



Center Year-End Report

As the year draws to a close, it is time for reflection on all that we have been able to accomplish. The Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health strives to create a world in which every child has a healthy start. Grounding our work in extensive research and close partnerships with community organizations, we are ambassadors of preventive measures to protect children from environmental threats. The Center has published over 15 papers in peer-reviewed academic journals in 2011. The Center was just as successful in its outreach and research translation, where we strove to disseminate the newly published findings not only to the scientific community, but to community members, the healthcare community, and the general public.

In April, our lead community partner, We Act for environmental justice (WE ACT) used our findings to launch a report card on health issues of concern in Northern Manhattan. The press conference was represented by a range of stakeholders including Senator Bill Perkins of the 30th District, Assemblyman Keith Wright of the 70th District, and Lisa H. Garcia of the US Environmental Protection Agency (see right).



Healthy Tips to Reduce Your Exposure to PHTHALATES:

- Use fragrance-free personal care products by avoiding labels with: DBP, DEP, DEHP, BzBP, DMP, or the word "fragrance".
- Choose plastics with the recycling code 1, 2, 4 or 5 and avoid recycling labels 3, 6, and 7.
- Try toys made from wood, cotton or wool.
- Use cloth shower curtains.

On October 25th, the Center held a community briefing on the results of our research. The briefing was attended by over 30 community leaders, governmental officials and national advocacy agencies.



[Dr. Perera presenting to stakeholders at Oct 25 briefing]



[Peggy Shepard & Dr. Perera lead discussion]

We continued to increase our outreach to the general public, resulting in mainstream media coverage by the Wall Street Journal, TIME, CNN, NPR, USA Today, the New York Times, the New Yorker, ABC World News, and US News and World Report.

In April, the Center launched a Facebook page, followed by a Twitter account in November to post the most up-to-date information on our findings, presentations, and the work of our collaborators and colleagues.

In the year ahead, we will advance our prospective epidemiologic studies in New York City, Poland, and, China. We will also continue our translation and outreach efforts. **Thank you again for your commitment to the Center, and to children's environmental health!**

For the latest info about the Center, visit us at our website: www.ccceh.org, or contact us at 212-304-7283 or nu2110@columbia.edu.