

JEFF WEIDENHAMER

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2008
4:45 P.M.
CRAIG LECTURE HALL N292

*Lead in Consumer Products:
A Global Circle of Poison?*

Lead is a known neurotoxin that has profound effects on the neurological development of young children. We now know that concentrations of blood lead below the current 10 μg per deciliter threshold for treatment are associated with significant decreases in IQ, learning disabilities, and other effects. For this reason, lead has been eliminated as an additive to gasoline and as a component of most paints. Deteriorating lead paint in older homes is the major path of lead exposure for young children in the US. However, the dozens of recent recalls of imported toys and jewelry items for lead contamination have emphasized the need for continued vigilance in protection of children from unnecessary sources of lead exposure, and the fact that in a global economy, product safety is as good as the weakest link in the global product supply chain. This talk will review recent research on the lead content of children's products such as jewelry and toys, and evidence that lead in trinket jewelry may derive from improperly recycled lead wastes. These scrap materials include not only vehicle batteries but recycled solder from electronic wastes that have been shipped to China and other Pacific Rim countries from the US.

THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION FOR THE SPEAKER AT 4:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY IN FRONT OF N292 - REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

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