

Cancer and Environment Network of SWPA

Monthly Digest

DECEMBER 2020

Hello SWPA Cancer and Environment Network,

I hope everyone had a restful and safe Thanksgiving!

Below you will find the December 2020 digest. As always, everyone is welcome to share any new research, news stories, resources, and/or opportunities relevant to cancer and the environment by emailing Talor (talor@womenforahealthyenvironment.org) and we will include them next month.

We are looking forward to Zooming with you at our **next quarterly convening on Friday, December 17th from 10am-12pm.**

Thank you and be well,

Talor, Molly and Polly

Upcoming Work Group Meetings

If you haven't already, please join a workgroup by adding your name to [this list](#). Having your name on this list will ensure that you receive the call-in information each month.

- **Education and Outreach**
 - December 3, 10:00 am
- **Community Engagement**
 - December 8, 3:00 pm
- **Policy**
 - **To Be Determined** - because the original date/time conflicted with our quarterly convening, policy workgroup members are being asked to [complete this When2Meet poll](#) to find a new meeting time for December.
 - If you haven't used When2Meet before:
 - Type your name and hit enter (no password needed)
 - Add your availability on the calendar on the left using your mouse – mouse over again to deselect a given time
 - You can see how your availability merges with others on the calendar on the right
 - It saves automatically
- **Quarterly Convening**

- December 17, 10:00 am
- **Science and Support Advisory**
- December 22, 2:00 pm

Recent Research Publications/Research Commentaries

Contact Molly (mjacobs@envhealth.net) if you are interested in one of these articles that only have the abstract available. She will try to locate it for you.

- Koual M, Tomkiewicz C, Cano-Sancho G, et al. [Environmental chemicals, breast cancer progression and drug resistance](#). Environ Health. 2020 Nov 17;19(1):117. doi: 10.1186/s12940-020-00670-2.
- Kassotis CD, Herkert NJ, Hammel SC, et al. [Thyroid Receptor Antagonism of Chemicals Extracted from Personal Silicone Wristbands within a Papillary Thyroid Cancer Pilot Study](#). Environ Sci Technol. 2020 Nov 13. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.0c05972.
- Hvidtfeldt UA, Severi G, Andersen ZJ, et al. [Long-term low-level ambient air pollution exposure and risk of lung cancer - A pooled analysis of 7 European cohorts](#). Environ Int. 2020 Nov 13;146:106249. 10.1016/j.envint.2020.106249. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33197787.
- Lee KK, Bing R, Kiang J, et al. [Adverse health effects associated with household air pollution: a systematic review, meta-analysis, and burden estimation study](#). Lancet Glob Health. 2020 Nov;8(11):e1427-e1434. 10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30343-0. PMID: 33069303; PMCID: PMC7564377.
- Sharma MD, Elanjickal AI, Mankar JS, et al. [Assessment of cancer risk of microplastics enriched with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons](#). J Hazard Mater. 2020 Nov 5;398:122994. doi: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2020.122994.

Webinars, Events, Recent Articles, Reports and Resources

Webinars:

- **December 4th, 10:00am-12:30pm ET - [SW PA Air Pollution Data Workshop to explore the Environmental Sensing Data Repository \(ESDR\)](#)**. This workshop is an opportunity to learn about the functions and monitoring networks housed within the Environmental Sensing Data Repository resource, sponsored by the CMU Create Lab. The workshop will connect people who have a stake in pollution mitigation with air quality experts and health professionals to support collaboration on new research inquiries with useful, relevant outcomes. *More details and registration in the link above.*
- **December 10th, 12:00pm ET - *Get to Know CFE Webinar: Transition Report***. This webinar will preview recommendations of the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFEN) Transition Report that will advise the Biden administration on policy actions that advance CFEN's vision of healthy environments where no one gets sick because of their exposure to toxic chemicals where they live, learn, work, or play.
 - [Join Zoom Meeting](#) - Meeting ID: 858 2855 6102 Passcode: 091980 One tap mobile: +19294362866, 85828556102# US (New York)

- **December 15th, 1:00pm ET - CFE Webinar: Core Messages to Advance Climate, Toxics, Health & Equity.** The Climate, Toxics, Health & Equity Initiative interviewed nearly 30 place-based advocates and discovered a crucial gap and opportunity for an overarching narrative that ties together the stories of struggling frontline communities living with toxic exposures and climate impacts with growing economic inequities. Join the Cancer Free Economy Network's (CFEN's) discussion about core messages that were developed, suggested campaign and segmented messaging, as well as an opportunity to discuss potential outreach strategies.
 - [Join Zoom Meeting](#) - Meeting ID: 863 4826 9152 Passcode: 526046 One tap mobile +13017158592,,86348269152# US (Washington D.C)

Events:

- **December 3, 2020.** The [5th Annual Healthy Schools Summit](#), hosted by Women for a Healthy Environment's Healthy Schools PA program, will tackle topics such as: How are school stakeholders coming together to realize our shared goal for green, safe and healthy schools for students and staff to return to? How are school leaders translating public health research into action to prevent the spread of COVID-19? What resources are available for our educators, nurses, parents, and students to respond to existing and emerging school health needs? Continuing education credits are available for educators and school health professionals pending approval. *Register via the link above.*

Webinar/Podcast Recordings:

- Breast Cancer Action's Podcast (recorded November 10): [The Fossil Fuel to Breast Cancer Pipeline](#) - a conversation with Dr. Carol Kwiatkowski about the plastics industry and what it means for our health.
- [Mobilizing Public Health to Achieve Environmental Justice](#) (recorded November 17). Part 6 of 6 of the American Public Health Association's *Advancing Racial Equity Series* focused on the ongoing impact of environmental racism on the health and well-being of Black, Indigenous and people of color in the U.S. You can view the recording by submitting your name and email under "Watch the Recorded Webinar".
- [Cancer Crisis Town Hall](#) (held November 19). Hosted by the Center for Coalfield Justice, Mountain Watershed Association, and Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania. The meeting was about the state of the PA Dept of Health's investigation into an increase in rare cancers in SWPA, and included presentations from Dr. Ned Ketyer and Journalist Justin Nobel.
 - Video: [If Pittsburgh sounded like it smelled](#) a video developed by the SW PA Cancer and Environment Network's Mark Dixon that was shared during the town hall that featured over 1200 smell complaints submitted via the [SmellPGH app](#) between 11/2/20 and 11/11/20.
- [Speak Out & Virtually Rally for Clean Air](#) (held November 20). *Begin video at 5:30.*

Articles:

- (published November 21, 2020). Former President Cancer Panel member, Margaret Kripke and former Director of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences,

Linda Birnbaum published an [opEd in STAT](#) calling upon the National Cancer Institute to publish information about chemical exposures and breast cancer risk. The opEd was supported by a [statement](#) organized by Breast Cancer Action and signed by over 70 organizations and individuals.

Resources:

- [NAS Digital Guide on the prevention and control of PFAS exposures](#) - Filterable actions (by topic and by potential actor) from the 2-day workshop *Identifying Opportunities to Understand, Control and Prevent Exposure to PFAS*.

Funding Opportunities

- [New Cohorts for Environmental Exposures and Cancer Risk \(CEECR; UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#). Deadline: January 29, 2021; Letter of Intent: Due December 15, 2021. Supports innovative scientific research in new prospective Cohorts for Environmental Exposures and Cancer Risk (CEECR) to addresses knowledge gaps in cancer etiology and carcinogenesis processes with a focus on environmental exposures, as well as the genetic, lifestyle, and behavioral factors that modify risk across diverse populations. This FOA is published in parallel with [RFA-CA-20-050](#) "New Cohorts for Environmental Exposures and Cancer Risk (CEECR) Coordinating Center (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)", which supports a Coordinating Center.

In the News — Stories Relating to Environmental Cancer Risks and Solutions

Air Pollution

- Pittsburgh Business Times - [Environmental groups want Shell air permit denied](#) (November 6, 2020)
- Pittsburgh City Paper - [After several days of poor air quality, GASP calls on stronger regulations in Allegheny County](#) (November 10, 2020)
- Pittsburgh Business Times - [Breathe Project, Allegheny County residents call on U.S. Steel to address poor air quality](#) (November 20, 2020)
- The Allegheny Front - [Allegheny County Residents Demand Stronger Pollution Regs for U.S. Steel Plant](#) (November 23, 2020)
- Environmental Factor - [Breast Cancer and Air Pollution Linked by a New Marker](#) (November 2020)

Just Transition

- The New York Times - [Renewable Power Grows Strongly, Despite the Pandemic](#) (November 10, 2020)
- State Impact - [Pittsburgh mayor touts 'Marshall Plan' for Appalachia, a proposed \\$600B for transition from fossil fuels to greener energy](#) (November 12, 2020)
- WFYI - [Why Those Harmed By Coal Pollution Need To Be Heard As Coal Plants Shut Down](#) (November 24, 2020)

Safer Alternatives

- Fast Company - [This tableware made from bamboo and sugar waste biodegrades in 60 days](#) (November 11, 2020)

Pesticides

- Forbes - [Glyphosate Exposure Could Disrupt Human Gut Microbiome](#) (November 25, 2020)
- The Boston Globe - [Toxic 'forever chemicals' found in pesticide used on millions of Mass. acres when spraying for mosquitoes](#) (December 1, 2020)

PFAS

- PBS - [Toxic synthetic 'forever chemicals' are in our water and on our plates](#) (November 2, 2020)
- Cal Matter - [Well water throughout California contaminated with 'forever chemicals'](#) (November 19, 2020)
- The Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting - [Trump EPA removes tool states use to protect farmworkers, environment](#) (November 20, 2020)
- The Post Gazette - ['Dark Waters' attorney: New 'forever' chemicals pose threat to environment, human health](#) (November 23, 2020)
- Bloomberg Law - [All Nonessential PFAS Should Be Phased Out, Scientists Advise](#) (November 24, 2020)
- The Intercept - [Contaminants in New Jersey Soil and Water Are Toxic, Documents Reveal](#) (November 25, 2020)
- Bloomberg Law - [Firefighters Fret Over Health Threats From What Protects Them](#) (December 1, 2020)

Water Pollution

- c&en - [1,4-Dioxane: Another forever chemical plagues drinking-water utilities](#) (November 8, 2020)
- Inside Climate News - [In Georgia, 16 Superfund Sites Are Threatened by Extreme Weather Linked to Climate Change](#) (November 29, 2020)

Consumer Products

- The Hill - [New Jersey signs strongest plastic and paper bag ban in US](#) (November 4, 2020)
- Perth Now - [WA to ban single-use plastics including straws and cutlery with phasing out to start within three years](#) (November 8, 2020)
- The New York Times - [The Harmful Chemicals Lurking in Your Children's Toys](#) (November 23, 2020)
- Reuters - [U.S. judge rejects \\$648 million Bayer PCB contamination settlement](#) (November 30, 2020)

Petrochemical/Oil and Gas

- ProPublica - [Permit for Controversial \\$9 Billion Plastics Plant in “Chemical Alley” to Be Put on Hold](#) (November 5, 2020)
- State Impact - [Bill heading to governor would relax environmental laws for conventional drillers](#) (November 20, 2020)
- The Post Gazette - [Building a new coal-fired power plant? Consol proposes ambitious test to counter coal's dim outlook](#) (November 23, 2020)
- The Daily Climate - [Major oil and gas companies join program to cut methane emissions](#) (November 24, 2020)
- Fast Company - [Inside the campaign to push PR firms to fire fossil fuel clients](#) (November 25, 2020)
- Public Source - [Develop PGH Bulletins: Bid to frack on Edgar Thomson site goes to court](#) (November 25, 2020)

See something that you would like to share with the network? Send updates to Talor for the January 2020 Digest by emailing talor@womenforahealthyenvironment.org