

# GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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## GIHN New Member

**Mary Ackerley, M.D.** lives in Tucson Arizona. She treats patients injured by exposure to mold, and she recently earned the new certification from Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Mary Ackerley.

## Multiple Deaths and Illnesses due to Airborne Fungus in California Prisons

California Governor Jerry brown says "It is premature to move more than 3,000 inmates out of two state prisons until more is known about an airborne fungus that is being blamed for nearly three-dozen inmate deaths and hundreds of hospitalizations."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

## Nearly 5 Million Asthmatics Could Benefit from Antifungal Therapy

An estimated 4,837,000 asthmatics with allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) could benefit substantially from antifungal treatment, say researchers from The University of Manchester and the University of Toronto. Their work, published today in the journal *Medical Mycology*, has also re-estimated the total number of asthmatics worldwide – to reveal a staggering 193 million sufferers. Twenty-four million asthma sufferers live in the United States, 20 million each in India and China, and seven million in the United Kingdom.

Clinical studies have shown that oral antifungal drugs significantly improve symptoms and asthma control in asthmatics with ABPA, treatment endorsed by the Cochrane Collaboration. This is the first time that a global estimate of ABPA numbers has been made.

In national league tables of asthma rates in adults, only Australia and Sweden have a higher prevalence than the UK. In global league tables of ABPA occurrence, New Zealand tops the list with a 3.5% rate in new patients attending chest clinics at hospitals. The rates were 2.6% in Cape Town, 2.3% in Saudi Arabia, 2.5% in China and 0.7% in an older study from Ireland. No population-based studies have been done.

In addition to standard asthma therapy, the antifungal therapy used is itraconazole—now a generic, inexpensive antifungal—with a response rate of 60%. The researchers also found that antifungal therapy also benefits patients with severe asthma sensitized to fungi, called SAFS. Alternatives include voriconazole and posaconazole, which have 75-80% response rates. In a recent assessment of voriconazole and posaconazole for both ABPA and SAFS, 75% of patients were able to stop taking oral corticosteroids, a major benefit, and 38% of patients had their asthma severity downgraded on antifungal therapy.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *Is Honolulu Hale Safe?* on page 2

## Is Honolulu Hale Safe?

Honolulu Hale on the corner of King and Punchbowl streets is included in many travel guides as a must-see piece of island architecture.

Built in 1928, the California-Spanish style facade was modeled after the centuries old Bargello palace in Florence, Italy, and includes an interior courtyard and speaker's balcony.

Honolulu city hall's majestic white walls and red rooftop tiles are a welcome structural complement to downtown Honolulu's other historic dwellings, including Iolani Palace and Kawaiahao Church.

But step inside and things get a little gross. **Mold, asbestos and lead paint permeate the walls, floors, windowsills and air ducts.**

Last year, a [188-page report](#) detailed the problems, saying among other things that the contaminants can cause allergic reactions and respiratory problems for those inside Honolulu's local government headquarters.

City officials, however, don't appear to be in any rush to scrub the mold, lead and asbestos from Honolulu Hale. The city contracted for \$250,000 with Unitek in 2012 for some lead paint clean-up, but now officials say the building is on a fix-it-as-we-go approach.

The Honolulu City Council has added \$1 million in the coming year's budget to help mediate the problem on the second and third floors of Honolulu Hale, in particular inside members' own offices and workspaces.

"We're still suffering," Honolulu Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi said. "People are always coughing and getting sick."

It's unclear exactly how much work it would take to remove all the hazardous materials from Honolulu Hale, and the city hasn't made it much of a priority. But officials say the \$1 million won't be enough to clean all the contamination from Honolulu Hale.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



*Honolulu Hale*

## Central El Paso Apartments Poisoning Kids with Lead

Children living at a Central El Paso apartment complex have been testing positive for dangerously high levels of lead in their blood.

State inspectors advised parents to have their children tested for lead poisoning after investigator's tests of the Trowbridge Apartments showed the complex had lead and asbestos throughout the property.

"It makes me sad," Rodrigo Moreno, Sr. said. "Because we don't know what is going to happen in the future."

Moreno's two-year-old son is one of the children who had high levels of lead in his blood. The toddler was born at the complex and has lived there his entire life.

Estrella, the three-year-old girl who lives in a unit around the corner from Moreno, has lead levels that continue to rise her mother said.

"I was scared because I didn't know what to do," Alma Martinez said.

Lead poisoning in children causes developmental delays, kidney failure and a great deal of pain, among other side effects.

El Paso building inspectors had been citing the property for code violations unrelated to the lead and asbestos for years.

"They are not habitable," city inspector Rudy Huerta, Jr. said. "There are a lot of electrical issues, exposed wires. There were issues of carbon monoxide poisoning."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *WHO...66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly* on page 3

## WHO Director-General Addresses the 66th World Health Assembly

*Even though Dr. Chan did not mention indoor air pollution in her comments, she did make some interesting statements. Be sure to read her comments about the tobacco industry and conflicts of interest.*

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Here are a few excerpts from her speech:

Ten years ago, the World Health Assembly met under a cloud of anxiety. SARS, the first severe new disease of the 21st century, was spreading explosively along the routes of international air travel, placing any city with an international airport at risk of imported cases.

By early July of that year, less than four months after the first global alerts were issued, WHO could declare the outbreak over. Rarely has the world collaborated, on so many levels, with such a strong sense of shared purpose.

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Health contributes to and benefits from sustainable development and is a measurable indicator of the success of all other development policies. Investing in the health of people is a smart strategy for poverty alleviation. This calls for inclusion of noncommunicable diseases and for continued efforts to reach the health-related Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015.

At the same time, I want to assure you that efforts to reach the health-related MDGs have accelerated during these last thousand days. This is especially true for women's and children's health, and this is especially encouraging. Accelerating efforts to reach these two goals means accelerating efforts to overcome some very long-standing barriers to service delivery.

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Today's health challenges are vastly different from those faced in the year 2000, when the Millennium Declaration was signed. Efforts to safeguard public health face opposition from a different set of extremely powerful forces.

Many of the risk factors for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are amplified by the products and practices of large and economically powerful forces. Market power readily translates into political power. This power seldom impeded efforts to reach the MDGs.



Dr. Margaret Chan addresses the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

## WHO Director-General Addresses the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (continued)

**No PR firms were hired to portray the delivery of medicines for HIV and TB. No lawsuits were filed to stop countries from reducing the risks for child mortality. No research was funded by industry to cast doubt on the causes of maternal mortality. Mosquitoes do not have front groups, and mosquitoes do not have lobbies.**

But the industries that contribute to the rise of NCDs do. **When public health policies cross purposes with vested economic interests, we will face opposition, well-orchestrated opposition, and very well-funded opposition.**

**WHO will never be on speaking terms with the tobacco industry. At the same time, I do not exclude cooperation with other industries that have a role to play in reducing the risks for NCDs.**

**There are no safe tobacco products. There is no safe level of tobacco consumption.**

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**I am fully aware that conflicts of interest are inherent in any relationship between a public health agency, like WHO, and industry.**

**Conflict of interest safeguards are in place at WHO and have recently been strengthened. WHO intends to use these safeguards stringently in its interactions with the food, beverage, and alcohol industries to find acceptable public health solutions. WHO will continue to have no interactions whatsoever with the tobacco industry.**

Click [here](#) to read the entire speech.

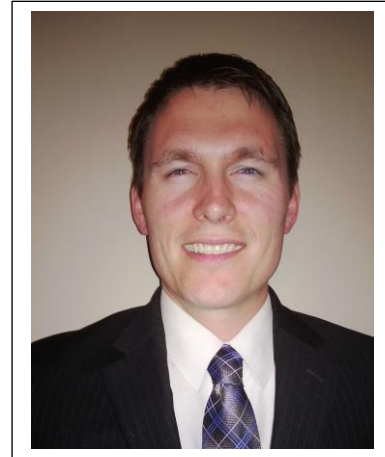
See *Member Profile: Jerrod Nelms* on page 4

### Member Profile: Jerrod Nelms

Jerrod Nelms is the owner and president of Lucyna Health and Safety Solutions, LLC. He is an expert in occupational and environmental health who is concluding his Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this summer. He also obtained a Master of Public Health (MPH) with environmental health concentration and a B.S. in Environmental Health Science from Western Kentucky University.

Jerrod was designated as a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) trainee at the University of North Carolina from 2009-2013. He is an expert in epidemiological methods, occupational and environmental health, and public health. He is experienced in human subjects, institutional review board processes, grant writing, study design, data collection and management, statistical analysis and modeling, quality assurance/performance improvement, manuscript and abstract preparation, safety and environmental health program design and management, environmental sampling and risk assessment, public health program development and management.

Jerrod has extensive and diverse experience in public health. He has served as an epidemiologist in regional public health, academia, and in the corporate setting. As part of his experience, he has collaborated with various professional groups including clinicians, corporate researchers, public health practitioners and policy makers, boards of health, research and teaching faculty, stakeholders, law enforcement, state and federal government agencies, and the general public.



*Jerrod Nelms*

### Member Profile: Jerrod Nelms (cont'd)

Jerrod's company, Lucyna Health and Safety Solutions, LLC develops and offers Active Shooter/Active Violence Preparedness and Prevention consulting programs for colleges and universities across the United States. Lucyna also offers emergency and disaster preparedness planning and consultation, workplace violence prevention, and health and safety program management for colleges and universities and private corporations. Lucyna is constantly seeking contracts in the aforementioned areas and in Jerrod's areas of expertise.

Lucyna's website is currently being developed, but you will find it soon at:

[lucynasolutions.com](http://lucynasolutions.com)

Jerrod lives in Tampa, Florida with his wife, Jamie, and his girls--Lucy (age 15 months) and Audrey (age 6).

For questions, contract opportunities or collaborations, Jerrod can be reached via email at [jnelms@lucynasolutions.com](mailto:jnelms@lucynasolutions.com).

*See Gerritsen Beach is poster child on page 5*



## Gerritsen Beach is Poster Child for Lingering Impact of High Water

A South Brooklyn waterfront neighborhood is battling a health menace Superstorm Sandy left behind: Mold.

As summer approaches, non-profits are redoubling their efforts to clean up the foul fungus lurking in hundreds of homes in Gerritsen Beach, a peninsula where a 10-foot storm surge during the Oct. 29 hurricane flooded nearly all 1,800 houses in the neighborhood.

“It is, in a sense, a race against the clock to take proper care of as many people in a short a time as possible,” said Nicole DeLeon, a relief coordinator from the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

“These are the most important months before it gets really hot and mold starts spreading rampantly,” said DeLeon, whose organization is providing rigorous cleanup by professionally trained crews free of charge in Gerritsen Beach.

“Think of those summer months when it’s 90 degrees and the humidity is high – mold loves that.”

Exposure to the hard-to-eradicate fungus can trigger a host of ailments from asthma attacks and breathing disorders to headaches, rashes, nausea and memory loss, experts say.

The foundation – which honors firefighter Stephen Siller from Squad 1’s firehouse in Park Slope, who died on 9/11 after running through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to aid in rescue work – is one of three charities helping cash-strapped neighborhood residents fight mold.

If homes need to be gutted to clear out moldy sub-floors, sheetrock and other damaged materials, New York Cares picks up the tab. Another group, HEART 9/11, provides construction materials and laborers to rebuild once the mold remediation is done.

Many residents in the working-class neighborhood already spent big to fix up their storm-damaged homes and don’t have a dime left to deal with lingering mold.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



*Water-damaged home in Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn, New York (after Hurricane Sandy)*

## U.S. Experts to Assess Mould in Schools in British Virgin Islands

In an effort to properly address the mould growth in several public schools, the Ministry of Education and Culture has sought the expertise of a company based in the United States.

A two-member team was scheduled to arrive in the territory Monday evening to start an intensive assessment of the situation, according to Government Information Services, which did not identify the U.S. company.

Schools to be assessed include the Isabella Morris Primary School, which recently closed due to mould; the Elmore Stoutt High School; and the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College.

The team will assess, test and ultimately make recommendations to the ministry to remediate the ongoing problem, according to GIS.

In recent weeks, Education and Culture Minister Myron Walwyn has met with principals, parents and other education stakeholders to address the health concerns stemming from the discovery of mould in several schools.

To read the entire article:

[U.S. Experts to Assess Mould in Schools in British Virgin Islands](#)

See *Single Mum...in mould-ridden flat* on page 6

## Single Mum Asks to be Moved from Mould-Ridden Flat (U.K.)

A single mum says she has been left flabbergasted after the council gave her mould-ridden flat the all-clear – despite her GP saying it was damaging her health and that of her baby.

Amber Rowlands says she has to scrub black mould from the walls nearly every day – and sleeps on the sofa with 15-month-old tot Tyler as their beds and furniture are covered in the fungus.

Her GP has backed her plea to be rehomed and written to Cornwall Council criticising the privately rented flat, on Berry Road, Newquay as "not a healthy environment" for the pair.

Amber, who was homeless until the council's housing team helped her move into the flat in January, says their health has deteriorated rapidly and Tyler has even developed asthma since living in the flat.

She also suffered two black eyes, facial lacerations and ligament and muscle damage to her neck and shoulders after part of the ceiling fell on her in February due to a water leak in the flat above.

She told the Cornish Guardian she had been battling to be rehomed for eight weeks, but without success.

Amber said she was visited by a council officer on May 2 and outraged when she was told that although the mould and soaking wet walls were making her son ill, they "weren't going to kill him".

Amber said: "Since being in this flat I have had nothing but problems which have just got worse over time. My son's health has seriously deteriorated since being here because of the wet walls and the severe damp and mould.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

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**Next Newsletter: July 1, 2013**



*Amber Rowlands suffered two black eyes, facial lacerations and ligament and muscle damage after part of the ceiling fell on her due to a water leak in the flat above*

## Mold Problems Continue in Lincoln Military Housing

Eighteen months after the spotlight faded, pictures continue to flood into NewsChannel 3 to this day, showing the current living conditions inside Lincoln complexes all over Hampton Roads. These included a sewage backup, caught on camera near the former homes of Shawna Sheriff and Heather Schuler inside Joint Forces Staff College.

"It was disgusting, I don't even know how to describe it; it stunk," said Sheriff. These ladies say the back-ups occurred on a regular basis at the complex. The latest leak happened in March.

That's when Shawna discovered what those leaks left behind. "There was 2 1/2 feet of mold in that entire room," said Sheriff.

It's a concern for many families living inside Lincoln housing, hidden mold.

**According to plaintiff's attorneys, more than 200 additional lawsuits are waiting in the wings.**

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

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### Quick Links:

**Website:** <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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

**Position Statement:**  
[http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/files/GIHN\\_positi on statement Revised 12 17 2012.pdf](http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/files/GIHN_positi%20on%20statement%20Revised%2012%2017%202012.pdf)

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