

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Inside This Issue

- 1 Judges Request Mold and Asbestos Testing at (Broward County, Florida) Courthouse
- 2 New York Passes Intro 436-A: Expansion of 2007 Safe Housing Act
- 2 Mould in Manitoba, Canada, School
- 3 Couple's Soaking Slum Nightmare (U.K.)
- 3 Spore Trap Analysis and MSQPCR in Evaluating Mold Burden in Flooded Gymnasium
- 4 Member Profile: Vince Neil
- 4 New Guidelines for Treating Pulmonary Fungal Infections
- 5 Health Woes Blamed on Condo Mold
- 5 New Products of Interest
- 6 Hypoallergenic Hotel Rooms
- 6 EPA CIAQ Meeting—February 2

Welcome New Member

No new members this week.



Judge Cheryl Aleman, 52, died December 2, just weeks after learning she had an aggressive form of lung cancer.

Judges Request Mold and Asbestos Testing at (Broward County, Florida) Courthouse

There have been several news stories about the environmental concerns in the Broward County Courthouse in Florida. The following article was published on January 11.

Worried that Judge Cheryl Alemán's surprising death last month from lung cancer may be linked to mold or asbestos contamination in the aged Broward County Courthouse, three judges have moved their chambers and requested environmental testing.

Judges Susan Greenhawt, Patti Englander Henning and Mily Rodriguez Powell, Alemán's neighbors on the ninth floor, moved Friday to temporary second-floor offices.

"There were issues with a serious illness with one or more judges in the area," Englander Henning said in a telephone interview Monday. "Prudence suggested that we request to be moved until they can test and determine what the problem is and how it can be remedied. And obviously, it was a valid enough claim that they were good enough to move us."

Judge Cheryl Alemán, 52, died December 2, just weeks after learning she had an aggressive form of lung cancer. She had visited the hospital with flu-like symptoms in early October and soon after was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.

The report concluded that Aleman's chambers had a "very high concentration of indicator fungal spore types" that may be affecting nearby areas.

To read the entire article:

[Judges Request Mold and Asbestos Testing at \(Broward County, Florida\) Courthouse](#)

See *New York Passes Intro 436-A* on page 2

New York Passes Intro 436-A: Expansion of 2007 Safe Housing Act

With 300,000 children suffering from respiratory illness, New York has one of the highest childhood asthma rates in the U.S. It is the main cause of school absenteeism and the most common cause of hospitalization for children 14 years and younger.

A report by the American Lung Association concludes that with the progressive worsening of the city's air quality, asthma is bound to become even more prevalent. Pollution is "an everyday threat to just about every single New Yorker," said Corri Freedman, director of advocacy at the lung association's New York City chapter.

Which is why the passage last Wednesday by the City Council of Intro 436-A, an expansion of the 2007 Safe Housing Act, is such welcome news. Intro 436-A is comprehensive legislation that will crack down on dangerous housing conditions.

María Cortés, a member of Make the Road New York who has been in and out of emergency rooms for years with respiratory problems triggered by mold and roach infestation, knows firsthand about the impunity with which many landlords operate.

"My building has 186 open violations, 40 of which correspond to my apartment," Cortés said. "The court ordered my building owner to make the repairs but he has done very little."

With the new law, though, Cortés thinks that is about to change.

"Tenants should not have to suffer from asthma attacks because of the owner's irresponsibility," she said. "This law will ensure tenants like my family are protected and landlords are held accountable."

"Infestations of mold and vermin that are not handled properly pose significant threats to health."

To read the entire article:

[New York Passes Intro 436-A](#)



Oxford House Elementary School, Manitoba, Canada

Mould in Manitoba, Canada, School

From Winnipeg, Manitoba:

Their school contaminated by mould, the 400 elementary school kids at Bunibonibee Cree Nation in northern Manitoba have not attended regular classes for most of the past 12 months.

The Oxford House Elementary School was shut down in mid-January 2010 after teachers and students complained of nausea and headaches.

In late September, education issues such as those at Oxford House dominated a protest in front of INAC's Winnipeg offices.

Ron Evans, grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, called the state of First Nations schools "deplorable."

"How do you attract good-quality teachers in those kind of environments?" Evans said, adding many First Nations schools receive funding 20 per cent or more below that of neighbouring schools outside their communities.

