

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Inside This Issue

- 1 GIHN New Members
- 1 GIHN Position Statement
- 1 Future Mold Problems in Homes Improperly Remediated
- 2 Mycotox Receives Approval to Move Forward with Breast Cancer Study
- 2 Particulate Matter Air Pollution Connected to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease
- 3 New York Appellate Court Rules that Mold Case Can Go Forward
- 4 Member Profile: Sandi Trend
- 5 Gut Bacteria Liberate Hidden Toxins Found in Grains
- 5 Critical Mould Situation in Quebec Schools (Canada)
- 6 Mould Spreading Throughout Eltham Housing (U.K.)
- 6 New Jersey--Proposed Bill to Establish Mold Exposure Limits
- 6 Quick Links

GIHN New Members

Timothy Corr lives in Troy, Michigan. He is an attorney with [248lawyers](#) and handles lawsuits involving mold and water damage.

Terry Young lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. She and her daughter were exposed to mold in their home and now have multiple health problems.

Please join me in welcoming Tim and Terry.

GIHN Position Statement

The GIHN press release for our newly updated Position Statement has been moved to a new website. To read the press release, go to this link:

[Global Burden of Indoor Air Contaminants](#)

Future Mold Problems in Homes Improperly Remediated

Mold left behind after Superstorm Sandy will run wild in Gerritsen Beach when warm weather comes, relief groups warn.

Storm-ravaged neighborhoods citywide face a health menace from mold lurking in improperly cleaned homes, the Daily News revealed in a front-page special report Sunday.

The danger is especially acute in the blue-collar waterfront community because nearly all its 2,000 homes were flooded during Sandy.

"Gerritsen Beach has the worst mold problem I've ever seen — and it's going to get worse," said Eric Klein, CEO of CAN-DO.org.

"It's like watching a powderkeg with a lit fuse," said Klein, who has done relief work at sites hard hit by hurricanes for 20 years.

Hundreds of neighborhood homes have been rebuilt after ineffective cleanup which left mold festering behind their new walls.

The deadly fungus is lodged beneath the surface of wood, concrete and sheetrock — ready to erupt when springtime brings high humidity and warm temperatures. Residents will have to tear up reconstructed homes to get rid of it.

"This neighborhood is going to get crushed all over again in the spring," said Michael Taylor of Gerritsen Beach Cares, who fears some homes will become so overrun with mold they'll have to be condemned.

Residents already battling the foul fungus are spooked by the threat of a spring mold explosion.

[Gerritsen Beach beware: A warm weather mold menace is feared in the Sandy-struck neighborhood](#)

See *Mycotox...breast cancer study* on page 2

Mycotox Receives Approval to Move Forward with Breast Cancer Study

Good news comes to those who wait. Vince Neil from Mycotox, a Newcastle (Australia) based company, recently received the good news from the Family Planning's Ethics Committee that he had been granted Ethics approval for a Pilot study into Breast Cancer.

The study is being conducted by Mr. Vincent Neil, the CEO of Mycotox Pty Ltd, Australia, and Dr. Jack Thrasher, PhD toxicologist, of Thrasher & Associates Medical/Legal Consultants, U.S.A. The company, Mycotox Pty Ltd, performs commercial testing for indoor microbial contamination and has found links in diseased breast tissue and the contamination within the homes of the individual.

Understanding the causes and risk factors associated with breast cancer is important for the future treatment and prevention of this disease. This study is examining a possible association between breast cancer and a fungus/mould which is a common environmental contaminant. This study will compare results obtained from the analysis of both the indoor environments and breast tissue samples of women with breast cancer and those free from breast cancer. In this way, it will be possible to determine whether environmental exposure to the fungus, bacteria and associated toxins has the potential to act as a risk factor for breast cancer.

The information gained during this study may allow us to identify a novel risk factor for breast cancer. In the long-term, the project may have the potential to reduce the burden of this disease on the wider community.

Vince Neil says, "We are only stepping onto the bottom rung of the ladder. It's still a long way to the top."

To learn more about Mycotox:

<http://mycotox.com.au/>

To read the Mycotox article about breast cancer and mycotoxins, click [here](#).



Vince Neil, CEO of Mycotox Pty Ltd, Australia

Particulate Matter Air Pollution Connected to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease

Chronic exposure to particulate matter air pollution is known to cause inflammation leading to respiratory- and cardiovascular-related sickness and death. Mexico City Metropolitan Area children exhibit an early brain imbalance in genes involved in oxidative stress, inflammation, and innate and adaptive immune responses. Early dysregulated neuroinflammation, brain microvascular damage, production of potent vasoconstrictors, and perturbations in the integrity of the neurovascular unit likely contribute to progressive neurodegenerative processes.

The accumulation of misfolded proteins coincides with the anatomical distribution observed in the early stages of both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. We contend misfolding of hyperphosphorylated tau (HP τ), alpha-synuclein, and beta-amyloid could represent a compensatory early protective response to the sustained systemic and brain inflammation. However, we favor the view that the chronic systemic and brain dysregulated inflammation and the diffuse vascular damage contribute to the establishment of neurodegenerative processes with childhood clinical manifestations.

Friend turns Foe early; therefore, implementation of neuroprotective measures to ameliorate or stop the inflammatory and neurodegenerative processes is warranted in exposed children. Epidemiological, cognitive, structural, and functional neuroimaging and mechanistic studies into the association between air pollution exposures and the development of neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration in children are of pressing importance for public health.

[Early Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease Pathology in Urban Children: Friend versus Foe Responses](#)

See *New York Appellate Court ruling* on page 3

New York Appellate Court Rules that Mold Case Can Go Forward

The motion court incorrectly interpreted our ruling in *Fraser v 301-52 Townhouse Corp.* ([57 A.D.3d 416](#) [2008], *appeal dismissed* [12 N.Y.3d 847](#) [2009]), as setting forth a categorical rule requiring dismissal of plaintiff's toxic mold claim due to failure meet the standard of scientific reliability set forth in *Frye v United States* (293 F 1013 [DC Cir 1923]). In *Fraser*, another case involving injuries arising out of exposure to toxic mold, we affirmed dismissal of the plaintiff's personal injury claim because the plaintiff's submissions failed to raise a triable issue of fact. We never disavowed the underlying theory that exposure to mold may, under certain circumstances, give rise to respiratory and other ailments. Indeed, this Court was careful to limit its holding in *Fraser*, explicitly stating, "We stress that our holding does not set forth any general rule that dampness and mold can never be considered the cause of a disease, only that such causation has not been demonstrated by the evidence presented by plaintiffs here" (57 AD3d at 418).

The motion court erred in finding that plaintiff's proof was not "strong enough to constitute a causal relationship," or that the methodologies used to evaluate her condition failed to meet the *Frye* standard (26 Misc.3d 1211[A], 2009 NY Slip Op 52707[U], *2-3 [2009]). The focus of the *Frye* inquiry "should not be upon how widespread [a] theory's acceptance is, but should instead consider whether a reasonable quantum of legitimate support exists in the literature for [an] expert's views" (*Marsh v Smyth*, [12 A.D.3d 307](#), 312 [2004, Saxe, J., concurring]). Even the dissent does not dispute that plaintiff's theory of causation finds some support in the scientific literature¹ (*compare Lara v New York City Health & Hosps. Corp.*, [305 A.D.2d 106](#), 106 [2003] [complete absence of any clinical data or formal studies supporting expert's theory that a precipitous delivery, without significant bleeding, could give rise to cerebral palsy arising six months after birth; trial court noted that expert "could not point to a reported case and could not point to a medical writing that set forth his theory even in general terms"]² Since plaintiff's expert's opinions relating plaintiff's condition to the mold infestation find "some support in existing data, studies [and] literature" (*Marsh*, 12 AD3d at 313), namely, studies that have found a statistically significant relationship between mold and various respiratory maladies, the *Frye* standard is satisfied.



New York Appellate Court

New York Appellate Court Rules that Mold Case Can Go Forward (cont'd)

The following information was provided in the [news article](#).

An appeals court on Tuesday clarified a 2008 ruling, finding that it did not bar individuals from pursuing claims that they developed illnesses from toxic mold.

In a 3-2 decision, the [Appellate Division, First Department](#), held that Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Marcy Friedman erred when she dismissed a suit brought by Brenda Cornell against the owners of her apartment building at 360 W. 51st St. Cornell claimed she suffered dizziness, a rash, congestion and other symptoms due to the presence of dangerous mold in the building, where she lived for six years.

"We never disavowed the underlying theory that exposure to mold may, under certain circumstances, give rise to respiratory and other ailments," wrote Justice Sallie Manzanet-Daniels for the majority, which included Justices David Saxe and Sheila Abdus-Salaam.

Morrell Berkowitz, the lawyer for Cornell, said **the decision has "tremendous significance"** for similarly situated plaintiffs in the First Department.

"It's not as clear-cut as smoking causes cancer, yet," he said of the link between mold and illness. "But it's pretty damn close. It's certainly not junk science."

Click [here](#) to read the entire Court ruling

Click [here](#) to read the news article

See *Member Profile: Sandi Trend* on page 4

Member Profile: Sandi Trend

Sandi Trend became involved in the mold issue after her son, David Bell, became ill while working on laboratory research projects at AgraQuest. Here is part of David's story and Sandi's tireless pursuit of answers:

David was in good health when he started his employment at Agraquest as an Assistant Researcher-Formulations. Agraquest is a Research & Development (R&D) biotech company located in Davis, California, that searches the world for novel bacteria and fungi for development of products deemed to be "natural" pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, soil treatments, etc.

David worked in Formulation Chemistry with lateral responsibilities in Fermentation/Microbiology and Entomology and assisted other Agraquest scientists with their bacterial, fungal and mold projects and experiments.

Five months after he joined Agraquest, with purulent bloody pus draining from his nose, an excruciating headache and vomiting for days, he told his supervisor he was sick, clocked out and went to Immediate Care Medical Clinic where he was put on a broad spectrum antibiotic.

Three days later, he saw Dr. McKennan at Sacramento ENT. By that time, the left side of his face and teeth were numb, combined with excruciating headaches, visual problems and eye pain, light headiness and dizziness, severe nasal obstruction and congestion, difficulty breathing through his nose, bleeding from his nose, excruciating sinus pain and pressure, trouble with his sense of smell, could only breathe through his mouth, blood in his sputum, gastrointestinal problems and, not surprisingly, he couldn't sleep.

Dr. McKennan referred David to Dr. Nancy Appelblatt at Sacramento ENT who, 7 days after he had sought emergency medical care, scheduled him for the 1st of what would become 4 major sinus surgeries.

During pre-op for the 1st sinus surgery, David told Dr. Appelblatt, in front of 3 witnesses, "I want this cultured. I think I got something from the lab". Three years later, David learned that a culture was never done during his 1st sinus surgery. Click [here](#) to read the lab report.



Sandi Trend

Member Profile: Sandi Trend (cont'd)

Several years later, it was discovered, that the CEO and founder of Agraquest, Pam Marrone, sat on the board of the same hospital system where Dr. Appelblatt had operating privileges.

David has had numerous in-office sinus procedures throughout the years. Because of the constant, ongoing infections--not only affecting his sinuses but spreading--David continues to have constant sinus infections and physicians have told him, "I don't know what this is," and "I've never seen anything like this before."

David reached the point where he couldn't produce the required amount of B-cells for an intact immune system. Upon seeing an immunologist for the first time in his life, he was told he would have to have IV Immunoglobulin Infusions (possibly for life). Every 28 days for 3 years, David was hooked to an IV pump in the hospital receiving Immunoglobulin infusions. To this day he continues to have an immune deficiency.

Even after all legal avenues for compensation seem to have closed, **Sandi has lost none of her drive to expose what happened to David and warn other workers of what they are up against. "We can sit around and get mad all we want," she says, "but somebody's got to change this."**

Sandi is continuing her advocacy efforts as a participant in the newly founded Injured Workers National Network (IWNN). Check out their [new page on Facebook](#) and help spread the word.

For more information about David's story and the dangers of working in the biotech industry, click [here](#) and [here](#).

See *Gut Bacteria Liberate Hidden Toxins* on page 5

Gut Bacteria Liberate Hidden Toxins Found in Grains

Crops such as wheat, corn, and peanuts sometimes harbor chemicals from molds that grow on the plants. Some of these compounds are seemingly harmless derivatives of toxins produced by the fungi. **For the first time, researchers have shown that human gut bacteria can break down these compounds and release the toxins, which can cause gastrointestinal and neurological damage.**

The findings strongly suggest that these masked toxins may not stay hidden within our digestive tracts, and that government agencies may need to regulate the chemicals, the researchers say.

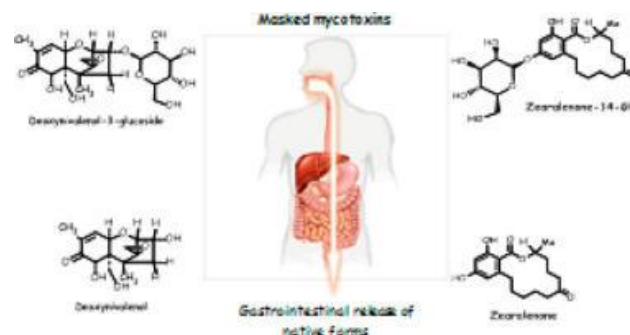
Scientists have long known that fungi, such as *Fusarium graminearum*, deposit toxins on food crops. These so-called mycotoxins can contaminate the food supply, causing a wide range of nasty effects and even death in people and livestock. As a result, many countries set a limit for the amount of mycotoxins in food and animal feed.

