



## PEHSU NEWS

### September 2020

#### National News

Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day is Thursday, October 8! This year marks the 5th official CEH Day which occurs the second Thursday of October during Children's Health Month every year. The day was started by the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) and “anchors the overall Children's Environmental Health movement and is a rallying point for education, and for individuals and organizations to take action on behalf of children's environmental health.” Check out the [CEHN website](#) for more information and ways to get involved and read further in this newsletter to find out more about what the PEHSUs are doing to commemorate the important occasion!



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## Region 1 - New England PEHSU

### **Boston Children's Hospital 2021 Fellowship Opportunity in Pediatric Environmental Health**

The Region 1 PEHSU is pleased to announce a physician training opportunity in Pediatric Environmental Health. The combined Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School Fellowship in Pediatric Environmental Health is currently recruiting for one position in the 2021-2023 Class to enter the Fellowship on July 1, 2021 with an application deadline of December 31, 2020. Off-cycle candidates will also be considered. The 2-year postgraduate program is for physicians who are in or have

completed a residency or fellowship program with an emphasis on a pediatrics-related specialty. The training program is carried out in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Program's goal is to train physician-scholars who are prepared to lead efforts to address the needs of children and pregnant and lactating women affected by environmental hazards and climate change. Detailed information can be found on the program's website. For a fellowship application packet, please contact Hailey Noble at [hailey.noble@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:hailey.noble@childrens.harvard.edu).

### Did you know?

The PEHSU network has experts in a variety of specialized areas for both reproductive and children's environmental health.

Find a PEHSU near you on the PEHSU [website](#).

## Region 2 PEHSU – Serving New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, & US Virgin Islands

### **Puerto Rico Child Care Training -Salud Ambiental Pediátrica**

The Region 2 PEHSU in collaboration with their environmental health champions in Puerto Rico and the Region 2 Head Start hosted a Spanish language webinar via zoom on September 23 to review environmental health concerns in child care centers as teachers return to school.

### **Rx for Prevention Delivery to the U.S. Virgin Islands**

Program coordinator Teresa Herrera ventured to the post office to send a package of Prescriptions for Prevention pads to be distributed to families at the Frederiksted Health Care Center in St. Croix via our partners at the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition. The Rx's covered safer cleaning during COVID-19, mold, smoking, and pest management and were translated into three different languages.

## Region 2 PEHSU – Serving New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, & US Virgin Islands continued

### NYS Children's Environmental Health Center Annual Conference

Region 2 PEHSU team members in collaboration with the NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers worked together to put on a great two-day virtual conference September 14-15 to share expertise, information and resources amongst health centers, community partners, professional groups, and governmental agencies.



### Twitter Account

Region 2 PEHSU launched its own Twitter account. This page will feature key messages from the Prescriptions for Prevention and posts on environmental health topics such as sun safety during the summer and COVID precautions for returning to school. Follow Region 2 at [@R2PEHSU!](#)



## Region 3- Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE)

### MACCHE has Moved!

On September 1, the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment moved from Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies to Villanova University, M. Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

### Welcome to Ruth McDermott-Levy, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN!

She will serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) and the co-director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's

Health and the Environment. Dr Ruth McDermott-Levy is an associate professor at Villanova University's M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and Co-director of the Mid-Atlantic



### Check out the Northwest PEHSU New Twitter Account!

The Northwest PEHSU has launched its social media efforts, beginning with Twitter. Follow [@NWPFHSU](#) for Region 10 news and information.



**NEW! APHA Fact Sheet on Preventing Childhood Cancer**

Parents, healthcare providers & educators can take important steps today to minimize harmful environmental exposures & reduce risks for childhood cancer. Learn more in a newly developed **fact sheet** from the APHA Children's Environmental Health Committee.

## Region 3 - Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE) continued

Center for Children's Health and the Environment.

She has extensive community health nursing practice experience. She has served as the Director of the College of Nursing's Center for Global and Public Health for 6 years. She has worked with Arab immigrant families in Philadelphia and families living in fracking communities of Northeastern Pennsylvania to study, educate, and reduce environmental health risks for each group. She is recognized as an expert in environmental health nursing education and has authored several publications regarding implementing environmental and climate health into the nursing curricula. She is an editor of the 2017 American Journal of Nursing awarded Book of the Year, Environmental Health in Nursing. In 2018, Dr

McDermott-Levy lived in Finland as a Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Health and Environmental Sciences Scholar where she conducted research and taught at the University of Eastern Finland. She has been an invited speaker at Global Climate & Health Summit, in conjunction with COP24, Katowice, Poland in 2018 and at International Nurses Day at the United Nations in 2019. In 2020, she was awarded the prestigious Charlotte Brody Award for environmental health nursing leadership and Sigma Theta Tau International, Alpha Nu Chapter Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award. She is committed to assuring healthy environments for children and their families. The PEHSU network is excited to have Dr McDermott-Levy on board!

### **Educational Events**

On September 23, Dr McDermott-Levy presented on COVID-19, Climate Change, and Environmental Health Considerations for the Center for Global & Public Health at Villanova University.

On September 17, Laura Anderko, PhD, RN, MS presented on PFAS and Health Impacts in partnership with Women for a Healthy Environment. For more information, please visit the [Women for a Healthy Environment website](#).

## Region 5 - Great Lakes Center for Reproductive and Children's Environmental Health



On Wednesday, September 9, the Region 5 PEHSU hosted a Zoom meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) Director, Jeanne Breskin, MS. In attendance from the Region 5 PEHSU were PI Susan Buchanan, MD, MPH, Nick Newman, DO, MS, FAAP from Cincinnati, Zeke McKinney, MD from Minneapolis, and Helen Binns, MD, MPH, FAAP from Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago as well as PEHSU coordinator Celine Wysgalla, OCHP staff, and Mary Ann Suero, Region 5 Children's Environmental Health CEH liaison from United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

During the visit, the group discussed the mission and objectives of the national PEHSU network, as well as PEHSU services and activities including consultations, outreach, education, and community level collaboration. The skill set of the PEHSUs was also emphasized as being unique from other healthcare providers because they bridge the gap between environmental research findings and clinical practice.



### PFAS Resources

The PEHSUs have network-wide expertise on perfluoralkyl substances (PFAS). For resources and information, visit the PEHSU [website](#).

## Region 9—Western States PEHSU (WSPEHSU)

### ***Wildfire Smoke Material Resources***

With wildfire season starting earlier than usual and already reaching very unhealthy levels, the WSPEHSU acted swiftly in response to this pertinent issue and created resources on wildfire smoke in both English and Spanish. Resources include a fact sheet on mask use during wildfire

smoke events, information on how to do a user seal check (adapted from information for worker populations and in English only) and an infographic on how to reduce wildfire smoke exposure for children. Resources can be found on the WSPEHSU [website](#).

## Region 10 – Northwest (NW) PEHSU

### Pediatric Grand Rounds Presentation

On September 16, NWPEHSU Director Catherine Karr, MD, PhD, FAAP co-presented Pediatric Grand Rounds at St. Luke's Children's Hospital in Boise, Idaho, with Cynthia Curl, PhD, a Boise State University associate professor. The presentation, titled "Pesticide Exposure and Child Health: New Evidence and Putting it into Practice", included information about safe disinfection. It drew 42 attendees, double the average attendance of 20.

## Publications

### Region 9: Western States PEHSU

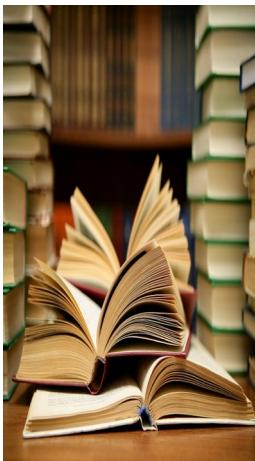
**Title:** Health effects of wildfire smoke in children and public health tools: a narrative review

**PEHSU Affiliated Authors:** Stephanie Holm, MD, MPH and Mark Miller, MD, MPH

**Summary:** This paper explores current knowledge and knowledge gaps regarding the health effects of wildfire smoke in children, as well as tools for pub-

lic health responses aimed at children, including consideration of low-cost sensor data, respirators, and exposures in school environments.

**Access the article:** The journal article can be found on the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology [website](#).



## Upcoming Events

### [Virtual 2020 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition](#)

**Dates:** October 2-6, 2020

**Registration:** <https://aapexperience.org/conference-schedule/>

**About:** The American Academy of Pediatrics will host its first-ever virtual National Conference & Exhibition this October with an innovative program designed to reach a wider audience than ever before. This virtual program will take the place of the in-person meeting. If you have any questions, please visit the website at [aapexperience.org](https://aapexperience.org).



## Upcoming Events continued

### **Webinar: Biophilia Live!**

**Presented by:** Dr Anderko

**Date:** October 8, 7:30-8:30 pm

**Registration:** <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/biophilia-live/biophilia-live/>

**About:** EcoAction Arlington is celebrating the ways we Love Our Living World. Dr Anderko will be presenting as part of a panel for EcoAction Arlington on Biophilia. The virtual presentations from a range of experts who will share their experiences on the importance of connecting to nature. Their stories will help explore ways of interweaving nature in beneficial ways.



### **Webinar: Climate Change, COVID-19 and Children's Health**

**Presented by:** Drs. McDermott-Levy and Anderko

**Date:** October 14, 1:00 pm E.T.

**Registration:** [https://georgetown.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DabFftrIROKiWFPYkEZl-zA](https://georgetown.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DabFftrIROKiWFPYkEZl-zA)

**About:** In celebration of Children's Environmental Health month, Drs. McDermott-Levy and Anderko will be presenting this webinar. This session will explore the science about the intersection of climate change and COVID-19, and how it can impact children's health. Presenters will offer strategies for reducing risks.

### **2020 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo (virtual)**

**Dates:** October 24-26

**Registration:** <https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual/registration-information>

**About:** This meeting will be held completely virtually. This year's Annual Meeting theme will be "[Creating the Healthiest Nation: Preventing Violence](#)"

### **APHA Virtual Presentation: Protecting Children from the Health Effects of Wildfire Smoke**

**Presented by:** Stephanie Holm, MD, MPH

**Date:** October 27, 6:00-7:30 PM M.T.

**Registration:** <https://apha.confex.com/apha/2020/meetingapp.cgi/Session/61165>

**About:** This session will briefly review the known health effects from wildfire smoke and then explore four main topics in regard to protecting children from wildfire smoke. WSPEHSU will discuss the use of low-cost sensors in decision-making regarding children's health, including the reliability and validity of sensor data and how to compare real-time sensor data with standards and health data that use averaged values. WSPEHSU will also discuss the use of N95 respirators by children, how much protection these respirators can be expected to provide and how activities should be modified. WSPEHSU explore the current practices regarding school decision-making during wildfire events, future considerations, and environmental justice issues including when to adapt school activities and when to consider school closures. Finally, strategies will cover communicating wildfire risks to the public.

## **Upcoming Events continued**

**Virtual Webinar- Dark Waters: The Story Behind the Environmental Legal Battle Exposing Corporate Coverup**

**Presented by:** MACCHE co-sponsorship

**Date:** November 18, 6:00-7:00pm CT

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whe-create-change-featuring-speaker-robert-bilott-tickets-90231921105?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**About:** The session will be joined by distinguished environmental attorney Robert Bilott. Mr. Bilott will share the story of his epic legal battle against DuPont and how he exposed corporate coverup and massive chemical contamination of unprecedented scale and scope.

## **Expiring Continuing Education (CE) in PEHSU National Classroom**

**What was Old is New Again: A Home Visit Model Using Integrated Health Navigation for Children with Asthma**  
- presented on October 10, 2018

**Presented by:** Mark Anderson, MD, FAAP and Allison Maytag, MPH

**CE Expiration Date:** November 13, 2020



New Grand Rounds on the **Effects of Wildfire Smoke on Children's Health** presented by  
Stephanie Holm, MD, MPH is now available!  
The on-demand presentation can be found in the [PEHSU National Classroom](#).

Suggestions for content? Please email Isabel Montoya at [imontoya@aap.org](mailto:imontoya@aap.org)

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