

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2005 1:30 PM . . .
Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, NC
Free and Open to All. Food Provided

You are Invited to an

NIEHS TOWN MEETING / PUBLIC FORUM

- **Keynote & Open Dialogue with the Director of NIEHS**
- **“Environment and Neurodevelopmental Disorders over the Lifespan”**
Q&A with expert environmental health professionals from 22nd International Neurotoxicology Conference
- **Local Issues & Open Dialogue with State Experts**

In an age of high-tech and often indirect communication, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is giving environmental health problems and efforts toward their resolution a human face through a series of town meetings being held around the United States.

The NIEHS has long sought public input in setting its research agenda, and town meetings offer a traditional, effective means of obtaining public feedback. NIEHS wants to make its science responsive to the American people. This Town Meeting will focus on the general theme of environmental impacts on human health over the lifespan.

The purpose of the town meeting is to bring together the lay public who are interested in public health and the environment, state and local health professionals, state and local government officials, academicians, environmental health professionals, and advocacy groups. The meeting will provide a platform for an open dialogue with Dr. David A. Schwartz, the new Director of NIEHS, to establish better coordination among the health professionals working on community exposures, industrial exposures, special case "site" exposures, and other environmental issues of concern to the local community.



NIEHS TOWN MEETING / PUBLIC FORUM

(Free and Open to All)

Organizing Committee:

Dr. Joan Cranmer ~ *Chair*
 Dr. Allen Dearry
 Dr. G. Jean Harry
 Dr. John Schelp

The goal of the NIEHS Town Meeting is to stimulate effective dialogue between the citizens of North Carolina and local, state & national environmental public health scientists, practitioners and policy makers. This is an open public forum for discussion of any issue of concern to the people of North Carolina. Your comments and questions are welcome – we want to hear from you!

AGENDA

1:30 OPEN TOWN MEETING

Opening and Overview of Town Meeting

Dr. Joan Cranmer ~ *Professor of Pediatrics & Toxicology, UAMS Chair, 22nd International Neurotoxicology Conference*

1:40 – 3:00 PM

Environment and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Over the Lifespan

1:40 – 1:55 PM

Environment and Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Implications over the Lifespan

Dr. G. Jean Harry ~ *Neurotoxicologist, NIEHS*

Dr. Cynthia Bearer ~ *Pediatric Neurologist, Case Western Reserve University*

1:55 – 2:05 PM

Environment and Children's Disorders (e.g., Autism)

Dr. Martha Herbert ~ *Pediatric Neurologist, Massachusetts General Hospital & Harvard Medical School*

2:05 – 2:15 PM

Adult Disease and the Environment

(e.g., Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, Schizophrenia)

Dr. Don Schmechel ~ *Duke University Neurologist and expert on neurodegenerative diseases*

2:15 – 3:00 PM

Q&A: OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE PUBLIC

Moderators: Drs. Joan Cranmer, Isaac Pessah, Jean Harry

Panelists: Above Speakers plus Speakers from "Session II Public Forum" (see next page).

3:00 – 3:15 PM Break: Refreshments & Sandwich Buffet

Pick up a drink and snacks in back of room and return to continue discussion and open dialogue with the Director of NIEHS

3:15 – 4:00 PM

Keynote Address & Open Dialogue with the Director of NIEHS



Role of NIEHS in Improving the Public's Environmental Health

Dr. David A. Schwartz

*Director
 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of NIH*

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Local Issues & Open Dialogue

Moderator: TBA

Environmental Justice

Dr. Yolanda Anderson ~ *NC Central University*

Farm Workers, Children & Pesticides

Dr. Tom Arcury ~ *Wake Forest University School of Medicine*

Lead Mapping

Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda ~ *Duke University*

PCBs

Dr. Luanne Williams ~ *NC State Health Department*

Hog Farms & Health

Gary Grant ~ *Concerned Citizens of Tillery*

5:30 – 6:30 PM

Meet, Greet & Eat!

Complimentary Refreshments and Buffet (Cash Bar)

Visit exhibits and Local and National Advocacy Group Representatives (See list on next page)

6:30 – 8:30 PM

The NIEHS Town Meeting Continues with Presentations from Directors of Major Advocacy Groups & Open Dialogue

This is also the Public Forum session opening the 22nd International Neurotoxicology Conference

SESSION II. NEUROTOXICANTS AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: TRANSLATING THE SCIENCE INTO EDUCATION AND PUBLIC POLICY



NIEHS
 National Institute of
 Environmental Health Sciences

6:30 – 8:30 PM**SESSION I. OPEN CONFERENCE****Conference Chair: Dr. Joan Cranmer****Public Forum****SESSION II. NEUROTOXICANTS AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: TRANSLATING THE SCIENCE INTO EDUCATION AND PUBLIC POLICY****Session Co-Chairs: Elise Miller and Dr. Pete Myers**

Theme: The conference will start with a public forum on the latest science linking neurotoxicants to learning and developmental disabilities (LDDs) and the need to educate health-affected constituencies about these issues and to foster stronger policy to protect children's environmental health.

Researchers are often reluctant to become involved in educating the general public about technical subjects or the intersections of science and public policy for fear that such activities will take them away from more important work or raise questions about their objectivity. This session will highlight why researchers can and need to play an important role in helping to translate science into stronger public policy. After an overview of the science and related policies, including examples of how the precautionary principle can be implemented in this context, panelists will describe model environmental health programs initiated by learning and developmental disabilities organizations. This public forum is open not only to researchers and scientists, but to educators, administrators, parents of children with LDDs and anyone else who is concerned about environmental contributors to the apparent rise in LDDs.

Presentations**Overview of Emerging Science on Neurotoxicants in Relation to Learning and Developmental Disabilities****Dr. Ted Schettler, *Science and Environmental Health Network***

Ted Schettler is the science director of the Science and Environmental Health Network and co-chair of the Human Health and Environment Project of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility. Dr. Schettler is co-author of *Generations at Risk: Reproductive Health and the Environment*, which examines reproductive and developmental health effects of exposure to a variety of environmental toxicants. He is also co-author of *In Harm's Way: Toxic Threats to Child Development*, which discusses the impact of environmental exposures on neurological development in children.

Autism, Genes and the Environment**Dr. Martha Herbert, *Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School***

Martha Herbert is a pediatric neurologist and brain development researcher at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, specializing in neurodevelopmental disabilities, particularly autism. Her work explores the mechanisms and significance of widespread abnormalities, such as the tendency in autism toward large brains and increased white matter volume, the relationship between systemic abnormalities (such as gastrointestinal and immune disturbances) and the biological mechanisms that may underlie abnormal structural and functional brain connectivity, and the role environmental factors may play in contributing to these problems.

Specific Policies Related to Regulating and Reducing Neurotoxicants**Dr. Lynn Goldman, *Johns Hopkins University***

Lynn Goldman, a pediatrician and epidemiologist, is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the JHU's Bloomberg School of Public Health, where her areas of focus are children's environmental health, public health practice, and chemical and pesticide regulatory policy. As Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances at the U.S. EPA, she directed the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) from 1993 through 1998.

Panel Discussants**Overview of the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative****Elise Miller, *Institute for Children's Environmental Health***

Elise Miller is founder and executive director of the national Institute for Children's Environmental Health (ICEH) based in the

eliminate environmental exposures that can undermine children's healthy development. One of ICEH's major national programs is the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative, a working group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment.

Autism Society of America's efforts in this regard**Lee Grossman, *Autism Society of America* www.autism-society.org**

Lee Grossman is the President & CEO of the Autism Society of America (ASA) which is the largest Autism organization in the United States. The ASA has identified environmental health and neurotoxicology issues as among its highest priorities for solving the puzzle of Autism and in addressing the "epidemic" increase in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Mr. Grossman will discuss the efforts of the ASA in dealing with these and other issues in helping individuals with Autism throughout the lifespan and their families.

Learning Disabilities Association of America's efforts in this regard**Kathy Lawson, *Healthy Children's Project, LDA***

Kathy Lawson is coordinator of the Learning Disabilities Association of America's (LDA) Healthy Children Project (HCP). Based in Pittsburgh, she helped launch the HCP in August of 2002. HCP translates scientific knowledge about the impact of environmental toxins on fetal and child brain development into accessible information for consumers seeking to protect themselves and their families.

American Association on Mental Retardation's efforts in this regard**Michele Gagnon, *Environmental Health Initiative, AAMR***

Michele Gagnon is the Director of the Environmental Health Project with the American Association on Mental Retardation based in Washington, DC. The goals of the project are to prevent neurotoxicant exposures to the fetus, infant, and child that manifest as developmental disabilities and to prevent further toxic exposure to those who have developmental disabilities.

Representatives from the following Organizations will be invited to participate and provide materials:

- NC State Health Department
- March of Dimes NC Chapter
- NC Medical Association
- NC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- NC Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
- NC Department of Education
- NC Autism Society Chapter
- Autism Society of America
- AAMR
- March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- The United Nations Foundation
- Learning Disabilities Association (LDA)
- Children's Environmental Health Network
- Children's Health Environmental Coalition
- Institute for Children's Environmental Health
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- World Health Organization
- TBA
- TBA
- TBA