To read the entire article:

[Mould in Manitoba, Canada, School Keeping First Nation's Kids Out](#)

See *Couple's Soaking Slum Nightmare* on page 3

Couple's Soaking Slum Nightmare (U.K.)

A young Inverness couple say they are living in squalor after they were moved to a flat riddled with damp and mould.

Lewis Forbes (21) and his girlfriend Ashley MacLennan (20) have stopped sleeping in the bedroom because it is too wet.

And they say their clothes are going so mouldy in their drawers that Lewis had to sponge down a pair of trousers to wear to a funeral.

When the Highland News visited the flat we found the walls of the hallway in the flat dripping with wet.

Lewis, who believes the council rents the flat from a private landlord, said: "There is mould growing on the carpet underneath the bed in the bedroom.

"Mould grows in our drawers and in the wardrobe. Ashley has had to throw out so many pairs of shoes, clothes and belts."

Councillor Glynis Sinclair said she would be contacting the council on behalf of the couple.

She said: "Whilst Mr. Forbes has contacted housing himself I also felt that I should get in touch with them, as in this day and age nobody should be living in conditions like that. It's horrific and it's like Victorian times."

To read the entire article:

[Couple's Soaking Slum Nightmare](#)

"Their clothes are so mouldy in their drawers that Lewis had to sponge down a pair of trousers to wear to a funeral."

"...in this day and age nobody should be living in conditions like that. It's horrific and it's like Victorian times."



Mold in Lewis's and Ashley's flat (U.K.)

Spore Trap Analysis and MSQPCR in Evaluating Mold Burden in Flooded Gymnasium

A case study by KT Lin, et al, published January 1, 2011.

A school gymnasium was accidentally flooded by the fire-suppression sprinkler system. The surface water was removed immediately and, after 10 days, a professional firm engaged to dry the environment. Twenty five days after the flooding, the school decided to evaluate whether there was any mold growth in the gymnasium.

The inspector used two approaches, traditional air samples or a DNA-based analysis of dust samples. Thirty five-minute air samples (for total of 75 L of air each sample) were collected with Air-O-Cell (AOC) cassettes and the mold structures (MS) were quantified by microscopy. These samples were compared to two identical outdoor air samples. As an alternative, two dust samples were collected and quantified by mold specific quantitative PCR (MSQPCR).

Comparisons of indoor to outdoor mold concentrations in air samples were inconclusive, but applying MSQPCR to the investigation of this water-damaged environment provided a more reliable and useful answer to the extent of mold contamination than did the spore trap analysis.

This abstract can be found at the following link:

[Spore Trap Analysis and MSQPCR in Evaluating Mold Burden: A Flooded Gymnasium Case Study](#)

See *Member Profile: Vince Neil* on page 4

Member Profile: Vince Neil

Vince is one of our members in Australia. Here's his story...

Couldn't sing, couldn't dance, basically no talent, and on that basis, Vince went into Radio and TV as a presenter. After 15 years, 3 children and the desire to start his own business, Vince and his wife Pam set up a small water damage restoration company, and due to family health issues, they focused on environmental exposures after water ingresses.

During the last 20 years, his company, Network Restoration Services, has successfully restored major public and private sector buildings in Australia which have been shown to have high levels of fungal contamination and related health issues.

Mycotox has been developed to include a Mycologist and recent developments include a book collection remediation system, addressing fungal contamination, providing a log 4 fungal kill, reducing Mycotoxins to a non-detectable level and inactivating the fungal enzymes.

Our focus is currently on the development of testing which may show a fungal bio marker in human urine indicating diseased tissue and just as important may also be a direct bio marker for Breast Cancer. Ongoing research may show we are wrong but life is about a can do attitude and pushing the established barriers.

Cheers and Good Health.

Vince Neil
Mycotox



New Guidelines for Treating Pulmonary Fungal Infections

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) has issued updated clinical guidelines on treating pulmonary fungal infections, according to a statement published in the January 1, 2011, issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. The new recommendations replace 1988 ATS guidelines.

"The incidence, diagnosis, and clinical severity of pulmonary fungal infections have dramatically increased in recent years in response to a number of factors," said lead author Andrew Limper, MD, professor and chair of Pulmonary Medicine at Mayo Clinic and chair of the ATS Fungal Infections Working Group, in a news release.

The statement highlights 3 main areas of treatment recommendations: the endemic mycoses (e.g., histoplasmosis, sporotrichosis, blastomycosis, and coccidioidomycosis); fungal infections with increased prevalence in immunocompromised and critically ill patients (e.g., cryptococcosis, aspergillosis, candidiasis, and *Pneumocystis pneumonia*); and rare and emerging fungal infections.

[American Thoracic Society Issues Guidelines on Treating Pulmonary Fungal Infections](#)



Health Woes Blamed on Condo Mold

Three-and-a-half years after residents began complaining of mold and deterioration at Buttonwood Hills condominiums in Middletown, the problems persist — and residents say the community's management company and the condo association's management board are negligent.

Mold has returned to the bedrooms of Gary and Felicia Cheatham's unit. They say it's because a succession of management companies has not fixed the source of the problem — leaks in the roof decks outside.

The problem has given the entire family breathing problems, they say. Both Gary and Felicia Cheatham now have asthma, and four of their children are being treated for respiratory illnesses. The family is on dozens of medications.

(There was some remediation work, but the mold has come back.)

But as soon as the Cheathems moved back into their bedrooms after the remediation, they began to feel sick again.

"We started noticing that in the corner of the kids' room, black spots were coming back again," Gary Cheatham said. "It started getting bigger, and the kids started waking up with sore throats, hoarse coughing, runny noses. It just started over again."

[Health Woes Blamed on Condo Mold](#)



Sleep On Green 100% Natural Mattress



Gary Cheatham with the meds his family is taking

New Products of Interest

A couple of our members told me about these new products that might be of interest. Please let me know if you have experience with these products.

Sleep On Green mattresses announced that it will introduce a mattress line. The products are made in Italy from Pure Wool, Pure Cotton, Coconut Fiber, Natural Latex, and Bamboo Fiber. All of these elements are hypoallergenic, resistant to bacteria, mold, mildew and 100% biodegradable.

With over 15 years of research and development, the Sleep On Green team says it has worked to develop a mattress that is a healthy alternative to the chemical filled mattress.

[Sleep on Green 100% Natural Mattresses](#)

CleanRest has covers for pillows, mattresses, boxsprings and comforters. Their "MicronOne®" fabric technology blocks all micro-toxins larger than one micron in size, like dust mites and their waste, mold spore, pollen, pet dander and even bed bugs."

Their products are machine washable and "are 100% chemical free as well (and are) free of BPA and Lead and contain No VOCs or Phthalates."

[CleanRest products](#)

See Hypoallergenic Hotel Rooms on page 6

Hypoallergenic Hotel Rooms

Many people who have been exposed to mold have ongoing health problems that make it difficult to travel. There are concerns about air travel and hotel rooms. The following article about hypoallergenic hotel rooms may be of interest.

Even die-hard road warriors need a comfortable place to recharge after a long day. But for business travelers with allergies, asthma and other sensitivities, hotel rooms can be rife with dust mites, mold, animal dander and other allergens that set off sneezing, itchy eyes, headaches and sleepless nights.

But now, two hotel chains, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts and Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, are taking the service even further by designating permanent allergy-friendly rooms, with things like medical-grade air purifiers and chemical- and fragrance-free bath products.

The Web site "freshstay.com" plans to add icons soon that will indicate which hotels offer hypoallergenic rooms, and what chemicals are used in cleaning products, paints, sealants and bath products.

To read more about this topic:

[Hypoallergenic Hotel Rooms](#)

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http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/research_committee

Next Newsletter: Friday, January 28



In hypoallergenic rooms at the Fairmont Hotel, Vancouver, draperies are steam-cleaned and beds are featherless.

EPA CIAQ Meeting—February 2

The next meeting of the EPA CIAQ will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 1:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

The webinar will include updates from member agencies and a presentation by Dr. Arlene Blum, Visiting Scholar, UC Berkeley, titled:

Toxicity of Flame Retardants in the Building Environment: What to do About It

Click on the following link to register for the webinar:

[Register for EPA CIAQ meeting](#)



Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments