

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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Parkinson's Disease and Bacterial Endotoxins

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a common neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the progressive loss of dopaminergic (DA) neurons in the substantia nigra. A bacterial endotoxin-based experimental model of PD has been established, representing a purely inflammation-driven animal model for the induction of nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurodegeneration. This model, by itself or together with genetic and toxin-based animal models, provides an important tool to delineate the precise mechanisms of neuroinflammation-mediated dopaminergic neuron loss. Here, we review the characteristics of this model and the contribution of neuroinflammatory processes, induced by the *in vivo* administration of bacterial endotoxin, to neurodegeneration. Furthermore, we summarize the recent experimental therapeutic strategies targeting endotoxin-induced neuroinflammation to elicit neuroprotection in the nigrostriatal dopaminergic system. The potential of the endotoxin-based PD model in the development of an early-stage specific diagnostic biomarker is also emphasized.

Mold Grievance Filed Against St. Joseph Health System in Humboldt County, California

The California Nurses Association filed a grievance last week with St. Joseph Health System-Humboldt County on behalf of several registered nurses at its Eureka hospital whom the CNA claims have been affected by mold found growing in the new tower, still under construction, as well as in the Progressive Care Unit in an existing building connected to the tower.

The grievance, dated May 2 and addressed to Linda Cook, vice president of human resources, says the nurses "have experienced significant health symptoms" that include "severe and chronic headaches, sinus infections, heart palpitations, skin and eye irritation, congestion, and fatigue."

"We started talking to each other and realized a bunch of us were having the same symptoms," said one nurse. "And some of these are people with no history of asthma, who grew up in Humboldt County and who never had an issue with mold before."

In September, according to documents procured from the hospital by CNA labor representative Ian Selden, tests for mold spores in the new tower under construction came back positive for several kinds of mold in a few locations, including in some spots abundant amounts of the highly toxic aspergillus.

Donahue said some of the nurses have filed worker's compensation claims with the hospital, while others have not. Some (even one who didn't file) were contacted by a worker's comp investigation firm, and one nurse who filed for worker's comp had her request for a referral to get a toxicology test done denied. The hospital, Donahue said, appears to be denying any connection between mold in the hospital and the mold toxins present in the nurses who've been tested.

[Mold Grievance](#)

See *Schools Need Repairs for Mould* on page 2

Canada: 15 P.E.I. Schools Need Repairs for Mould

The Department of Education has labeled 15 of P.E.I.'s (Prince Edward Island's) 62 schools as a high priority for repairs to deal with problems of mould and moisture.

Education Minister Doug Currie ordered inspections of all Island schools after mould was discovered at Elm Street School in Summerside last year. That school was closed while repairs were made, and since then Morell Consolidated and Spring Park Elementary have been closed for repairs.

Among the 15 schools targeted for priority repairs, Colonel Gray High School in Charlottetown stands out because some large-scale mould issues have been identified there.

The inspection report recommends that the basement not be used even for storage. It requires a level three mould remediation — the highest level. That means mould was found spread out over an area of a 100 square feet [9.2 square metres] or more.

The problem is complicated by the presence of asbestos in some of the school's materials. Because of these concerns, much of the repair work necessary at the 15 schools won't be carried out until the summer. At Bluefield High School, there have been attempts this year to fix the mould problem with some classrooms being taken out of use for a time. Mould has now been discovered in the cafeteria. Sherwood Elementary and Englewood School also have a number of mould and water-related issues.



Colonel Gray High School, Canada



Prince Edward Island, Canada

Canada: 15 P.E.I. Schools Need Repairs for Mould (continued)

Some of the new schools identified with problems are

- Bluefield: mould reported within the cafeteria.
- Colonel Gray: large-scale mould in the basement.
- Sherwood: visible mould found in radiators in two rooms.
- Englewood: visible mould on ceiling tiles in the staff room and library.
- East Wiltshire and Stonepark: minor mould in numerous areas

Almost all of the high priority schools are in the Eastern School District.

"We need to make sure our buildings are healthy and safe. This boils down to putting a plan in place that is a proactive plan as opposed to a reactive plan." Owen Parkhouse, president of the P.E.I. Home and School Association, said maintenance budgets have been squeezed for too long.

To read the entire article:

[15 P.E.I. Schools Need Repairs for Mould](#)

See *Callous Landlord Prosecuted* on page 3

Callous Landlord Prosecuted After Allowing Rental Property to Become Dangerous

A landlord has been prosecuted after allowing a property he owned to become hazardous to live in.

Steven Boote from Coventry had rented out the house on Tile Hill to David Whorlow for decades, but it had fallen into disrepair and was dangerously run-down.

The home was saturated with damp and mould an inch thick in some places, while the cooking facilities were inadequate and electrical hazards were also present.

Furthermore, no gas safety checks had been carried out and the tenant had been living without gas and hot water.

A health inspector described the property as the "worst house I have seen in ten years" and Mr. Boote admitted he had not acted professionally.

Sentencing him to a six-month suspended prison sentence and community service, magistrate Ian Gillespie said: "You showed callous disregard to your tenant's plight and steps you did take to comply with orders were totally inadequate. You did nothing whatsoever to rectify the situation."

In September 2010, the Association of Residential Lettings Agents warned that tenants in the private rented sector all over the UK could be being put at risk by unscrupulous landlords due to a lack of sufficient regulation.

It criticised the Selective Licensing powers, calling them insufficient and calling for a national scheme to regulate the private rented sector, strengthening the obligations of landlords to protect their residents.

To read the entire article:

[Callous Landlord Prosecuted After Allowing Rental Property to Become Dangerous](#)



Mold in landlord Steven Boote's rental property

Longer-Term Housing Will be Next Problem Encountered by Flood Victims

As flooding caused by the Mississippi River slowly continued to ebb on Tuesday, officials in Memphis are looking ahead to the need for longer-term housing for those affected.

"I think the real challenge is now those folks who have been displaced from their homes and not being able to return because of such high water," said Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Bob Nations.

More than 1,500 people from properties flooded by tributaries and in low-lying areas have applied for federal assistance. Mobile homes were hit particularly hard with at least 700 damaged by floodwaters, according to the office of preparedness.

Five emergency shelters in Memphis, Millington and Bartlett housed a total of about 525 people Monday night.

While maintaining the shelters because some residents are still living without utilities and other necessities, emergency planning officials are looking toward the next phase of helping to find more permanent housing.

[Longer-Term Housing Will be Next Problem Encountered by Flood Victims](#)

Member Profile: Kathleen Manganaro

I knew nothing about CFS, let alone mold, when I started my quest for health recovery in 2006 after getting seriously ill for the third time while working as a speech pathologist in a school district. I suffered a heart attack in January 2008 which was caused by a CFS specialist at the Pittsburgh Fibro and Fatigue Center within a month of starting his medications. His high dose of medications, without properly ramping them up, was the cause--according to other doctors. The doctors told me I would never have had a heart attack. In fact, I had passed two stress tests, a nuclear and a treadmill test only a few months earlier. I also did not have coronary artery disease, but my LAD collapsed due to my body's inability to handle the medications.

Afterwards, I spent much of my time on various CFS support groups. It was on these groups that I met Erik Johnson and Lisa Petrisson who were describing the effects of mold as they pertain to CFS. As I digested what they were saying, it brought my whole story into perspective. Mold was the key player, if not the only reason I got sick--not once, but possibly three times. The first episode was in 1983 in a school building with mold and asbestos where young teachers were dying of cancers within a short time of diagnosis and others were sick with similar symptoms as I had. The second time was in 1991 when I suffered a twin-twin transfusion pregnancy while I was still in the moldy building. From 1992 until 2003, my health was stable because I was transferred to a new school building. Then in 2003, I was reassigned rooms and worked in an office in the basement. I saw water marks and peeling paint on the wall but no visible signs of mold. My symptoms returned and got worse over time. I had to leave at the end of May 2007 because I couldn't function. One other teacher, that I am aware of, also got sick using that room.

Erik Johnson has a chapter in Dr. Shoemaker's books ("Surviving Mold" and "Mold Warriors"). Lisa's and Erik's information brought me to the Global Indoor Health Network and several other mold-related support groups. Their new information convinced me that I needed to have my M.D. brother run several of Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker's labs. Results indicate I am in the dreaded genotype category where both molds and chemicals affect me adversely. If only I had known this information beforehand, my life would be much different. At this time, I am in congestive heart failure, and I received SSI disability benefits on the first try without the assistance of a lawyer. I am on permanent disability from my job as a school speech/language pathologist.

On May 10, 2011, I gave a speech before the CFS Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. To watch the video or read my speech, please go to the following links:

Kathleen Manganaro [video](#)

Kathleen Manganaro [speech](#)



Kathleen Manganaro

New Papers Added to GIHN Website

The following papers and articles were provided by Dr. Jack Thrasher and John McBride.

[Cedars-Sinai Research Deepens Understanding of Most Common Gastrointestinal Disorder in U.S., Linking it to Bacterial Overgrowth, Food Poisoning](#) (2011)

[High-Frequency Triazole Resistance Found in Nonculturable Aspergillus fumigates from Lungs of Patients with Chronic Fungal Disease](#) (2011) by David W. Denning, et al

[\(The\) Myeloid Transcription Factor KLF2 Regulates the Host Response to Polymicrobial Infection and Endotoxic Shock](#) (2011) by Ganapati H. Mahabeleshwar, et al

[New Pathway Affecting Lifespan Identified: Discovery Advances Study of Diet and Longevity](#) (2011)

[Smarter Treatment for Killer Infections](#) (2011)



See *Granada Lakes Villas Fiasco* on page 5

Couple Wrestling to Put Life Back Together after Granada Lakes Villas Fiasco

David Hjelseth and his girlfriend, Denee Sidenstricker, bought a condo in Granada Lakes Villas in 2006, paying extra for a package of upgrades the developer offered as a sales incentive.

After moving into the condo in East Naples, Hjelseth, a licensed plumber, said he quickly realized improvements had been made that violated Florida's building code. He's been in a legal battle to get his money back for more than three years.

Just months after moving in, mold started to appear on walls because of leaks behind them. Hjelseth blames it all on an unlicensed contractor that his community's developer hired to remodel his condo.

"Basically everything that they did was not done professionally, or up to code," he said. "There were no inspections."

Concerned about their safety, Hjelseth and his girlfriend moved out of their condo about three years ago and sued the developer to get a refund.

Since they've left, black mold has spread throughout the condo, though the air-conditioning continues to run.

Mold is a problem in the other condos that were renovated in the community, near the corner of Radio Road and Santa Barbara Boulevard.



Mold at Granada Lakes Villas



*Granada Lakes Villas condos
in East Naples, Florida*

Couple Wrestling to Put Life Back Together after Granada Lakes Villas Fiasco (cont'd)

In July of last year, a judge awarded Hjelseth and his girlfriend a nearly \$336,000 judgment, which included a refund of the \$228,900 purchase price, more than \$9,000 in closing costs, attorneys fees and other court-related expenses. The developer has refused to pay the judgment.

In an attempt to escape the judgment, the developer transferred its ownership in Granada Lakes Villas from one company to another, Hjelseth and Sidenstricker allege in a lawsuit.

As they wait for their refund, Hjelseth and Sidenstricker have stopped paying their mortgage on the condo. Their lender has filed to foreclose, but has agreed to stall the case because it knows about the problems with the condo and the judgment, Rankin said.

The couple can't afford to make the mortgage payment after having to buy another house and paying cash for it. They can't sell or rent the condo because it's unsafe and filled with mold.

[Couple Wrestling to Put Life Back Together after Granada Lakes Villas Fiasco](#)

Anti-Asthma Crusaders Battle Epidemic in Upper Manhattan

Twice a day, adorable fourth-grader Emmanuel Perez sits on his trundle bed, places a mask over his face and breathes in steroids to open his airwaves. He could die if he didn't.

Like thousands of kids who live in East Harlem public housing, Emmanuel, 9, suffers from asthma.

The asthma triggers in their neatly kept but decaying apartment would be worse if not for Ray Lopez - the director of environmental health at the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services (LSA) on E. 115th Street. He has been making house calls since 2001.

"Ray came in and showed me how to get rid of the extra dust [no carpets or curtains]; how to plug up the walls to keep mice out, and how to clean the cabinets to keep the roaches out," said Graves, whose 11-year-old son, Mikael, also has asthma.

"It's mind-boggling how much this program helped us. He makes me feel more confident, like I have some control over these dangerous pollutants."

LSA's innovative program dispatches trained workers to people's apartments, where they teach families about the environmental hazards that trigger asthma - and show them how to improve indoor air quality.

Lopez said the nonprofit has helped 1,000 families to date, but given the alarming numbers of children suffering, and the often slow response from the New York City Housing Authority to make repairs, much more needs to be done.

"It's disheartening for me to see these conditions and to hear Asia, and other families in our program, tell us that they report complaints to the Housing Authority's centralized call center and yet nothing gets resolved. No one should have to endure this," said Lopez.



Asia Graves, with her sons Emmanuel and Mikael

Anti-Asthma Crusaders Battle Epidemic in Upper Manhattan (continued)

LSA got welcome word on Monday that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a \$549,000 grant for the group to go door to door, rigorously assessing and improving indoor conditions in East Harlem's public housing.

The statistics are alarming. East Harlem children shoulder a disproportionately high burden of asthma relative to the rest of the city and the country.

Nearly 19% of East Harlem 4- and 5-year-olds have asthma, double the New York City rate.

"No one, especially a child, should be worried that their home is making them sick," said Gant.

[Anti-Asthma Crusaders Battle Epidemic](#)

Quick Links

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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

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

Next Newsletter: Friday, June 3, 2011

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments