

Published the article Life-span exposure to sinusoidal-50 Hz magnetic field and acute low-dose γ radiation induce carcinogenic effects in Sprague-Dawley rats.

Info: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3109/09553002.2016.1144942#.VtaxJOZH7oo>

Sci-Hub: "Everyone has the right to freely share in scientific advancement and its benefits"

"A research paper is a special publication written by scientists to be read by other researchers. Papers are primary sources necessary for research – for example, they contain detailed description of new results and experiments."

That's the reason why a graduate student named Alexandra Elbakyan, created SHI-HUB, the "the first pirate website in the world to provide mass and public access to tens of millions of research papers". And her "mission" is getting more and more famous, while a court injunction and a lawsuit from Elsevier, one of the world's biggest publishers, try to take down her website.

Info: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/should-all-research-papers-be-free.html>

<http://www.sciencealert.com/this-woman-has-illegally-uploaded-millions-of-journal-articles-in-an-attempt-to-open-up-science>

Public services under attack

This is the name of a new report about the secretive collusion between business lobbyists and trade negotiators. This report by AITEC/War on Want/Corporate Europe Observatory sets out a user-friendly explanation of TTIP's targeting of the NHS in detail. Please share this report around (especially pages 21-26) as it makes clear why the threat to the NHS is so grave and explains both the threat and the reasons why it is being so comprehensively misrepresented, many thanks to Linda for pointing out the great usefulness of this document: <http://thomas-fritz.org/default/public-services-under-attack>

Here is some very useful legal advice commissioned on the TTIP threat to the NHS, with thanks to

Gail Cartmail for circulating this:

<http://www.unitetheunion.org/uploaded/documents/MBTTIPAdvice20111511-25674.pdf>

Sustainable Development Conference

The publishing is on line: http://sdpi.org/publications/publication_details-740-10.html



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