

Cancer and Environment Network of SWPA

Monthly Digest

SEPTEMBER

Hello SW PA Cancer and Environment Network,

As we approach a change in season, we are reflecting on the progress we have made this summer. None it would be possible without your thoughtful engagement over the last few months. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, experience, and time with the network!

Thanks also to everyone who joined us at this season's quarterly convening last Friday. Notes will come soon, but in the meantime, here are a few requests:

- We continue to experiment with how to make best use of these shorter on-line meetings (2 hours on Zoom have replaced a half-day in-person), balancing the need to cover several topics with the need to dive deep. One of the agenda items that we didn't get to because of an overly ambitious agenda was an evaluation of the meeting; **we invite you to share with us any feedback. We also welcome recommendations you may have to improve your experience in the network, including workgroups and other network practices.** Please contact Talor talor@womenforahealthyenvironment.org with your feedback and ideas.
- Our discussion on Friday was a great start to setting longer-term strategic priorities at the convergence of need (reducing environmental carcinogens) and opportunity (this unique constellation of groups concerned about cancer with capacity in science, medicine and public health, community engagement and policy advocacy). We need volunteers to continue this strategic discussion. If you would like to participate in this ["Ad Hoc Strategy Group,"](#) please add your name. This group will meet several times this fall to (1) solidify regional priorities and (2) develop recommendations about what the network can do to advance them.
- Two of the workgroups, Community Engagement and Science Support and Advisory, offered two opportunities for the network to plug into their work. First, **Community Engagement** will be hosting a 2 half-day **Train-the-Trainer** in early October for network participants and partners about environmental contributors to cancer, the power dynamics that underlie the production of toxic chemicals, and effective organizing and advocacy by community-based organizations. Please [complete this interest form](#) to join them. Second, **Science Support and Advisory** is compiling **high priority data-related questions**. Please submit questions you think the network should consider about cancer and environmental contributors to cancer in the region in [this google document](#).

Finally, remember to send us any research, news stories, resources, and/or opportunities relevant to cancer and the environment by emailing Talor (talor@womenforahealthyenvironment.org) and we will include them in the next digest.

Thank you and Happy September,

Talor, Molly and Polly

September 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**
 - September 3, 10:00 am
- **Community Engagement**
 - September 11, 3:00 pm
- **Policy**
 - September 17, 10:00 am
- **Science and Support Advisory**
 - September 22, 2:00 pm

Recent Research Publications/Research Commentaries

- Greco SL, MacIntyre E, Young S, et al. [An approach to estimating the environmental burden of cancer from known and probable carcinogens: application to Ontario, Canada.](#) *BMC Public Health*. 2020;20(1):1017.
 - This study developed an approach to estimate the environmental burden of cancer and applied it to Ontario, Canada. The purpose was to identify environmental carcinogens with the greatest impact on cancer burden to support evidence-based decision making. We estimated between 3,540 and 6,510 annual cancer cases attributable to exposure to 23 environmental carcinogens in Ontario. Three carcinogens were responsible for over 90% of the environmental burden of cancer: solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation, radon in homes, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in outdoor air.
- Fagan J, Bohlen L, Patton S, Klein K. [Organic diet intervention significantly reduces urinary glyphosate levels in U.S. children and adults.](#) *Environ Res*. 2020;109898. doi:10.1016/j.envres.2020.109898
 - Investigators examined the impact of an organic diet intervention on levels of glyphosate and its main metabolite, AMPA (aminomethyl phosphonic acid), in urine collected from adults and children. The study found that an organic diet was associated with significantly reduced urinary levels of glyphosate and AMPA. The reduction in glyphosate and AMPA levels was rapid, dropping to baseline within three days.

- IARC Monographs Vol 127 group. [Carcinogenicity of some aromatic amines and related compounds](#). *Lancet Oncol.* 2020;21(8):1017-1018.
 - In May–June, 2020, a Working Group of 19 scientists from nine countries met remotely at the invitation of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to finalise their evaluation of the carcinogenicity of aniline (and aniline hydrochloride), *o*-anisidine (and *o*-anisidine hydrochloride), *o*-nitroanisole, and cupferron. Aniline, *o*-anisidine, and *o*-nitroanisole were classified as “probably carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2A). Cupferron was classified as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2B).
- Costello S, Chen K, Picciotto S, Lutzker L, Eisen E. [Metalworking fluids and cancer mortality in a US autoworker cohort \(1941-2015\)](#). *Scand J Work Environ Health.* 2020;3898.
 - This article describes the extended follow-up (1941–2015) of a cohort of 38,649 automobile manufacturing workers with potential exposure to metalworking fluids (MWF) and cancer outcomes. Exposure-response patterns are consistent with prior mortality reports from this cohort. We found increased risk of skin and female breast cancer with straight fluids. For the first time, we found elevated risk of stomach cancer mortality.
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2020. [Understanding, Controlling, and Preventing Exposure to PFAS: Proceedings of a Workshop in Brief](#). Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
 - The workshop, September 26–27, 2019, provided a venue for discussing opportunities for reducing exposures to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). More than 100 experts from government, communities, academia, and the private sector shared their perspectives through presentations and moderated discussions. Although discussions touched on the potential health effects of PFAS exposures, the focus of the 1.5 day workshop was on opportunities to understand and prevent PFAS exposures rather than on elucidating their health effects.

Upcoming Webinars/Events

- **WEBINAR:** [Shale Gas Development and Cancer: Conversations with the Experts](#)
 - Environmental Health Project is hosting the second event in a 3 part series on Shale Gas Development and Cancer. Shaina Stacy, PhD, MPH, will present on "Unconventional Natural Gas Development and Childhood Cancers." September 15, 2020 at 7:00pm. Register [HERE](#).
- **SUMMIT:** [A-Z Impacts of Plastic Online Summit](#): From Fracked Gas to Plastic Pollution in the Ohio River Valley and Beyond.
 - This summit is the culmination of a four month digital series on the impacts of plastic production on health, environment, climate, and economics. This weekend of events will include a film screening, panel discussion, and art builds. September 17th-20th, 2020. Register [HERE](#).
- **CALL:** ASBC-BizNGO Safer Chemicals Public Policy Work Group Call

- This group features in-depth analyses by policy experts, monitors federal and state chemical policy initiatives, and engages in and comments on initiatives where we have expertise. The call will focus on public policy initiatives at the state and federal level. September 11, 12 - 1 PM ET. [Zoom URL](#). ID: 846 0612 4698 PW: 793215. You must [sign in here](#) before joining.

Resources

- **REPORT:** [All Talk and No Recycling: An Investigation of the U.S. "Chemical Recycling" Industry](#) by Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.
- **FACT SHEET:** [PFAS Fact Sheet](#) by the Cancer Free Economy Network
- **WEBINAR RECORDING:** [Home Virtual Town Hall](#) by Center for Environmental Health, August 21, 2020. CEH Executive Director, Michael Green, speaks with health experts about how reducing exposure to toxic chemicals in your home can help you stay healthy during a pandemic.
- **WORKSHOP RECORDING:** The [Environmental Health Matters Initiative \(EHMI\)](#) presentations on understanding, controlling, and preventing human exposure to PFAS. View the [presentation recordings here](#).
- **FracTracker STORY MAP:** On Tuesday, August 18, 2020, two FracTracker teams travel across the Ohio River Valley to create a [virtual story map](#) in real time. Learn how fossil fuel extraction and petrochemical development impacts the health of this region's people and environment.
- **PODCAST:** [Pennsylvania Regulators Won't Say Where 66% of Landfill Leachate w/ Radioactive Material From Fracking is Going... "It's Private"](#). Public Herald. August 5, 2020.
- **CONSUMER GUIDE:** [Stop Eating Pesticides](#), an overview of Consumer Reports analyses of pesticides on foods and recommendations for reducing exposure. August 27, 2020.

Funding Opportunity

The National Cancer Institute's Provocative Questions Initiative has identified this research question as a priority for research proposals: "What are the underlying causes of the unexplained rising incidence in early-onset cancers?" The summary notes that: "the nature of early-onset cancers suggests that altered gene-environment interactions are a major contributor to increased risk." There is more information [here](#).

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

Air Pollution

- StateImpact Pennsylvania WESA - [Allegheny County To Study Toxic Air Emissions From Glass Plant In Swissvale](#) (August 10, 2020)

- Courthouse News Service - [Third Circuit Dumps EPA Approval of Weak Pennsylvania Clean Air Plan](#) (August 27, 2020)
- Pittsburgh Post Gazette - [Petition demands information about air pollution at U.S. Steel's Edgar Thomson Works](#) (August 27, 2020)

Just Transition

- Pittsburgh Business Times - [New solar project boosts renewables' profile in southwestern Pa.](#) (August 19, 2020)
- NextPittsburgh - [Reinventing our regional economy](#) (August 30, 2020)

Race and Cancer

- The Intercept - [WHAT RACISM SMELLS LIKE: Ravaged by Covid-19, Polluted Communities Demand Environmental Justice](#) (August 8, 2020)

PFAS

- CNN - [Toxic chemicals may be in fast food wrappers and take-out containers, report says](#) (August 6, 2020)

Pesticides

- Environmental Health News - [Organic diets quickly reduce the amount of glyphosate in people's bodies](#) (August 11, 2020)
- Consumer Reports - [Stop Eating Pesticides](#) (August 27, 2020)

Petrochemical/Oil and Gas

- Pittsburgh City Paper - [New poll shows majority of Pennsylvanians oppose fracking](#) (August 11, 2020)
- Next Pittsburgh - [The advanced recycling bill just passed by the PA House would harm the environment, says new report. Here's why](#) (August 12, 2020)
- Washington Post - [Trump administration to scrap limits on methane leaks at oil and gas sites](#) (August 13, 2020)
- E & E News - [Environmental Justice: The trip that changed everything for an EPA pioneer](#) (August 13, 2020)

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