Message

From: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/25/2014 9:50:28 PM
To: Jones, Jim [Jones.Jim@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Fort, Felecia [Fort.Felecia@epa.gov]; Mojica, Andrea [Mojica.andrea@epa.gov]; Gillis, Chris [Gillis.Chris@epa.gov]
Subject: Numerous press inquiries today about the Grandjean/Landrigan article

One is from the Post (WAITING FOR YOUR OK): INCOMING: I'm a journalist doing a piece on the health risks (if any) of conventional vs. organic foods for the Post. One issue, of course, is pesticides, and I'm trying to zoom in on organophosphates. I've seen the CRA from 2006, but there's been research since, correlating OP exposure to several neurological problems (ADHD, lower IQ).

Other from the Atlantic: I'm writing a story for The Atlantic around a recent article in the Lancet by Grandjean and Landrigan last week that warned of a pandemic of neurotoxicants. I'm looking into the U.S. regulation and testing process. I was hoping you might have a few minutes to talk with me by phone?

Another from Medical News Today; RE: Child Chemical Exposure and Brain Development; DDL: 2/27 morning

See this article Chris found: http://rt.com/usa/children-exposed-damagin-chemicals-610/

See what Rick K. found: Abstract of the Grandjean and Landrigan article:

Dr Philippe Grandjean MD a b , Philip J Landrigan MD c Summary Neurodevelopmental disabilities, including autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, and other cognitive impairments, affect millions of children worldwide, and some diagnoses seem to be increasing in frequency. Industrial chemicals that injure the developing brain are among the known causes for this rise in prevalence. In 2006, we did a systematic review and identified five industrial chemicals as developmental neurotoxicants: lead, methylmercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, arsenic, and toluene. Since 2006, epidemiological studies have documented six additional developmental neurotoxicants—manganese, fluoride, chlorpyrifos, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene, and the polybrominated diphenyl ethers. We postulate that even more neurotoxicants remain undiscovered. To control the pandemic of developmental neurotoxicity, we propose a global prevention strategy. Untested chemicals should not be presumed to be safe to brain development, and chemicals in existing use and all new chemicals must therefore be tested for developmental neurotoxicity. To coordinate these efforts and to accelerate translation of science into prevention, we propose the urgent formation of a new international clearinghouse.

Rick: Based on this summary, it appears that the focus is primarily on industrial chemicals, although one pesticide, chlorpyrifos, appears in the list. (Another pesticide, fluoride, is also listed, but most human exposure comes from non-pesticidal uses.) I infer that the article is on trying to build an argument for stronger premarket review of industrial chemicals, i.e., TSCA reform. Therefore, we defer to OPPT to recommend whether / how to respond to the Atlantic request.