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.
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**
Toxic Threats to Child Development, which discusses the impact of environmental exposures on neurological development in children.

Elise Miller, Overview of the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Panel Discussants

Abnormal structural and functional brain connectivity, and the role disturbances and the biological mechanisms that may underlie systemic abnormalities (such as gastrointestinal and immune brains and increased white matter volume, the relationship between widespread abnormalities, such as the tendency in autism toward large autism. Her work explores the mechanisms and significance of environmental toxicants to fetal and child brain development into accessible information for consumers seeking to protect themselves and their families.

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

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