

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Special issue on Environmental Contributors to Developmental Disabilities: Protecting vulnerable populations

Guest Edited by: Elise Miller, MEd.

According to the World Health Organization, learning and developmental disabilities make up over 10% of the global burden of disease, and environmental risk factors play a role in more than 80% of regularly reported diseases and disabilities. A growing literature suggests that exposures to certain neurotoxicants such as lead, mercury, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), brominated flame retardants, bisphenol A, solvents and other known and suspected neurotoxicants may contribute to neurological problems such as developmental disabilities. Recent research also shows that mixtures of chemicals and additional factors such as nutrition and socioeconomic status can have synergistic impacts on children's health and ability to reach their full intellectual potential. Given that the developing fetus and children are particularly vulnerable to environmental pollutants, reducing neurotoxicants in air, water, food and a range of consumer products and materials is an essential public health measure. Also integral to providing optimal environments for child development is the improvement of nutrition and social environments to augment neurological health and capacity. What do we know from the science about links between environmental factors and developmental disabilities? What can we do individually and collectively to protect vulnerable populations from pollutants and environmental concerns that can undermine healthy development?

This Special Issue of the *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education* will highlight international research and initiatives that focus on these concerns. Areas of particular interest include: studies on specific environmental impacts on children's capacity to learn and develop; research on multiple factors—such as nutrition, socioeconomic status and chemical contaminants—and their impact on neurodevelopment; interventions that have resulted in reduced exposures and improved health in community, school and/or home settings; environmental health efforts that protect those with developmental disabilities from further exposures; initiatives that promote legislation and regulation nationally and internationally to reduce the production and manufacture of neurotoxicants. All submissions must relate clearly to the theme of this Special Issue.

Guidelines for submissions:

Submission deadline for abstracts: **March 15, 2009**

Submission deadline for articles: **May 15, 2009**

Abstracts should have no more than 150-200 words and develop one or more of the themes discussed in this "Call for Manuscripts". Upon review of those abstracts received, the Guest Editor will solicit articles from particular individuals. Each article should be between 5,000-7,000 words, word-processed in English, and conform to guidelines of the 5th Edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2001). Please remove all identifying information following the title page. The ***International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*** is a peer-reviewed journal and thus every article included in this Special Issue will go through the customary peer review process before publication.

Please send abstract or request further details to:

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