But in the past decade, scientists have discovered that mycotoxins can hide. The toxins are harmful to the crops themselves, so, as a defense strategy, the plants neutralize the mycotoxins by tacking on a sugar or sulfate group to the chemicals. Because of this chemical modification, these masked mycotoxins slip past current detection methods used by food safety inspectors. Also scientists don't know much about the toxicity of the derivatives.

If cereal grains hold masked mycotoxins, what happens to the compounds during human digestion?

These are the first reports that, under body-like conditions, human gut bacteria can unmask mycotoxins, says Franz Berthiller, at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, in Vienna. He points out that the toxicology of the masked compounds needs further study. In particular, researchers must determine how much of the freed toxin reaches the bloodstream, he says. If the toxins are liberated only inside the large intestine, the body may absorb very little of the chemicals, Berthiller adds.

[Gut Bacteria Liberate Hidden Toxins Found in Grains](#)



Gut Bacteria Liberate Hidden Toxins Found in Grains

Critical Mould Situation in Quebec Schools (Canada)

A coalition of parents, teachers, and other staff working at Quebec's largest school board is demanding the government turn over the funds necessary to fix an escalating mould problem in several of its schools.

Since 2011, six schools with the Commission Scolaire de Montreal have closed due to mould, and about twenty are being monitored.

Members of the newly-formed coalition say the situation is critical and is only going to get worse.

"It's in really bad shape and if we keep up with the financing we have now, it's going to be atrocious," says Alain Marois, spokesperson for the Coalition and president of the Alliance des professeurs et professeurs de Montréal.

The coalition is demanding \$100-million from the PQ government every year for the next ten years.

"We need this money right now, but we know it's impossible to get it all in one big chunk."

He adds that many children and staff members have fallen sick, and they highly suspect it's related to the mould and poor air quality in the schools.

"Teachers had to be kept off work and some of them can't go back because their health is endangered by the mould."

[Critical Mould Situation at School Board](#)

See *Mould in Housing in U.K.* on page 6

Mould Spreading throughout Eltham Housing (U.K.)

Damp creeping through Eltham has forced one family to sleep on a single mattress in their living room to escape a "3-D" black mould.

While another Eltham mum says she has to climb into her children's bunk beds to flee the mouldy menace in her bedroom.

News Shopper received three independent reports of the growing problem in Eltham council properties in the space of one week.

Ryan Homewood, who lives in Linsted Court, resorted to sleeping on a mattress with his partner Gemma Crutch, six-year-old son Heddy and three-year-old daughter Milly as the bedrooms' mould was so bad.

He said: **"It is all black. It is like 3D - it looks like it is sticking out of the wall."**

"We have put our mattress into the front room and slept on that.

"My children haven't stopped coughing so it is getting a bit worrying."

Mr. Homewood says the family has contacted the council repeatedly and cleaned the fungus off themselves but it keeps returning.

In nearby Elmbrook Gardens, Jenny Sullivan says she has been living with "smelly" mould for five years which also means she cannot use her own bedroom.

The 31-year-old mother-of-two said: "It is bad. I have never been able to use my bedroom.

"I feel sorry for my kids because if someone comes round we have to apologise for the smell."

[Eltham Damp in Council Houses](#)

[Next Newsletter: April 1, 2013](#)



New Jersey--Proposed Bill to Establish Mold Exposure Limits

The bill (A-1588) would establish standards for exposure limits to mold in residential buildings, and procedures for the inspection, identification, and evaluation of the interior of residential buildings for mold.

"This creates rules and regulations that currently don't exist to protect the public health and safety against mold," said Benson (D-Mercer/Middlesex).

"Mold can be hazardous even at low levels given the length of time exposed. Guidelines and guidance on mold abatement in residential buildings should have been established before now," said Wagner (D-Bergen and Passaic). "We have a chance to strengthen policy and increase protection for families of residential buildings with this legislation. Protecting our families and children against health and safety hazards are top priority."

[New Jersey Bill to Establish Mold Exposure Limits and Create Certification Program](#)

Quick Links:

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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

Position Statement: http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/files/GIHN_position_statement_Revised_12_17_2012.pdf

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments