

Cancer and Environment Network of SWPA

Monthly Digest

NOVEMBER

Hello SWPA Cancer and Environment Network,

Below you will find the November 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.

Thank you and happy November!

Talor, Molly and Polly

November 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**
 - November 5, 10:00 am
- **Community Engagement**
 - November 10, 3:00 pm
- **Strategy (**new**)**
 - November 11, 11:30am - 1pm
- **Policy**
 - November 19, 10:00 am
- **Science and Support Advisory**
 - November 24, 2:00 pm

Recent Research Publications/Research Commentaries

- **Special Focus Issue from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Carcinogenesis Meeting.** The current issue of Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention includes a [Focus Section](#) that features papers from last year's Environmental Carcinogenesis Conference sponsored by AACR, at which Pittsburgh was well-represented. The conference was planned by a small team of Cancer Free Economy

Network members, and co-chaired by Margaret Kripke and Ernie Hawk of MD. Anderson Cancer Center, and Tim Rebbeck of Dana Farber Cancer Institute. We want to point out several papers of interest, however, the journal is not open-access. As co-authors, Polly and Molly are attaching a PDF of the first article. If you're interested in any of the other articles, please let us know and will reach out to authors.

- Kripke M, Brody JG, Hawk E, Hernandez AB, Hoppin PJ, Jacobs MM, Rudel RA, Rebbeck TR. [Rethinking Environmental Carcinogenesis](#). *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2020 Oct;29(10):1870-1875.
- Ou JY, Kirchhoff AC, Hanson HA. [Air Pollution across the Cancer Continuum: Extending Our Understanding of the Relationship between Environmental Exposures and Cancer](#). *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2020 Oct;29(10):1876-1879. **Note: This commentary examines the outcomes for cancer patients and survivors who continue living in the same neighborhoods they resided in before their diagnosis, with a focus on PM2.5 exposure.**
- Smith MT, Guyton KZ, Kleinstreuer N, Borrel A, Cardenas A, Chiu WA, Felsher DW, Gibbons CF, Goodson WH 3rd, Houck KA, Kane AB, La Merrill MA, Lebec H, Lowe L, McHale CM, Minocherhomji S, Rieswijk L, Sandy MS, Sone H, Wang A, Zhang L, Zeise L, Fielden M. [The Key Characteristics of Carcinogens: Relationship to the Hallmarks of Cancer, Relevant Biomarkers, and Assays to Measure Them](#). *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2020 Oct;29(10):1887-1903.
- Zhu Y, Costa M. [Metals and molecular carcinogenesis](#). *Carcinogenesis*. 2020 Sep 24;41(9):1161-1172. doi: 10.1093/carcin/bgaa076. PMID: 32674145; PMCID: PMC7513952. **Note: this review examines how exposure to metals in the workplace, as well as drinking water, air pollution and some foods can lead to cancer.**
- Tsai MS, Chang SH, Kuo WH, Kuo CH, Li SY, Wang MY, Chang DY, Lu YS, Huang CS, Cheng AL, Lin CH, Chen PC. [A case-control study of perfluoroalkyl substances and the risk of breast cancer in Taiwanese women](#). *Environ Int*. 2020 Sep;142:105850.
- Coleman NC, Burnett RT, Ezzati M, Marshall JD, Robinson AL, Pope CA 3rd. [Fine Particulate Matter Exposure and Cancer Incidence: Analysis of SEER Cancer Registry Data from 1992-2016](#). *Environ Health Perspect*. 2020 Oct;128(10):107004.
- Deziel NC, Warren JL, Huang H, Zhou H, Sjodin A, Zhang Y. [Exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls and organochlorine pesticides and thyroid cancer in Connecticut women](#). *Environ Res*. 2020 Oct 14;192:110333.
- Mavoungou S, Rios P, Pacquement H, Nolla M, Rigaud C, Simonin M, Bertrand Y, Lambilliotte A, Faure L, Orsi L, Clavel J, Bonaventure A. [Maternal exposure to pesticides and risk of childhood lymphoma in France: A pooled analysis of the ESCALE and ESTELLE studies \(SFCE\)](#). *Cancer Epidemiol*. 2020 Oct;68:101797.
- Coleman NC, Burnett RT, Ezzati M, Marshall JD, Robinson AL, Pope CA. [Fine Particulate Matter Exposure and Cancer Incidence: Analysis of SEER Cancer Registry Data from 1992–2016](#). *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2020 Oct. 128(10).
- Li L, Blomberg AJ, Spengler JD et al. [Unconventional oil and gas development and ambient particle radioactivity](#). *Nat Commun* 11, 5002 (2020). **Note: This study showed**

that radioactivity of airborne particles increases significantly downwind of fracking sites in the US.

- Young AS, Hauser R, James-Todd TM, Coull BA, Zhu H, Kannan K, Specht AJ, Bliss MS, Allen JG. [Impact of "healthier" materials interventions on dust concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, and organophosphate esters.](#) Environ Int. 2020 Oct 7:106151.

Webinars, Recent Reports and Resources

• WEBINARS

- **Recording – “[Just Transition–Transformative Strategies on the Frontlines of Struggle](#).”** This was the fifth in a series of webinars as part of the Just Transition Listening Project. It focused on the racial inequity barriers to working collaboratively on just transition. Hosted by the Labor Network for Sustainability. (October 7, 2020)
- **Recording and Documents - “[Paths to Prevention: The California Breast Cancer Primary Prevention Plan](#).”** Recording passcode is *Z3b5VFu. A webinar hosted by the Cancer Free Economy Network and presented by Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, which led the development of this groundbreaking statewide plan. The [full plan](#) is an amazing resource, relevant beyond California. Here are links to [The Executive Summary of the Plan](#), also [available in Spanish](#). (Note: If you wish to share the link to the webinar recording, please check first with Talor.)

• RECENT REPORTS

- **European Commission’s [Chemical Strategy for Sustainability](#).** Earlier this month, the European Commission issued its Chemical Strategy for Sustainability as part of the EU’s zero pollution ambition and commitment to the [European Green Deal](#). This integrated policy strategy will guide Europe’s regulatory, research and programmatic efforts on chemicals into the next decades. **It is a must read for those looking for policy inspiration from Europe as it tackles exposures to vulnerable populations, chemical mixtures, substitution and innovation in safer and sustainable chemistry.** Environmental Health News (October 14, 2020) covered [the release of the strategy report](#).

• RESOURCES

- **[EPA Releases Updated 2019 TRI Data](#).** On October 27, EPA released updated 2019 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data. The 2019 data set contains data about chemical releases and other waste management practices and pollution prevention activities that took place during 2019 at more than 21,000 federal and industrial facilities across the country.

Funding Opportunities

- The National Institutes of Health announced a program called [Research to Action: Assessing and Addressing Community Exposures to Environmental Contaminants \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)". Projects supported under this program are expected to employ community-engaged research methods to not only conduct research but also to seamlessly translate research findings into public health action. Deadline is December 4, 2020. Check out the [Research to Action Currently Funded Grantees](#) webpage for a sense of the types of projects supported through this FOA.

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

Air Pollution

- Post Gazette - [Allegheny County's proposed coke oven rules are hot topic](#) (October 25, 2020)
- Post Gazette - [U.S. Steel's \\$1.5 billion investment in Mon Valley Works in question?](#) (October 30, 2020)

Race and Cancer

- Grist - [He helped pass a historic EJ bill. But he's just getting started.](#) (October 14, 2020)

Just Transition

- The Daily Climate - [How Europe's wood pellet appetite worsens environmental racism in the US South](#) - An expanding wood pellet market in the Southeast has fallen short of climate and job goals—instead bringing air pollution, noise and reduced biodiversity in majority Black communities (October 5, 2020)
- Bloomberg - [Solar Pushes Aside Coal as the Cheapest Fuel for Power, IEA Says](#) (October 13, 2020)
- Grist - [New York says goodbye to 6 dirty power plants and hello to working with communities](#) (October 15, 2020)

Safer Alternatives

- The Guardian - [New British standard for biodegradable plastic introduced - Products will have to prove they break down into harmless wax containing no microplastics](#) (October 1, 2020)

Pesticides

- Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting: [The US Still Uses Many Pesticides Banned in Other Countries.](#) (October 14, 2020). Another in a series of articles scrutinizing US

pesticide regulations which have fallen behind Europe and other countries in limiting the use of high hazard pesticides, including some linked to cancer.

PFAS

- Chemical & Engineering News - [California bans PFAS firefighting foams](#) (October 1, 2020)
- Center for Environmental Health (Press Release) [Petition: EPA Must Hold Chemours Accountable for PFAS “Forever Chemical” Contamination in Cape Fear](#) (October 13, 2020). The petition asks EPA to use its authority under TSCA and require The Chemours Company to fund comprehensive health and environmental effects testing on 54 PFAS manufactured at its production facility in Fayetteville.
- Twin Cities Pioneer Press - [‘Forever chemicals’ found in St. Croix River, says report by MN Pollution Control](#) - Protected river faces emerging threat from toxic compounds (October 14, 2020)
- North Carolina Health News - [North Carolina attorney general sues Chemours, DuPont over PFAS contamination](#) (October 14, 2020)

Water Pollution

- The Fern - [Nitrate-tainted drinking water plagues California farmworker towns, study shows](#) (October 7, 2020)

Consumer Products

- Bloomberg - [J&J to Pay More Than \\$100 Million to End Over 1,000 Talc Suits](#) (October 5, 2020)
- Environmental Health News - [Dust from your old furniture likely contains harmful chemicals—but there’s a solution](#): Researchers find people's exposure to PFAS and certain flame retardants could be significantly reduced by opting for healthier building materials and furniture. (October 20, 2020) Note: the study described in this news story is linked as the last entry under Research above.

Petrochemical/Oil and Gas

- Post Gazette - [As Shell’s construction moves into final stage, citizens organize environmental self-defense classes](#) (October 5, 2020)
- The Guardian - [Airborne radioactivity increases downwind of fracking, study finds](#) (October 13, 2020)
- WBUR - [The Controversial Natural Gas Compressor In Weymouth, Explained](#) (October 13, 2020)
- StateImpact Pennsylvania - [DEP issues new fines for Westmoreland County landfill that accepts drilling waste](#) (October 14, 2020)
- The Californian - [Fracking in California: The good, the bad and the unknown](#) (October 15, 2020)
- The Allegheny Front - [STUDY: RADIATION LEVELS HIGHER DOWNWIND OF FRACKING SITES](#) (October 16, 2020)

- StateImpact Pennsylvania - [Fracking project at US Steel Plant denied local permit extension](#) (October 22, 2020)

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