

# Protecting Children's Environmental Health in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region Symposium Agenda

**January 27, 2016**

<b>8:00 – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:40 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Opening Remarks and Keynote</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ruth Etzel, MD, PhD, Director, Office of Children's Health Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p>
<b>9:40 – 10:30 a.m.</b>	<p><b>U.S.-Mexico Border Initiatives to Address Environmental and Public Health Challenges</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jeff Scott, MPP, Region 9 Land Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Robert Guerrero, MBA, Chief, Office of Border Health, Arizona Department of Health Services</i></p> <p>This session will discuss the Border 2020 Program and Healthy Border 2020 initiative, both of which engage multiple agencies and stakeholders on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border to address environmental and public health challenges.</p>
<b>10:30 – 10:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:40 – 12:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Environmental Health in California-Baja California and Arizona-Sonora</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aminata Kilungo, PhD, Director of Research and Development, Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dan Meltzer, MPH, Research Associate, California Environmental Health Tracking Program</i></p> <p>Presenters will provide a summary of environmental health assessments conducted in the California-Baja California and Arizona-Sonora border regions. The California Environmental Health Tracking Program completed an environmental health data assessment of the California-Baja California region in 2015. The Sonora Environmental Research Institute is conducting an environmental health data assessment of the Arizona-Sonora region. Speakers from both organizations will present their findings and offer recommendations for resolving data gaps in order to improve environmental health surveillance in border communities.</p>
<b>12:00 – 1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch and poster session</b>
<b>1:00 – 2:00 p.m.</b>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p><b>A1: Industrial Pollution in the Border Region</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Orlando Cabrera-Rivera, MS, Program Manager, Environmental Quality and Climate Change, Commission for Environmental Cooperation</i></p> <p>This session will present information resources and tools to explore reported industrial pollutant releases in border regions. Communities in these areas are in a unique situation because their local environment and public health could be affected by hazardous emissions from industrial facilities on either side of the border. Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) provide information on the amounts of pollutants released from facilities to the environment on-site (air, water, land, and injected underground), as well as transferred off-site for recycling, treatment or</p>

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disposal. PRTR data can serve as an effective tool in tracking and assessing the generation, release, and fate of industrial toxic contaminants over time, and their potential impact on human health and the environment. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation’s (CEC) [Taking Stock Online](#) compiles and disseminates the latest data from North America’s three PRTR programs. It features an integrated, multi-year database covering over 30,000 industrial facilities and 500 substances from about 100 major industrial sectors that report to the PRTRs of Canada, Mexico and the United States. This tool can help communities explore a range of important questions related to environmental pollution, such as: What kinds of pollutants are emitted? What are the current sources of pollutants nearby? How much pollution is emitted? What are the potential associated health risks? The session will review recent data on pollutant releases in the California-Baja California and Arizona-Sonora regions and explain how to access these data.

*Participants are encouraged to bring their laptop or tablet if they are interested to follow along with the live demonstration of the CEC’s online tool, Taking Stock Online.*

**A2: Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma**

Harbor Room

*James Seltzer, MD, Visiting Professor, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of California, Irvine; Regional Consultant, Western States PEHSU; Indoor Hygienic Technologies Corporation*

This session will present information on how to integrate environmental management of asthma into pediatric health care. Participants will learn about indoor and outdoor environmental asthma triggers, how to take an environmental history of asthma for patients, and how to counsel patients on interventions that reduce or eliminate exposure to environmental asthma triggers. The presenter will explain what resources are available for providers and patients to learn more about environmental asthma triggers.

**2:00 – 2:10 p.m.**

**Break**

**2:10 – 3:10 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions

**B1: Reducing Exposure to Toxics in Personal Care Products**

Harbor Room

*Nancy Palate, Health Educator, Environmental Health Investigations Branch, California Department of Public Health*

This session will present information on toxic chemicals that are commonly found in personal care products, such as cosmetics, skin creams, and fragrances. The presenter will provide information on how these compounds may influence health. The presenter will provide practical information on how to reduce exposure to these compounds, such as what to look for on product labels and what resources are available to search for products that do not contain these compounds.

**B2: Lead and Mercury Poisoning: Clinical Management and Action to Eliminate Exposures**

Coral Reef Room

*Cyrus Rangan, MD, FAAP, FACMT, Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health*

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	<p>This session will present information on the signs and symptoms of lead and mercury poisoning and appropriate interventions. The presenter will explain the common sources of lead and mercury for children, adolescents and pregnant women in the border region. The presenter will discuss the importance of childhood blood lead testing, the signs and symptoms of lead and mercury poisoning, and the appropriate use of chelation therapy. The presenter will provide an overview of relevant environmental and public health agencies that can be consulted if assistance is needed to help patients and their caregivers eliminate lead or mercury sources.</p>
<p><b>3:10 – 3:20 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p><b>3:20 – 5 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Community-Based Projects that Promote Children's Environmental Health</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aminata Kilungo, PhD, Director of Research and Development, Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Luis Olmedo, Executive Director, Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Diane Takvorian, MSW, Executive Director, Environmental Health Coalition</i></p> <p>This plenary session will highlight actions that community organizations have undertaken to address children's environmental health risks in border communities. Presenters will explain the goals and successes of their projects, and how their projects reduced environmental health risks to children. Presenters will explain the keys to their success and lessons learned.</p>
<p><b>5 – 6 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>No-Host Networking Session</b> (optional)</p>

## January 28, 2016

<p><b>8:00 – 9:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Registration and poster session</b></p>
<p><b>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <p><b>C1: Basics of Applying to Federal Grant Programs</b> Harbor Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jeremy Bauer, MS, Regional Coordinator, Border Environmental Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Andrea Manion, MNA, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p>This session will serve as a grant writing workshop. Class discussion and handouts will help participants understand best practices in responding to federal funding announcements. Presenters will walk participants through a class exercise to write specific and measurable project objectives. Presenters will also provide a general overview of federal grant programs that participants may pursue in support of environmental and public health projects in the border region.</p>

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	<p><b>C2: Recognizing Pesticide-Related Illness</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cyrus Rangan, MD, FAAP, FACMT, Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>William Ngai, MD, MPH, Public Health Medical Officer, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fabiola Estrada, MS, Project Officer/Life Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p>During this concurrent session, presenters will explain how to recognize and manage pesticide poisonings and where to report poisonings. Presenters will also discuss current research on how prenatal and childhood exposures to pesticides may influence children's health and development. Further, there will be a discussion of the revised worker protection standard and resources that providers or their patients could consult about pesticide exposure.</p>
<p><b>10:30 – 10:40 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p><b>10:40 – 12:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Climate and Health</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Stanley Maloy, PhD, Dean, College of Sciences; Professor of Biology, San Diego State University</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lisa Villarroel, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control, Arizona Department of Health Services</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nancy Palate, Health Educator, Environmental Health Investigations Branch, California Department of Public Health</i></p> <p>This session will discuss how climate can affect children's health in the border region. Presentations will cover heat-related illness, respiratory conditions, and infectious diseases. Presenters will explain how the occurrence of these health conditions may be affected by climate. This session will also offer recommendations for how to protect children from the impacts of a changing climate.</p>
<p><b>12:00 – 12:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Session</b> Coral Reef Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jeff Scott, MPP, Region 9 Land Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Steve Vargo, Associate Director, Region 6 Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p>

## Roundtable Discussion, January 28, 2016, 1 – 4 p.m.

Please join us for a facilitated roundtable discussion after the symposium's closing session. The main objective of this discussion is to develop a set of actionable recommendations that can guide future collaborative work to protect children from environmental health risks in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region. Using the presentations and discussions from the symposium as a basis, participants will discuss ongoing challenges and opportunities in communities within the border region. (Please note that participation in this discussion is not required for obtaining continuing education credits.)

*The materials and opinions presented by non-federal speakers are for informational purposes only and are not products of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or of the United States Government. These presentations are not intended to imply an EPA endorsement or sanction of these non-federal presenters, their organizations, materials, or the opinions they express.*