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Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

NEWS RELEASE

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Conference will engage health professionals on environmental health threats

The first annual *Northwest Environmental Health Conference* will be held on February 6 and 7, 2009 at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) to raise awareness among health professionals about emerging environmental health issues. Topics include climate change and chemicals with potential health impacts, such as flame retardants, and Bisphenol A and phthalates that are found in plastics.

The conference will bring together healthcare professionals such as physicians, nurses, naturopathic physicians and public health practitioners to deepen their collective understanding of environmental health. The conference will work to build knowledge of tools and resources and create a foundation for institutional and public policies that protect the health of Oregon's patients, employees and community.

"For many years, Oregon has been a leader in protecting the environment. This conference is an important step in continuing that tradition, and focusing on the relationship between a healthy environment and healthy people," said Gary Oxman, MD, Health Officer for Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated that 16% of all preventable deaths in the United States can be attributed to environmental factors," said Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis MPH, PhD, Program Director for Environmental Health at the Oregon Environmental Council. "Researchers at the World Health Organization estimate that environmental factors may cause up to 33% of diseases worldwide. So we feel it is imperative to begin a lasting dialogue about ways this is affecting the Pacific Northwest, and what we as health professionals can do about it."

Who: Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), Oregon Center for Environmental Health, Multnomah County Health Department Environmental Health Services, and Physicians for Social Responsibility

What: First annual *Northwest Environmental Health Conference*

When: Feb. 6 and 7, 2009 | 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Where: Oregon Health Sciences University, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd., Portland, Oregon, 97239-3098

Space is limited. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, February 4, 2009. For more information, visit www.oeconline.org/nw-health-conference or call 503-222-1963.

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