

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Inside This Issue

- 1 Judge OKs Class Action Suit in Mold Case
- 2 Environmental Illness on the Rise
- 2 Dr. Scott McMahon to Open Clinic to Treat Patients with Mold Illness
- 3 Toxic Mold Forces Family Out of Home
- 4 Member Profile: Cheryl & Frank Albert
- 4 Research Papers Added to the Website
- 4 New Jersey Proposed Laws
- 5 Mold Biotxin Illness Linked to GHS Infects Many
- 6 Crisis at Government Offices (Trinidad)
- 6 Quick Links

Welcome New Member

No new members this week.



Judge OKs Class Action Suit Against Welk Resorts

Judge OKs Class Action Suit in Mold Case

Time-share owners may proceed with class action claims accusing The Welk Group of hiding water leaks that led to the growth of serious mold and fungus throughout the resort originally opened by Lawrence Welk in 1964.

Judge Michael Anello of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California allowed lead plaintiff Hermenegildo Martinez' habitability and property disclosure requirement violations claims against The Welk Group and the Welk Resort Group to survive summary judgment.

Anello let The Welk Group remain as a defendant with the Welk Resort Group, since Martinez said The Welk Group worked on the resort as a "developer, contractor, builder and manager," had ownership interest in the properties and shared profits from time-share sales with the Welk Resort Group.

Anello also refused to dismiss the class' private nuisance claim, finding that a question of fact separated The Welk Group's claim that the time-share agreement did not give members any real property rights from the class' assertion that the time-share agreement gave members property rights similar to those conferred in a lease agreement.

Anello allowed the class' breach habitability claim for similar reasons, concluding that the issue of whether the time-share owners have a real property interest in the resort units should be determined at a later stage in the litigation.

To read the entire article:

[Judge OKs Class Action Suit Against Welk Resorts](#)

See *Environmental Illness on the Rise* on page 2

Environmental Illness on the Rise

The Fall River Health Clinic in Nova Scotia, Canada, is seeing more patients than ever. Nestled behind a small plaza in Fall River is a medical facility that has quietly operated for 15 years. The facility's staff hope to increase public awareness about what they do and the patients they treat.

Walking into the foyer, visitors are met by a polite sign advising them to disinfect hands when entering and leaving the facility. Footwear must also be removed, and no scented products are allowed.

The facility takes a two-pronged approach to environmental illness. Research into environmental illnesses and patient treatment both take place under the same roof at the Capital Health facility.

Treatment involves working with patients to help them manage their conditions by controlling their own environments as best they can. Sampalli said the centre's team approach allows patients to benefit from a variety of healthcare professionals.

Medical staff at the environmental health centre have published a number of medical papers focused on various aspects of environmental illness, including results of a double-blind study to determine patient responses to suspected triggers.

Angel De Fazio brought this article to my attention.

[Environmental Illness on the Rise](#)



Dr. McMahon to open new clinic in Roswell, New Mexico



Fall River Health Clinic, Nova Scotia, Canada

Dr. Scott McMahon to Open Clinic to Treat Patients with Mold Illness

The following story is about one of our members--Dr. Scott McMahon.

A Roswell doctor is giving up his family practice to treat people who've been sickened by mold. He got the idea after seeing a dramatic increase in the number of patients suffering from mold infection, the majority of whom spent a lot of time at Goddard High School.

Goddard High has had a problem with mold in the past. Now Dr. Scott McMahon, who's been practicing medicine in Roswell for 18 years, plans to open his own clinic treating only patients suffering from mold sickness.

Mold can accumulate anywhere there is water. Most of his patients have a genetic predisposition to getting some form of mold sickness. McMahon can test for that predisposition with a simple blood test, and the infection can be treated.

McMahon's practice will open in February (in Roswell, New Mexico).

To read the entire article:

[Doctor Plans to Treat Mold Illness](#)

See *Toxic Mold Forces Family Out of Home* on page 3

Toxic Mold Forces Family Out of Home

Adam and Dana Voss and their three young children escaped from their Genesee County home with just the clothes on their backs in late November 2010. But, it wasn't a fire that sent them running. It was black toxic mold, which wreaked such havoc with their health that they no longer could stay in their rental home.

Since that time, the Voss family has been living in the basement of the Linden home of Dana's mother and stepfather, Donna and Greg Hehn, trying to pick up the pieces of their own lives, while warning others about the dangers of mold. "I wouldn't want anyone else to have to go through what we have," said Adam.

The Voss family moved into a rental home last March in Grand Blanc. The Voss's settled into their daily routine of working—Adam as a machine setter at TDM International in Flint, and Dana as owner of WP Latchkey in Grand Blanc — plus taking care of their three children, Jenna, 4, Noah, 3 and Connor, 1.

In June, Noah began showing the first signs of illness, with vomiting and diarrhea on top of the asthma problems and celiac disease he had already had since he was born. "We took him to the doctor, thinking maybe he was sick from wheat allergies by eating the wrong food at a babysitter's or something like that," said Dana. "Then, Jenna started getting sick, and then I did, too, all with severe stomach pain."

Once they started getting sick, the illnesses never stopped. "Every three days, you knew you'd be getting sick," said Dana, who got sick enough to go to the hospital, along with Jenna and Noah. While Adam didn't get the stomach pains the rest of the family had, he experienced difficulty breathing, even with no history of asthma. Dana even had to shut down her childcare business for a while, because of her family's illnesses, and spent her days at the doctor's office, testing for parasites, water contamination, etc.

"All of a sudden, mold came breaking through the walls. Underneath the house, the crawl space was literally filled with standing water, brimming with black toxic mold."



Adam and Dana Voss and their 3 children

Toxic Mold Forces Family Out of Home (cont'd)

But, it was the youngest child, Connor, who became the sickest. "He was diagnosed by the doctor with 'failure to thrive,'" said Dana. "He was losing weight, not growing and still not walking."

As a last resort, the Voss family's doctor suggested testing the air. When Dana put out a dish to test for mold, it literally sprouted all over the dish. The doctor said mold could cause all of the symptoms shown by the family except for vomiting — unless they had been ingesting mold. "We had no idea how bad it was," said Dana. "All of a sudden, mold came breaking through the walls, and the landlord hired Clean Air Management, an air quality company out of Chelsea, to do some testing."

It turns out the situation was much worse than originally thought. Underneath the house, the crawl space was literally filled with standing water, brimming with black toxic mold. The house's heating ducts weren't sealed, which is why the Voss family was so sick. "That's why we were all throwing up," said Dana. "The heating ducts were pulling wet mold spores throughout the house. "When we found out on Nov. 24 — the day before Thanksgiving — from the company's Mold & Moisture Survey that the mold was all over the house, our furnishings, our clothes, bedding, etc., it was the most stressful day we've ever had."

[Toxic Mold Forces Family Out of Home](#)

See *Member Profile: Cheryl & Frank Albert* on page 4

Member Profile: Cheryl & Frank Albert

Cheryl and Frank Albert are members from Pennsylvania. Here's their story...

A phone call from our son's school on April 11, 2003, changed our lives forever. Colin, had become severely ill at school. Initially, his symptoms only presented at school. Later, they occurred everywhere, even while eating. For two years, we searched for a doctor to help Colin.

Spending heaps of money and getting no relief for Colin, we watched his health deteriorate. Doctors stated the obvious--avoid buildings and foods that made him sick. One doctor even suggested Chapstick to control Colin's bleeding lip when he entered sick buildings. The same doctor said there was nothing wrong with Colin until blood tests revealed toxic mold. However, since Colin was not allergic to mold, they didn't know how to treat him and wanted him for research.

Fate took us to Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker, who was able to diagnose Colin, explain his symptoms, and give us our son back. Within weeks, we started to see changes in Colin, his list of nearly 20 symptoms, shrunk to 3 or 4 symptoms.

Dr. Shoemaker also diagnosed our daughter, Kerri. Her symptoms were less obvious and totally different, so we never made the connection. We continue to see Dr. Shoemaker and have found another amazing local doctor, Colleen Pietrowski. We are thankful to them both and are more thankful to be able to utilize their expertise in restoring our children's health.

Colin graduated from 21st Century Cyber Charter School (21CCCS) and is now dealing with the illness in the next phase of his life--employment. Kerri is a 21CCCS junior and battles the side effects of her illness while pursuing her incredible softball career.

We continue to deal with the illness and educate others on toxigenic exposure. Eight years following the phone call from Colin's school, we continue to field calls and e-mails from concerned individuals. Everyone *assumes* when you put your child on the school bus there's someone making sure they are safe. We learned the hard way that just isn't so.

To learn more about us, please check out the documentary "Black Mold Exposure: It Can Happen to You."

The "Black Mold Exposure" movie was created by another one of our members—Michael Roland Williams. The Albert family is featured in the film. To order a copy, go to:

[Black Mold Exposure movie](#)



Colin & Kerri Albert

Research Papers Added to the Website

The following papers were provided by Dr. Jack Thrasher and have been added to our website.

[Fungal Exposure in Homes of Patients with Sarcoidosis: An Environmental Exposure Study \(2011\)](#)

[Mould Growth on Building Materials: Secondary Metabolites, Mycotoxins and Biomarkers \(2002\)](#)

[The Role of TH17 in Neuroimmune Disorders: Target for CAM Therapy. Part I. \(2009\)](#)

[The Role of TH17 in Neuroimmune Disorders: Target for CAM Therapy. Part II. \(2009\)](#)

New Jersey—Proposed Laws

We previously mentioned that John McBride has been working on proposed legislation with the New Jersey legislature. The proposed bills are now available.

[New Jersey proposed Establishment of Standards and Certifications](#)

[New Jersey proposed Safe Housing Act](#)

If you are interested in providing comments or support for these bills, please contact Senator Kean's office at (732) 974-0400.

See *Mold Biotoxin Illness Linked to GHS* on page 5

Mold Biotoxin Illness Linked to Goddard High School Infects Many

Experts estimate that hundreds of Roswell residents who attended Goddard High School, and other mold affected and water damaged buildings in town, have developed mold biotoxin illness.

According to Dr. Scott McMahon M.D., the disease is contracted over time, as people enter and exit “sick buildings,” a term used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Residents who have mold biotoxin illness exhibit various symptoms...but are not limited to, abdominal pain, excessive thirst, cold hands or feet, dizziness, headaches, fatigue, joint pain, light sensitivity, memory problems, pale skin and vertigo.

McMahon has tested and returned results on 35 individuals linked to GHS who have mold biotoxin illness and is waiting on data for several other patients. He also has a waiting list of individuals waiting to be seen.

“Individuals have the same number of symptoms on average,” he said. “They have the same abnormalities in their labs, the same pattern of abnormalities.”



Goddard High School, Roswell, New Mexico

“Experts estimate that hundreds of Roswell residents who attended Goddard High School, and other mold affected and water damaged buildings in town, have developed biotoxin illness.”

Mold Biotoxin Illness Linked to GHS (cont’d)

Mona Slayton, a former dance team coach at GHS, recalls her horrific symptoms and her experiences with mold at GHS.

“I had metallic tastes in my mouth and skin rashes,” she said. “In 2003, I started looking for answers to this. I saw plenty of things on the campus. There was always a lot of water damage—water standing...ceilings had collapsed...they were constantly covering things up. I could always smell and taste chemicals.”

Doctors, parents and others cannot understand why GHS is still open, as administrators, students and teachers may continue to breath in toxins from a building that experts have labeled a “sick building.”

However, one thing that cannot be refuted are the lab results that show how sick former GHS employees, teens and many others are. The date, which yields abnormal results across the board, for 35 tested individuals, shows how alarming the problem of mold biotoxin illness is in the community.

To read the entire article:

[Mold Biotoxin Illness Linked to GHS Infects Many](#)

Crisis at Government Offices (Trinidad)

Sick Building Syndrome is at crisis proportions in T&T (Trinidad and Tobago) with scores of public servants complaining of rashes, itches, asthma attacks and boils on the eye. Watson Duke, president of the Public Service Association (PSA), estimates that Sick Building Syndrome is affecting some 20 percent of public sector workers.

“We have people in their early 20s having growths in their eye the size of a pea, we get complaints of itching and scratching, people complaining of dry cough and sinus,” he said.

He charged: “The Government wants to treat workers like pigs and expect them to operate like lambs and say nothing.”

Individuals with chronic exposure to the toxin reported cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue and dermatitis.

The sickness of many frustrated workers is forcing “hundreds” to leave work early.

The Agriculture Ministry at King’s Wharf in San Fernando is sick. Three employees have died of cancer and a fourth is now dying from the disease.

Duke said there was an urgent need for an environmental toxicologist, and the PSA plans to hire such an expert to do blood testing on public sector employees. “We need a specially trained person who will not only test the environment but also test for different toxins in the blood.”

The article includes a list of government buildings identified as sick buildings in Trinidad-Tobago.

To read the entire article:

[Crisis at Government Offices](#)

Next Newsletter: Friday, February 11



Trinidad House, one of the sick buildings in Port-of-Spain (Trinidad)

Quick Links

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Members:
<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/members>

Personal Stories:
http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/personal_stories

Health Effects:
http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health_effects.html

Research Committee:
http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/research_committee

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments