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- Joint statement of European civil society groups working against the TTIP Threat, may 2014,
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NEXT EVENTS

"GLOBAL INTEGRITY AT THE TIPPING POINT: IMMINENT AND ONGOING THREATS TO THE ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVOLUTION OF THE PLANET". RHODES, ISLAND OF RHODES, GREECE - JUNE 21 - 26, 2014.

References: Laura Westra lwestra@interlog.com

From June 21 to June 26, 2014, a conference will be held in Rhodes, Island of Rhodes, Greece on the topic of Global Integrity at the Tipping Point: Imminent and Ongoing Threats to the Ecological, Social and Cultural Evolution of the Planet.

For further information: <http://www.globalecointegrity.net/rhodesconf.shtml> .

65TH ANNUAL UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE ON "2015 AND BEYOND: OUR ACTION AGENDA".

References: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations>

We announce that the registration for the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, which will take place in New York from 27 to 29 August of this year, is now open and it will close on 13 August.

For further information: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference/> ;

<http://ngodpiexecom.org/conference/>

INTERNATIONAL HEALTHY CITIES CONFERENCE - ATHENS - 22-25 OCTOBER.

References: ats@euro.who.int

We encourage all city delegations who have not registered yet to do it. The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to Tuesday 15 July. It is best if you could submit your abstracts via the Conference website which goes directly into a database. Visit the conference website for details on how to submit your abstracts: <http://www.healthycities2014.org/ehome/index.php?eventid=89657&>. Authors of successful abstracts will be notified by email latest Friday 8 August. The early bird fee for the Conference has also been extended to Friday 29 August to allow successful authors to avail of this reduced rate. National and City Coordinators are please to forward this information to colleagues in your cities, nationally and globally.

For further information: caroline@phasevhealthycities.org

NEWS

EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION ON NATURAL-CAUSE MORTALITY: AN ANALYSIS OF 22 EUROPEAN COHORTS WITHIN THE MULTICENTRE ESCAPE PROJECT.

A research group, within the multicentre European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects (ESCAPE), aimed to investigate the association between natural-cause mortality and long-term exposure to several air pollutants.

They used data from 22 European cohort studies, which created a total study population of 367 251 participants. All cohorts were general population samples, although some were restricted to one sex only. With a strictly standardised protocol, they assessed residential exposure to air pollutants and they did cohort-specific statistical analyses.

They obtained pooled effect estimates through a random-effects meta-analysis.

In the end their findings show that long-term exposure to fine particulate air pollution is associated with natural-cause mortality, even at concentration ranges well below the present European annual mean limit value.

You can download the entire article follow the link <http://press.thelancet.com/airpollutionmortality.pdf>

For further information: s-saullo@libero.it

"THE RISE OF CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH", A BOOK OF PETER JAN VAN DEN HAZEL.

President of the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) and President of Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) Dr. Peter van den Hazel recently published his thesis on children's health and the environment in the form of a book.

As he introduced, «this thesis focuses on knowledge about children's environmental health and analyses the role that knowledge plays in policy development. Various aspects are considered. First, the rise of the children's environmental health domain during the last two decades in Europe, secondly a validation of the knowledge in this field, thirdly an assessment of its relevance to policy making by providing recommendations on its use by policy makers, and fourthly an analysis of how this knowledge is used through networking between scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders.»

You can find it the entire download [here](#).

For further information: <http://www.env-health.org/news/members-news/article/inches-peter-van-den-hazel-book-on>

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS: A REPORT THAT MARKS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT.

References : info@env-health.org

Générations Futures (GF) and Réseau Environnement Santé (RES) have welcomed the report and particularly the work of rapporteur, French MP Jean-Louis Roumégas, who presented the report's findings to a press conference at the National Assembly in Paris. The two associations have singled out a number of points (calling on Europe to quickly publish a new, comprehensive strategy on EDCs to boost

public action in this area; recommending to create a distinct classification for EDCs which includes both proven and suspected endocrine disruptors; emphasising the need for increased research on EDCs; et al.). In the light of these important points, GF and RES call on the French government to respond urgently to the issue of EDCs. France should again display its leadership in Europe on this issue - as it did in relation to the issue of bisphenol A.

Genon K. Jensen, HEAL Executive Director says: "We call on the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barosso and his team to deliver the new EU EDC strategy as soon as possible. Postponing its publication until the new Commission would indicate to European citizens that bureaucratic procedures are more important than their health and the prevention of chronic diseases. To reduce unnecessary health problems and healthcare costs, we need swift progress on EDC policy so as to start reducing people's daily exposures to chemicals linked to chronic disease."

The original press release in French is available below.

For further information: http://www.generations-futures.fr/2011generations/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CP260214_rapport_PE.pdf

TEXTBOOK OF CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: A CRITICAL CHALLENGE OF OUR TIME.

There is a landmark textbook on the many facets of children's environmental health edited by two eminent pioneers in the field, Dr. Philip Landrigan and Dr. Ruth Etzel. Both are paediatricians and have long experience in bridging the worlds of research and policy.

The Textbook of Children's Environmental Health is timely and provides a comprehensive and informative overview of this discipline. Recent statistics tell us that, by some indicators, the health of children worldwide is worsening, with serious implications for their future wellbeing and that of society as a whole.

This landmark textbook includes 60 chapters, and 85 authors from 5 continents. The textbook is divided into five sections - Overview chapters, Environments, Environmental hazards, Environment and disease in children, and Prevention and control of diseases of environmental origin in children.

HEAL's chapter covers WHO and EU policy developments over the past decade and European policy development on chemicals, pesticides, biocides, toys and consumer goods, mercury, air quality, noise and injuries.

Target audiences include students on public health courses, those working in environmental health science and policy makers in governments and NGOs.

The textbook takes the reader from the chemical, nutritional, social, and built environments in which children are conceived and develop through to the various methods involved in generating the data in these areas and also to a review of the chemicals associated with chronic diseases and neurodevelopmental impairment in childhood. By covering the many facets of children's environmental health, this textbook will help to inform and engage participants in this most critical issue of our time.

For further information: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2960468-2/fulltext?elsca1=ETOC-LANCET&elsca2=email&elsca3=E24A35F>

FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT: THE JAPAN TSUNAMI - THREE YEARS ON.

References : WONCA.News@globalfamilydoctor.com

Prof Michael Kidd, WONCA President, visits communities and family doctors in Fukushima, and reports on a sobering week.

<< We all remember the tragedy of the March 2011 tsunami that hit the Pacific coastline of Japan following an earthquake, killing thousands of people and destroying coastal towns and villages. And the global fears that followed when the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant exploded releasing radiation into the atmosphere. The radioactive contamination resulted in over 100,000 people being evacuated from their homes and a 50 kilometre exclusion zone was established around the damaged nuclear plant and the path of the radiation fallout.

Last month I was invited to visit communities in the Fukushima region of Japan affected by the tsunami and the nuclear reactor disaster. I was keen to learn about the role local family doctors and their teams are continuing to play in assisting in the recovery of the surviving members of the devastated communities. It was a sobering week.

Three years later, the evidence of the damage caused on that terrible day remains. Many people still live in temporary housing and are prohibited from returning to their abandoned homes. Many people, especially young families, have moved away to other parts of Japan. Many elderly people left behind grieve for their missing families, their lost homes and their lost way of life. 200,000 affected people are being followed up regularly in special clinics set up to screen for problems related to radiation exposure >>.

Continue reading [here](#).

For further information: <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/AboutWonca/TheWONCAPresident.aspx>

"OFFLINE: PLANETARY HEALTH—A NEW VISION FOR THE POST-2015 ERA".

References : The Lancet, Volume 382, Issue 9897, Page 1012, 21 September 2013

Our planet is under pressure, and not merely from the additional 2 billion people who will inhabit it between now and 2050. The post-2015 era will be characterised by "sustainability", the idea that not only are human and natural systems interdependent, but also that non-linear transformations in those systems could be catastrophic to our future. The planet's potential to sustain our species is slowly declining. The post-2015 era's most important idea is that global sustainability is the precondition for human health, survival, and prosperity.

Read the full article: follow the link below.

For further information: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)61936-4/fulltext?rss=yes](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)61936-4/fulltext?rss=yes)

"FROM PUBLIC TO PLANETARY HEALTH: A MANIFESTO".

References : The Lancet, Volume 383, Issue 9920, Page 847, 8 March 2014

Published and wrote by Richard Horton, Robert Beaglehole, Ruth Bonita, John Raeburn, Martin McKee, Stig Wall; University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand (RBe, RBo); Department of Public Health, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand (JR); Department of Health Services Research and Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK (MM); and Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden (SW).

"This manifesto for transforming public health calls for a social movement to support collective public health action at all levels of society—personal, community, national, regional, global, and planetary. Our aim is to respond to the threats we face.

Our audience includes health professionals and public health practitioners, politicians and policy makers, international civil servants working across the UN and in development agencies, and academics working on behalf of communities. Above all, our audience includes every person who has an interest in their own health, in the health of their fellow human beings, and in the health of future generations."

Read the full manifesto [here](#).

For further information: www.thelancet.com

"CAN A COLLAPSE OF GLOBAL CIVILIZATION BE AVOIDED?"

Written by Paul R. Ehrlich† and Anne H. Ehrlich - Department of Biology, Stanford University, USA.

ABSTRACT - Environmental problems have contributed to numerous collapses of civilizations in the past. Now, for the first time, a global collapse appears likely. Overpopulation, overconsumption by the rich and poor choices of technologies are major drivers; dramatic cultural change provides the main hope of averting calamity.

Follow the link below.

For further information:

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1754/20122845.full.html#ref-list-1>

7 MILLION DEATHS ANNUALLY LINKED TO AIR POLLUTION.

References: Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives; - March 2014

In new estimates released, WHO reports that in 2012 around 7 million people died - one in eight of total global deaths - as a result of air pollution exposure. This finding more than doubles previous estimates and confirms that air pollution is now the world's largest single environmental health risk. Reducing air pollution could save millions of lives.

In particular, the new data reveal a stronger link between both indoor and outdoor air pollution exposure and cardiovascular diseases, such as strokes and ischaemic heart disease, as well as between air pollution and cancer. This is in addition to air pollution's role in the development of respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory infections and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

For further information: <http://www.who.int/phe/en/>

"ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS AND TYPE I DIABETES INCIDENCE IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES" - FROM ADVANCES IN RESEARCH VOL.2 - AGOSTINO DI CIAULA.

from the Advances in Research Vol.2, Issue 7 (July) : 409-425's

ABSTRACT -

Aims: The rise of Type 1 diabetes (T1D) incidence throughout Europe is only partially due to genetic factors, and the possibility that it may be affected by the amount of pollutant emissions has not been checked, until now.

Methodology: T1D incidence data among children from 16 European Countries (1990-2010) were collected (literature review) and analysed according to the nationwide amount of pollutant emissions (European Environmental Agency: particulate matter <math><10\mu\text{m}</math>, PM10; nitrogen oxides, NO_x; non-methane organic volatile compounds, VOCs; sulphur oxides, SO_x; ammonia) in the same Nations/time periods. Pollutants were categorized by tertiles of emissions, and odds ratio (ORs) of T1D incidence were calculated.

Results: T1D incidence increased with time in all populations, and was positively correlated with the nationwide emissions of PM10 (P=0.03), NO_x (P=0.0004), VOCs (P=0.009). Countries in the high tertile of PM10, NO_x and VOCs emissions had higher ORs of T1D incidence than those in the low tertile, and mean T1D incidence was greater in Countries in the high- than in those in the medium or low tertile of PM10, NO_x and VOCs emissions. T1D incidence was two-folds higher if two or more pollutants coexisted in the upper tertile of emissions.

Conclusion: The burden of specific pollutants might affect the extent of T1D incidence among European children, possibly triggering the development of disease by epigenetic mechanisms in genetically susceptible individuals. Thus, T1D might be considered, at least in part, a preventable condition. Further studies pointing to deeply explore this hypothesis are needed, also considering that primary prevention policies acting through a marked abatement of pollutant emissions might strongly attenuate T1D incidence throughout Europe.

For further information:

<http://www.sciencedomain.org/abstract.php?iid=507&id=31&aid=4426#.U5WRT8tZq1s>

SPECIFIC ASSOCIATION OF TERATOGEN AND TOXICANT METALS IN HAIR OF NEWBORNS WITH CONGENITAL BIRTH DEFECTS OR DEVELOPMENTALLY PREMATURE BIRTH IN A COHORT OF COUPLES WITH DOCUMENTED PARENTAL EXPOSURE TO MILITARY ATTACKS: OBSERVATIONAL STUDY AT AL SHIFA HOSPITAL, GAZA, PALESTINE. PAOLA MANDUCA, AWNY NAIM AND SIMONA SIGNORIELLO.

References: International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 2014, 11, 1-x manuscripts.

ABSTRACT- This study was undertaken in Gaza, Palestine, in a cohort of babies born in 2011. Hair samples of newborns were analyzed for metal load by DR-C-ICP-MS. We report specific level of contamination by teratogen/toxicants metals of newborn babies, environmentally unexposed, according to their phenotypes at birth: normal full term babies, birth defects or developmentally premature. The occurrence of birth defects was previously shown to be correlated in this cohort to documented exposure of parents to weapons containing metal contaminants, during attacks in 2009. We detect, in significantly higher amounts than in normal babies, different specific teratogen or toxicant elements, known weapons' components, characteristic for each of birth defect or premature babies. This is the first attempt to our knowledge to directly link a phenotype at birth with the in utero presence of specific teratogen and/or toxicant metals in a cohort with known episodes of acute exposure of parents to environmental contamination by these same metals, in this case delivered by weaponry. The babies were conceived 20-25 months after the major known parental exposure; the specific link of newborn phenotypes to war-remnant metal contaminants, suggests that mothers' contamination persists in time, and that the exposure may have a long term effect.

For further information: www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph

JOINT STATEMENT OF EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS WORKING AGAINST THE TTIP THREAT, MAY 2014.

References: Press release template for Joint Statement - www.bilaterals.org

With the fifth round of negotiations under way between 19th-23rd May in Arlington/USA, a fundamental change in the negotiating on the EU-US free trade agreement is being demanded by an EU-wide coalition of 120 groups in a joint statement released on Wednesday 21st May. The environmental groups, social movements, consumer rights groups, democracy advocate organisations and unions are opposing the corporate agenda of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership - TTIP (or TAFTA, Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement). The comprehensive TTIP is set to affect food safety, digital rights, social and labour standards and environmental protection. The statement highlights what is unacceptable in both the agreement and the negotiating process - and what European civil society groups want instead. The organisations reject:

- the lack of transparency and democratic process in the TTIP negotiations,
- the lowering of standards inherent in the agreement,
- the investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) provision allowing foreign corporations to sue member state governments and the EU,
- the proposed anti-democratic governance structure, the Regulatory Cooperation Council, for an ongoing 'harmonising' of regulations and procedures.

TTIP is being negotiated between the European Commission, acting on behalf of member states, and the US government. With US-EU tariffs already low on goods, the main thrust of TTIP is to lower standards, regulations and approval procedures which protect health and safety but are called 'trade irritants' by those promoting and negotiating the deal. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement provision ('ISDS') poses a particular threat to democratic governance, according to the broad civil society coalition. The coalition is demanding a complete rethinking of the treaty, putting citizens and the environment first with, at the minimum, transparent and democratic process, the removal of any ISDS or regulatory cooperation council provision, no deregulation of standards or further deregulation or privatisation of public services, the promotion of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and the retention of public authorities' political power. The 21st May release of the joint statement coincides with the fifth round of negotiations and a day of action outside Washington DC, in Arlington, Virginia, where the negotiations are taking place. The coalition expresses solidarity with American counterparts protesting the free trade agreement. The European coalition has already established a close relationships with US civil society groups and plans common activities in the months ahead.

For further information: Joint statement: <http://www.bilaterals.org/?people-environment-and-democracy> ; TAFTA/TTIP rally in Arlington/USA on 21st May: <http://bit.ly/taftarally> .

"GREEN ONCOLOGY": THE ITALIAN MEDICAL ONCOLOGISTS' CHALLENGE TO REDUCE THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THEIR CLINICAL ACTIVITY.

Sergio Bretti, Gianfranco Porcile, Roberto Romizi, Salvatore Palazzo, Cristina Oliani, Sergio Crispino, and Roberto Labianca - CIPOMO (Collegio Italiano Primari Oncologia Medica Ospedalieri); ISDE-Italia (Medici per l'Ambiente-Italia)

ABSTRACT - For decades Western medicine has followed a biomedical model based on linear thinking and an individualized, disease-oriented doctor-patient relationship. Today this framework must be replaced by a biopsychosocial model based on complexity theory and a person-oriented medical team-patient relationship, taking into account the psychological and social determinants of health and disease. However, the new model is already proving no longer adequate or appropriate, and current events are urging us to develop an ecological model in which the medical team takes into account both individual illness and population health as a whole, since we are all part of the biosphere.

In recent years, the rising costs of cancer treatment have raised a serious issue of economic sustainability. As the population of our planet, we now need to rapidly address this issue, and everyone of us must try to reduce their ecological footprint, measured as CO₂ production. Medical oncologists need to reduce the ecological footprint of their professional activity by lowering the consumption of economic resources and avoiding environmental damage as much as possible.

This new paradigm is endorsed by the Italian College of Hospital Medical Oncology Directors (CIPOMO). A working group of this organization has drafted the "Green Oncology Position Paper": a proposal of Italian medical oncology (in accordance with international guidelines) that oncologists, while aiming for the same end results, make a commitment toward the more appropriate management of health care and the careful use of resources in order to protect the environment and the ecosphere during the daily exercise of their professional activities.

For further information: please email isde@ats.it for the entire article.

"TEXTBOOK OF CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH" - EDITED BY PHILIP J. LANDRIGAN AND RUTH A. ETZEL.

Over the past four decades, the prevalence of autism, asthma, ADHD, obesity, diabetes, and birth defects have grown substantially among children around the world. Not coincidentally, more than 80,000 new chemicals have been developed and released into the global environment during this same period. Today the World Health Organization attributes 36% of all childhood deaths to environmental causes. Children's environmental health is a new and expanding discipline that studies the profound impact of chemical and environmental hazards on child health. Amid mounting evidence that children are exquisitely sensitive to their environment—and that exposure during their developmental "windows of susceptibility" can trigger cellular changes that lead to disease and disability in infancy, childhood, and across the life span—there is a compelling need for continued scientific study of the relationship between children's health and environment. This Textbook of Children's Environmental Health codifies the knowledge base and offers an authoritative and comprehensive guide to this important new field. Edited by two internationally recognized pioneers in the area, this volume presents up-to-date information on the chemical, biological, physical, and societal hazards that confront children in today's world. With an emphasis upon integrating theory and practice, this textbook offers practical approaches to channeling scientific findings into strategies for preventing and identifying environmental hazards that cause disease in children. It is a landmark work that will serve as the field's benchmark for years to come.

For further information: [http://global.oup.com/academic/product/textbook-of-childrens-environmental-health-9780199929573?q=TEXTBOOK OF CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH&lang=en&cc=it](http://global.oup.com/academic/product/textbook-of-childrens-environmental-health-9780199929573?q=TEXTBOOK%20OF%20CHILDREN'S%20ENVIRONMENTAL%20HEALTH&lang=en&cc=it)

WHY ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING: THE MODENA POSITION PAPER FOR THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL "FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH".

Introduction - The environment in which we live and work affects both our health and our economic productivity, among other impacts. At a time of growing recognition of these impacts, of financial crises and of globalization that demands greater European competitiveness, we thus believe that better tracking of the environment and its effects can help achieve the two goals of healthier populations and healthier economies. [...]

Please email isde@ats.it for the entire paper.

For further information: plauriola@arpa.emr.it

This newsletter is ISDE Italy's Official Press Organ edited by Roberto Romizi e Silvia Caruso.

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