

NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison (OCPL) May – September 2014

CONTENTS

- I. EVENTS
- II. NEWS COVERAGE
- III. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH

I. EVENTS



Visit by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand.

On July 11, NIEHS welcomed a special delegation of public health scientists from Thailand to the NIEHS campus. Among the guests were Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, founder and president of the Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI), the Chulabhorn Graduate Institute, and the Chulabhorn Cancer Center. OCPL and NIEHS staff worked closely with other federal agencies, including the Fogerty International Center, HHS Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and

with the Thai Ambassador to the U.S., Vijavat Isarabhakdi, to plan the visit and establish protocol. The Princess and her colleagues met with the institute's leadership team and heard some cutting edge talks by NIEHS scientists on topics of mutual interest. The Environmental Factor wrote a story about the visit, "[East meets west on common ground of environmental public health](#)," and prepared a slide show. Also, the **National News Bureau of Thailand** issued a short press release, "HRH Princess Chulabhorn is on visits to US and Japan."



National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released 2 new reports on NTP carcinogen listings.

Two new reports from the NAS found the listings of styrene and formaldehyde, by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in the 2011 [Report on Carcinogens](#) (RoC), to be accurate and appropriate. OCPL and NTP staff worked with HHS to communicate the findings, once the reports were released by NAS. NAS issued press releases and research briefs on the styrene and formaldehyde reports. OCPL handled media inquiries for John Bucher, Ph.D. associate director of NTP, who served as HHS spokesperson. The reports were also posted on the NTP website.

- [National Academy of Sciences Report endorses the listing of formaldehyde as "known to be a human carcinogen"](#) (August 8, 2014)
 - [Report in Brief](#)
- [National Academy of Sciences Report endorses the listing of styrene as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen"](#) (July, 28 2014)
 - [Report in Brief](#)

Several outlets reported on the NAS reports, including:

- July 29, **BNA's Daily Environment Report** wrote "Academies find compelling evidence styrene may cause human cancers."
- July 29, **Newsday** wrote "Report: Chemical in foam cups might cause cancer."
- August 8, [American Chemistry Council](#) press release
- August 9, [Huffington Post](#)
- August 11, **BNA's Daily Environment Report** wrote "Formaldehyde can cause cancers, including leukemia, National Academies concludes."
- August 21, [Environmental Defense Fund](#)

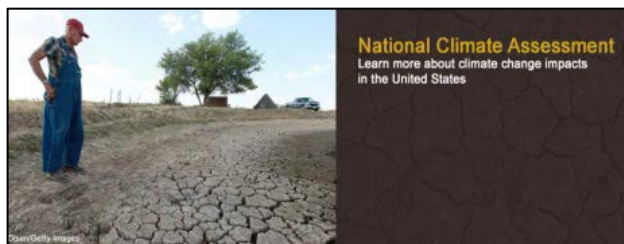


NTP and West Virginia Chemical Spill.

On July 23, Bucher joined with colleagues from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a member of Congress, and West Virginia state and local health officials to discuss plans for conducting additional studies related to a chemical spill in West Virginia that occurred earlier in the year.

OCPL developed a [fact sheet](#) to highlight NTP's research response, and facilitated requests for media interviews. Several stories were developed that included quotes from Bucher.

- July 23, **Charleston Gazette** wrote "Feds to conduct more studies of MCHM."
- July 23, **State Journal** wrote "West Virginia to receive federal funding for studies on long-term health effects."
- August 1, **WCHS-TV** produced "Federal agencies promise additional studies, analysis on Jan. 9 chemical spill."
- August 7, **State Journal** wrote a follow-up story, "NIH studies will commence to evaluate possible health effects from the Jan. 9 Freedom Industries chemical spill into the Elk River."



National Climate Assessment.

On May 6, NIEHS and other federal agencies worked together to release and promote the Third [National Climate Assessment](#). NIEHS OCPL communicated information about the significance of this new report, and worked closely with John Balbus, M.D., of the OD and an author on the report, to conduct media interviews. Balbus talked to several different outlets about the report, and continues to speak to reporters about climate change and health.

- June 1, Environmental Factor story "[National Climate Assessment includes key messages about human health.](#)"
- May 4, **Guardian** wrote "Climate change is clear and present danger, says landmark US report."
- May 7, **Environment & Energy Daily** wrote "U.S. is already reeling from climate change's health effects."

- May 13, **Ozy.com** published "[The science of predicting disease outbreaks.](#)"
- May 14, **Region Forward** wrote "April showers bring May flowers (and attention to D.C. region's climate resiliency)."
- May 28, **North Carolina Health News** wrote "[NC researchers take a position on climate change.](#)"
- June 3, **Environment & Energy Daily** wrote "Protecting hearts and lungs forms key part of president's defense of new carbon rules."
- June 30, **NBC News** in Washington, D.C., produced a video featuring Balbus for its weather segment titled "Temperatures could impact your health."

Press Releases

August 27, **JAMA** wrote, "Arsenic at low levels linked with cancer in rodents."

August 11, NIEHS posted a link to a press release from University of Pennsylvania, "[Penn-led expert panel calls for public health research on natural gas drilling,](#)" that highlighted a new paper in Environmental Health Perspectives.

July 8, NIEHS press release, "[Low doses of arsenic cause cancer in male mice,](#)" featured work by Michael Waalkes, Ph.D., and his team at NTP. Several stories highlighted this paper and included quotes from Waalkes.

- July 8, **BNA's Daily Environment Report** wrote "Low levels of arsenic cause lung cancer in male mice, NIEHS research finds."
- July 8, **The Center for Public Integrity** wrote "Even low doses of arsenic trigger cancer in mice, study finds."
- July 9, **Delaware Online** wrote, "More evidence of danger of arsenic in water."

June 30, NIEHS press release, "[Lead in Kids' Blood Linked With Behavioral and Emotional Problems,](#)" featured work by NIEHS grantees at the University of Pennsylvania. Kimberly Gray, Ph.D., of DERT is quoted in the release.

June 9, NIEHS highlighted a new funding announcement, "[Penn Medicine receives Superfund Research Program award of \\$10 million to study the adverse health effects and remediation of asbestos.](#)" Claudia Thompson, Ph.D., of DERT is quoted in the release. The **Times Herald** ran a story on June 25, "Researchers receive \$10 million to study asbestos in Ambler," which quoted William Suk, Ph.D., of DERT.

May 30, NIEHS joined with the American Association for Cancer Research to issue a press release, "[Exposure to organic solvents before first childbirth may increase hormone-related breast cancer risk.](#)"

May 29, NIEHS highlighted work of NIEHS grantees, "[Research by Keck School of Medicine of USC scientists raises new concerns about air pollution impacts at Los Angeles International Airport,](#)" on the Keck School of Medicine website.

May 13, NIEHS took the lead in working with other NIH institutes to issue the press release "[Asthma Awareness Month 2014: NIH continues its commitment to asthma research,](#)" to highlight NIH progress in combatting this disease.

Additionally, collaboration with universities, journals, and other partners allowed OCPL to promote other key findings supported by NIEHS.

II. NEWS COVERAGE

News Coverage of NIEHS Science, Researchers, and Activities

May 2014 — 501 stories

June 2014 — 759 stories

July 2014 — 968 stories

August 2014 — 330 stories (as of August 27)

Highlights from Newspapers, Trade Papers, and National Magazines

August 17, the **New York Times** editorial board wrote “The verdict on a troublesome carcinogen: formaldehyde and cancer.” The editorial highlights one of two recent reports from the National Academy of Sciences upholding the National Toxicology Program listing decision showing formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen.

August 17, **The Herald-Sun (Durham)** wrote, “Chapel Hill scientist recognized,” which highlighted an award to be given to Walter Rogan, Ph.D., of DIR for his significant and lasting contributions to maternal and child health epidemiology. The Environmental Factor also wrote “[Rogan honored for lifetime achievement.](#)”

August 11, **The Scientist** wrote “Gut’s earliest bacterial colonizers,” which featured quotes from Shyamal Peddada, Ph.D., of DIR.

On July 30, **WAMC Northeast Public Radio** included an audio and written story about an environmental health forum on environmental impacts on women’s health that was hosted by Congresswoman Nita Lowey. NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., was a featured speaker. The **Pleasantville Daily Voice** also wrote “Lowey highlights environmental impact on women’s health.”

July 28, **Science** Magazine wrote “Smoking mothers may alter the DNA of their children,” which included quotes from Allen Wilcox, M.D., Ph.D., of DIR.

July 18, **Congressional Quarterly Reporter** did an in-depth piece called “Regulating Toxic Chemicals,” that includes quotes from Birnbaum.

July 6, **The Herald-Sun (Durham)** wrote “NIEHS research fellow earns endocrinology internship,” in Career Briefs section.

July 1, **BNA’s Daily Environment Report** writes, “TCE should be listed as known carcinogen, NTP draft report says,” includes a summary of draft monograph and timeline for public input.

June 12, **FOX News** developed a piece, “Staring down cancer: the blessing of sisters,” that focused on the NIEHS-led Sister Study.

June 9, **The Herald-Sun (Durham)** wrote “Triangle researcher elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences,” in the Career Briefs section. The piece focuses on Thomas Kunkel, Ph.D., of DIR.

May 30, **Forbes** magazine wrote “A massive quest begins to find good genes that protect us from deadly ones,” that includes quotes from Birnbaum.

May 29, **NBC News.com** wrote “Solvents may raise breast cancer risk for some, study finds,” which highlighted a new DIR paper and included quotes from Christine Ekenga, Ph.D. June 6, **Chemistry World** also wrote “Pre-childbirth solvent exposure raises breast cancer risk.” August 4, **Inside Prevention** hosted a lengthy question and answer session with the authors, in their column “Q&A: NIEHS scientists explain findings of breast cancer study.”

May 18, **The Herald-Sun (Durham)** wrote “NIEHS post-docs awarded research grants.”

In May, several stories were written as a result of a paper in **Environmental Health Perspectives**, “New Exposure Biomarkers as Tools For Breast Cancer Epidemiology, Biomonitoring, and Prevention: A Systematic Approach Based on Animal Evidence,” as well as a subsequent [press release](#) by the Silent Spring Institute. Dale Sandler, Ph.D., of DIR served as NIEHS spokesperson on this issue.

- May 13, **Chemical Watch** wrote “Silent Spring study highlights breast cancer chemicals.”
- May 11, **South China Morning Post** wrote “Scientists list chemicals women should avoid to minimize risk of breast cancer.”
- June 13, **Forbes** wrote “BPA a concern for breast cancer? Not according to study by leading environmental group.”

May 14, The **ASCO POST**, in collaboration with the American Society of Clinical Oncology, carried a column prepared by Kembra Howdeshell, Ph.D., and Michael Shelby, Ph.D., of NTP, for the FDA Inside the Black Box column. The column, “[Cancer chemotherapy use during pregnancy](#),” discussed a recently completed NTP monograph that reviews the published data on pregnancy outcomes in women who received chemotherapy for cancer during pregnancy.

III. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH

Social Media Efforts

NIEHS continues to expand its use of social media and web-based technology to get information into the hands of our many audiences. For example, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) help us reach thousands of people on a regular, ongoing basis. Twitter followers alone have increased by roughly 20% since last December to 9,473. Each Facebook post can reach more than 1,000 people, as seen in these recent examples.

NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
 NIEHS August 14 at 11:05am

In the largest genetic study of Native Americans to date, researchers have discovered a level of genetic diversity across Mexico that is as extensive as that observed between Europeans and Chinese.



Environmental Factor: Study reveals remarkable genetic diversity across Mexico

NIEHS researcher Stephanie London, M.D., Dr.P.H., led a study which aimed to identify genetic loci associated with the response to ozone in asthmatic children in Mexico City.

NIH NIEHS GOV

1,231 people reached

Boost Post

Like · Comment · Share · 8 1 3

NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
 NIEHS August 7 at 11:05am

Read how emotional and behavioral problems show up even with low exposure to lead, and as blood lead levels increase in children, so do the problems, according to an NIEHS-funded study published in the journal JAMA Pediatrics.



Environmental Factor: Lead in kids' blood linked with behavioral and emotional problems

"This research focused on lower blood lead levels than most other studies and adds more evidence that there is no safe lead level," explained NIEHS Health Scientist Administrator Kimberly Gray, Ph.D.

NIH NIEHS GOV

1,195 people reached

Boost Post

Like · Comment · Share · 7 1 12

Web and Materials Development



New infographic Poster.

OCPL also worked with program staff to develop a new poster depicting NIEHS's exposure biology research program. More information can be found on our [Exposure Biology and the Exposome](#) Web page.

New Fact Sheets

- [Arsenic](#) (July 2014)
- [Autism and the Environment](#) (July 2014)
- [Superfund Research Program](#) (August 2014)
- [West Virginia Chemical Spill: NTP Research Response](#) (August 2014)

All fact sheets, pocket cards, and brochures are available on the NIEHS website at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/materials/index.cfm>.



Redesigned Agricultural Health Study website.

The [Agricultural Health Study](#) website was recently redesigned for easier navigation and to be responsive to the user's platform, whether mobile or desktop. The new design was intended to promote use of study findings, assist potential collaborators, and energize participation. A July [Environmental Factor](#) article has more information about the launch.

Exhibit

- The one NIEHS exhibit travelled to the June 21-24 ICE/ENDO 2014 Conference in Chicago, Illinois.
- OCPL is staffing the exhibit at the August 24-28 International Society for Environmental Epidemiology meeting in Seattle.

Online Newsletter

The NIEHS monthly online newsletter, the [Environmental Factor \(e-Factor\)](#), highlights NIEHS research, staff accomplishments, and ongoing activities. Many of the stories in the e-Factor are selected and used by other publications, including the **NIH Record**, **NIH Catalyst**, **NTP Update**, and others. A few examples are illustrated below.

- August 15, NIH Record, "[NIEHS laughs its way into ethical compliance](#)"
- July 30, NIH Record, "[Architect revisits NIEHS campus he helped create more than 30 years ago](#)"
- May 20, NIH Record, "[WHO, NIEHS partner to advance global health](#)"
- July-August, The NIH Catalyst, "[New software program evaluates potential for metastasis: NIEHS scientist Leping Li develops new approach for classifying cancer cells](#)"
- July-August, The NIH Catalyst, "[News you can use: Nonneplastic Lesion Atlas](#)"

Christine Bruske Flowers

Director, Office of Communications and Public Liaison
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Institutes of Health
919-541-3665

Robin Mackar

News Director, Office of Communications and Public Liaison