



# ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF HEALTH



## The Bugle Call

DECEMBER 2008

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*Fifty-second Edition*

## THE NEW CARBON ECONOMY THOMAS J. VILSACK

Governor Vilsack, who governed Iowa from 1998 to 2006, writes in a special article to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that appeared on the Op Ed page October 16, 2008, “We release



carbon dioxide and its climate-changing effects into the atmosphere with every ounce of

increasingly precious fossil fuel we burn, most of it from foreign sources. We reduce that carbon load with each step towards homegrown renewable solar, wind, biofuels and geothermal power. In doing so, we leave more carbon locked up in the earth where it belongs.

Therein lies the opportunity for the American heartland. . . . America is positioned to seize this opportunity because we can make renewable energy on American farms and manage those farms in such a way as to lock up more carbon in the soil.

The engine of this new economy will be a new concept known as ‘carbon productivity’ – the amount of gross national product produced per unit of carbon emitted.

According to a recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute, car-

bon productivity must increase exponentially through a modern-day equivalent of the Industrial Revolution if we are going to overcome the challenge of climate change and achieve economic stability. Instead, a 10-fold increase in labor productivity as we achieved 150 years ago, today we must work towards a 10-fold increase in carbon productivity.

“We need a ‘carbon revolution’, and as the former governor of Iowa, I can say with confidence that rural America stands ready to lead. . . .

“Meanwhile, 1,000 miles away in New York, 10 states covering New England and the Mid-Atlantic came together on September 29th to form the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. In short, RGGI creates a market similar to any other commodity exchange, except that it trades carbon credits, the same carbon credits that American farms can be producing.”

“In other words, by locking up carbon through clean technologies and generating less carbon through renewable energy sources, we create home-grown carbon credits direct from the family farm.”

“These credits can then be sold on the open market just as if they

were soybeans or lean hogs. The result is the diversification of the average family farm portfolio, generating a new revenue stream and creating a new ‘cash crop’ that just happens to help save the planet at the same time.”

On a national level, job creation centered on a carbon-efficient economy and our quest for carbon productivity is estimated at upwards of 5 million new and better paying jobs. Under bold new leadership and with collaboration between state and federal governments, this transition can propel our economy, rather than hinder it.

“Through innovation, we will preserve our heartland and ensure that our nation’s farmland is productive for generations to come. We must not fear a transition to a low-carbon future. We must embrace it.”

*(Thomas J. Vilsack now serves Of Counsel in the Dorsey Trial group in Des Moines, Iowa, and is a resident fall fellow at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.)*

### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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## President's Message .....

As the year 2008 comes to a close, we begin to prepare for a new year...2009. We have a new President with a new administration which we hope will provide us opportunities to improve health care and improve the health care systems.

The Health Boards and Health Departments throughout Illinois do a tremendous job, and many, many thanks to them. Keep up the good work, making the most of our reduced resources in the hope of an improved future.

I wish a safe and happy holiday season to all.

*Margaret Leonard*

### 4 Illinois Counties Included in Children's Health Study

The National Children's Health Study was developed as a result of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health and Safety Risks to Children, 2000.

The study is the largest study ever conducted to learn about the health and development of children. It will follow 100,000 children across the nation from before birth to age 21.



In the greater St. Louis area research will be conducted under the auspices of the Gateway Study Center. Last year it

was announced that the study would include children from the city of St. Louis and Macoupin County in Illinois.


With the addition of Jefferson County, Illinois, and the three Southern Illinois counties of Johnson, Union and Williamson, St. Louis University's School of Public Health has received a \$26.3 million contract from the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for disease Control and Prevention and United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The school already had received a \$26.8 million contract for its work in the city and Macoupin County.

The study will track factors that influence a child's health before he or she is born. Researchers will recruit women who are pregnant, or likely to soon become pregnant, and gather information about the mother's exposure to chemicals, her diet and emotional stress.


"Recruiting mothers before conception, or in very early pregnancy, means we can measure environmental influences when the fetus is first forming," said Louise Flick, a professor of nursing from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing.

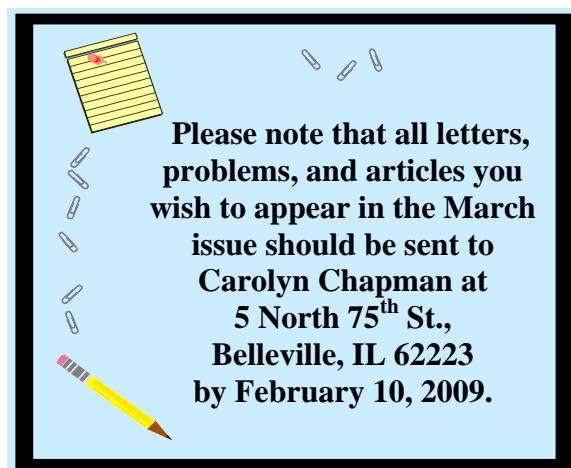
Once the child is born, researchers will gather air, water and other samples from where children spend most of their time. They will analyze fingernail, hair, blood and urine samples to screen birth defects and other conditions.

*(Excerpted from an article by Kim McGuire in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on page A1, October 4, 2008.)* 

### RATIONALE FOR THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY

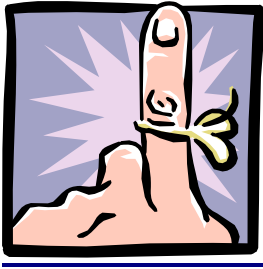
#### *From the President's Task Force On Environmental Health*

- Compared to adults, children are especially vulnerable to environmental exposures—metabolism, behavior
- Exposures to some agents demonstrate potential for serious developmental effects—lead, prenatal alcohol
- Current known exposures of high frequency—pesticides, violence, media
- Numerous high burden conditions with suspected environmental contribution—learning disabilities, autism, birth defects, premature birth
- Existing research too limited in size and scope to answer the questions
- Life-course (longitudinal) design needed to correctly link with multiple exposures and multiple outcomes 



**Please note that all letters, problems, and articles you wish to appear in the March issue should be sent to Carolyn Chapman at 5 North 75<sup>th</sup> St., Belleville, IL 62223 by February 10, 2009.**

# MEETINGS



## April 19-20, 2009

Illinois Public Health Assoc. Annual Meeting....Place to be Announced [www.ipha.org](http://www.ipha.org)

## April 21, 22 and 23, 2009

Illinois Rural Health Association Annual Conference

### MEMORIES OF THE PAST – VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

Hilton Garden Inn in the Keller Convention Center

Effingham, IL

**INFORMATION:** IRHA, 310 E. Adams, Springfield, IL 62701

Phone: 866/921-4742; Fax: 217/522-2729 [www.ilruralhealth.org](http://www.ilruralhealth.org)

## July 1-3, 2009

2009 NALBOH Conference

Philadelphia, PA

**INFORMATION:** NALBOH 1840 East Gypsy Lane Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402

E-mail: [Nalboh@nalboh.org](mailto:Nalboh@nalboh.org)

## 2008 ELECTION MAKES HISTORY



With a clear majority in his election to the presidency of the United States on November 4, 2008, Barack Obama has made a giant step towards overcoming one of the few black marks against the ideals of the founders of our nation.

A man of mixed ancestry—ancestry that includes an African father and a Caucasian mother—can no longer be considered unelectable. This change will reverberate throughout all levels of our society in numerous ways. 🗳️

## STORMWATER RUNOFF LAWS INEFFECTIVE

The National Academy of Science, a private organization chartered by Congress to advise the government of scientific matters, reported October 15th that the Environmental Protection Agency is failing to stem the pollution washing into waterways from cities and suburbs.



The report's authors urged "radical changes" in how the federal government regulates stormwater runoff so that all waters are clean enough for fishing and swimming.

According to Xavier Swamikannu, one of the authors, who is head of Los Angeles' Stormwater Program for the California Environmental Protection Agency, "The take-home message is the program as it has been implemented in the 18 to 20 years has largely been a failure."

Stormwater runoff is the toxic brew of oil, fertilizers and trash picked up by rain and snowmelt as the water flows over parking lots, roofs, and subdivisions.

The report said responsibility for managing stormwater must shift from developers to local governments and permits should be issued on the boundaries of a watershed, rather than state borders. Such a change probably would require a new law and take between five years to 10 years, the authors said.

While urban areas cover only three percent of the United States, it is estimated that their runoff is the primary source of pollution in 13 percent of rivers, 18 percent of lakes and 32 percent of estuaries.

Current law is ill-equipped to deal with the problem, the authors said.

Congress required the EPA in 1987 to start issuing permits under the Clean Water Act to industrial and construction sites. But lawmakers changed the focus on water pollution, from industrial discharges and sewage pipes to runoff, a problem that is much larger and harder to pinpoint.

The law is designed to target specific contaminants, when the problem with stormwater often is one of volume. A surge of water after a storm can cause streams to erode and fill waterways with sediment.

*(Excerpted from an article by Dina Cappiello on page A2 of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, October 16, 2008.)* 🗳️



## New Understanding of Cancer Through DNA Map

*“The whole-genome study seems likely to yield important information about other types of cancer as well as leukemia.”*

For the first time, researchers have decoded all the genes of a person with cancer and found a set of mutations that may have caused the disease or aided its progression.

The findings will not help patients immediately, but researchers say they could lead to new therapies and will almost certainly help doctors make better choices among current treatments, based on a more detailed genetic picture of each patient’s cancer. Though the research involved leukemia, the same techniques can also be used to study other cancers.

“This is the first of many of these whole cancer genomes to be sequenced,” said Richard Wilson, director of the Genome Sequencing Center at Washington University in St. Louis and the senior author of the study. “They’ll give us a whole bunch of clues about what’s going on in the DNA when cancer starts to bloom.”

*(Excerpted from an article by Denise Grady of the New York Times, printed on page A2 of the November 6, 2008, issue of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch)*



## HUMOR FROM THE INTERNET

### *To Exercise or Not to Exercise*

- 🌲 It is well documented that for every mile you jog, you add one minute to your life. This enables you at 85, to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$5,000 per month.
- 🌲 My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She is now 97, and we don't know where she is.
- 🌲 The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
- 🌲 I joined a health club last year, spent about \$400. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to show up.
- 🌲 I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
- 🌲 I don't exercise at all. If God meant us to touch our toes, he would have put them further up on our body.
- 🌲 I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
- 🌲 I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.
- 🌲 The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.
- 🌲 If you are going to try cross country skiing start with a small country.
- 🌲 Last, but not least, I don't jog. It makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUEST