

Cancer and Environment Network of SWPA

Monthly Digest

JULY

Hello Cancer and Environment Collaborative Network,

Thank you for engaging in our first month of standing workgroup meetings! We are excited about the progress on many of our projects, including several prototypes of our Fact Sheets on Environmental Cancer Risk Factors, a plan to tailor the national Cancer Free Economy community training curriculum to our region's primary risk factors of concern, and a draft structure for a network Policy Compendium informed by community concern and science.

We are pleased to share with you our second monthly digest for your review and feedback.

Going forward, please share any update you have for the group with Talor (talor@womenforahealthyenvironment.org) to be included in the next digest.

Be well!

Talor, Molly and Polly

July 2020 Digest

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**
 - July 2, 10:00 am
- **Community Engagement**
 - July 14, 3:00 pm
- **Policy**
 - July 16, 10:00 am
- **Science and Support Advisory**
 - July 28, 2:00 pm

Recent Research Publications

- Madia F, Worth A, Whelan M, Corvi R. [Carcinogenicity assessment: Addressing the challenges of cancer and chemicals in the environment](#). Environ Int. 2019;128:417-429. doi:10.1016/j.envint.2019.04.067.

- This paper discusses how more diverse evidence streams -- including new toxicological assessment methods, along with indicators of public health status based on biomonitoring -- have the potential to form the basis of an integrated and more effective approach to cancer prevention.
- Myers DJ, Hoppin P, Jacobs M, Clapp R, Kriebel D. [Cancer rates not explained by smoking: a county-level analysis](#). Environmental Health. Volume 19, Number 1, pp 64. 2020.
 - Our own Polly and Molly were involved in this study, which evaluates the potential impact of smoking cessation on cancer rates. The study found that eliminating smoking completely would not affect about 60% of cancer cases of the 12 smoking-related types, leaving no improvement in the incidence trend from 2006 to 2016.
- Singla V. [Carcinogens in Products: Inadequate Protections Raise Cancer Risks](#) [published online ahead of print, 2020 May 16]. Trends Cancer. 2020;S2405-8033(20)30136-9. doi:10.1016/j.trecan.2020.04.006.
 - This paper outlines how U.S. policies have not incorporated current science in relation to environmental carcinogens and recommends improvements to protect public health.

Upcoming Webinars/Events

- **Webinar: Disparities and Cancer, July 22, 2020**
Scientists Dr. Christine Ekenga, Anita Desikan, and Caroline Eberle will present their research focused on the disproportionate impact of airborne carcinogens, PFAS contamination, and personal care products specifically marketed to minorities, increasing their risk of developing cancer throughout their lifetime. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Webinar: Special Donor Salon by Breast Cancer Prevention Partners**
BCPP will host a special donor salon on Paths to Prevention, a strategic, forward-thinking agenda for reducing rates of breast cancer and other diseases. The first of its kind, this groundbreaking California-based plan will serve as a model for the entire country and beyond. Through science and community engagement, the Plan offers a path forward to a healthier society, where we can prevent breast cancer for future generations. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

COVID-19 and Cancer

- The Intercept - [Scientists pin blame for some coronavirus deaths on air pollution, PFAS, and other chemicals](#) (June 26, 2020)
- NBC News - [10,000 more cancer deaths predicted because of COVID-19 pandemic](#) (June 19, 2020)

Race and Cancer

- NBC News - [In 'Cancer Alley,' a renewed focus on systemic racism is too late](#) (June 21, 2020)
- Gizmodo - [Pollution is Racial Violence](#) (June 6, 2020)
- Environmental Health News - [Environmental injustice in Pittsburgh: Poor, minority neighborhoods see higher rates of death from air pollution](#) (June 12, 2020)
- NEXTPittsburgh - [More than 30 Pittsburgh environmental groups stand behind this statement on justice, race and responsibility](#) (June 19, 2020)

PFAS

- Bloomberg Law - [DOD Must Do More to Address PFAS Pollution](#) (June 19, 2020)
- The Guardian - [US moves to exempt companies from reporting harmful chemical releases](#) (June 24, 2020)
- Bloomberg Law - Summary of a bevy of bills that 5 states have introduced to protect communities from [PFAS contamination](#). (June 9, 2020)
- Bloomberg Law - [Destroying Forever Chemicals Ignites N.Y. Town's 'Worst Fears'](#) (June 25, 2020)

Pesticides and Toxics

- New York Times - [Roundup Maker to Pay \\$10 Billion to Settle Cancer Suits](#) (June 24, 2020)
- Discover - [Many BPA-Free Plastics Are Toxic. Some Are Worse Than BPA](#) (June 24, 2020)

Petrochemical

- Trib Live - ['We started getting sores all over us': Grand jury report blasts DEP, health department over fracking failures in Pa + AG Press Release](#) (June 24, 2020)
- The State of My State - [Top Economists tell OH, PA, WV governors petrochemical boom is a non-starter](#). (June 15, 2020)

Resources

- Use Cancer Free Economy Network's [social media toolkit](#) to push back against the EPA's "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" rule that would limit the use of science in air, water and pollution regulations.
- Center for Health Environment and Justice has [a Small Grants Program](#) for grassroots groups working on environmental health and justice issues. Grassroots communities of color, low wealth, rural and urban groups are encouraged to apply. If you are part of a coalition, each group in the coalition may apply as well as the coalition itself. This grant program will support projects that help groups move toward their goals by building leadership, increasing capacity, or providing training and education. A priority of CHEJ's Small Grants Program is to help grassroots community groups to build their capacity. Our program is designed to reach people from low wealth communities and communities of color who are impacted by environmental harms. A group doesn't need a 501 C 3 and cannot have a budget above one million dollars. Deadline: July 17.

- One PA is hiring a full time Environmental Organizer based in their Pittsburgh, PA office. Applicants who come from or have experience working in the Mon Valley are encouraged to apply. You can find the job description [here](#).

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