This month in EHP

Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) (http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/) is pleased to announce its new impact factor of 7.03, and its inclusion, for the first time, in the category of toxicology. EHP is now the third-ranked journal in public, environmental, and occupational health, the fourth-ranked journal in toxicology, and the fifth-ranked journal in environmental sciences. The journal’s all-time high impact factor was 7.26.

The September issue of EHP examines environmental influences on aging brains and scientists’ questions about the health impacts of e-cigarettes, which are growing in popularity.

Time after Time: Environmental Influences on the Aging Brain

The population of Americans, aged 65 and older, is expected to double between 2010 and 2050, and by midcentury, the proportion of people over age 80 is projected to have quadrupled since 2000. So factors that affect this aging population are of increasing importance, particularly neurological diseases and disorders typically associated with advanced age. Investigators are studying the effects of present-day exposures and environmental influences, such as physical and mental exercise, as well as exposures that occurred much earlier in life, whose effects may only become apparent in old age.

Vaping and Health: What Do We Know About E-Cigarettes?

Are electronic cigarettes safer than conventional cigarettes, and should I switch? Physicians all over the country are encountering questions such as this from their patients, and they have no readily available answers. Out of nowhere, it seems, e-cigarettes - or electronic nicotine delivery systems, as they are formally known - are appearing at gas stations, convenience stores, and anywhere else cigarettes are sold. Advertisements boast that e-cigarettes offer health benefits by helping smokers quit, claiming that e-cigarette users only inhale harmless water vapor. The e-cigarette, it would seem, takes all the risk out of smoking. But many environmental health scientists aren’t so sure.

Featured research and related news articles this month include:

- Early Postnatal Exposure to Ultrafine Particulate Matter Air Pollution: Persistent Ventriculomegaly, Neurochemical Disruption, and Glial Activation Preferentially in Male Mice - Echoes of Autism? Inhaled Ultrafine Particles and Brain Changes in Mice
- Association of Global DNA Methylation and Global DNA Hydroxymethylation With Metals and Other Exposures in Human Blood DNA Samples - Hydroxymethylation and Metals: A Potential Epigenetic Marker for Effects of Toxic Exposures