

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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Welcome New Members

We have three new members. Please join me in welcoming Leigh Harris (Georgia), Miranda Malloy (Georgia) and Rachel Milford (Tennessee).

Leigh Harris lives in Atlanta, Georgia and has been ill for several years since suffering from mold exposure in a former rental home.

Miranda Malloy lives in Atlanta, Georgia. She was exposed to toxins at her former work place.

Rachel Milford lives in Knoxville, Tennessee. She has personal experience with mold exposure and has been working to recover her health. Rachel is an herbalist, farmer, educator, activist and artist.

Leigh, Miranda and Rachel want to help spread the word about environmental illness.

Associations Between Fungal Species and Water-Damaged Buildings

June 2011 research study by B. Andersen, et al

Abstract: Fungal growth in damp or water-damaged buildings worldwide is an increasing problem, which has adverse effects on both the occupants and the buildings. Air sampling alone in moldy buildings does not reveal the full diversity of fungal species growing on building materials.

One aim of this study was to estimate the qualitative and quantitative diversity of fungi growing on damp or water-damaged building materials. Another was to determine if associations exist between the most commonly found fungal species and different types of materials. More than 5,300 surface samples were taken by means of V8 contact plates from materials with visible fungal growth.

Fungal identifications and information on building material components were analyzed using multivariate statistic methods to determine associations between fungi and material components. The results confirmed that *Penicillium chrysogenum* and *Aspergillus versicolor* are the most common fungal species in water-damaged buildings. The results also showed *Chaetomium* spp., *Acremonium* spp., and *Ulocladium* spp. to be very common on damp building materials. Analyses show that associated mycobiotas exist on different building materials. Associations were found between (i) *Acremonium* spp., *Penicillium chrysogenum*, *Stachybotrys* spp., *Ulocladium* spp., and gypsum and wallpaper, (ii) *Arthrinium phaeospermum*, *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Cladosporium herbarum*, *Trichoderma* spp., yeasts, and different types of wood and plywood, and (iii) *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus melleus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus ochraceus*, *Chaetomium* spp., *Mucor racemosus*, *Mucor spinosus*, and concrete and other floor-related materials.

These results can be used to develop new and resistant building materials and relevant allergen extracts and to help focus research on relevant mycotoxins, microbial volatile organic compounds (MVOCs), and microparticles released into the indoor environment.

Click [here](#) to go directly to the Abstract

See *Proposed New ASTM Standard* on page 2

Mold Growth on Exterior Building Materials is Subject of Proposed New ASTM Standard

Consumers who are purchasing building materials for homes want to be assured that the materials are mold resistant. A proposed new ASTM standard will allow for a mold-resistance rating to be given to specific materials, depending on how the materials perform to the test method. The proposed new standard, ASTM WK32079, Test Method for Determination of Mold Growth on Building Products Designed for Exterior Applications Using an Environmental Chamber and Direct Inoculation, is being developed by Subcommittee G03.04 on Biological Deterioration, part of ASTM Committee G03 on Weathering and Durability.

ASTM WK32079 describes an environmental chamber and the conditions of operation to evaluate in a four-week period the relative resistance to mold growth on building products to be used outdoors.

ASTM WK32079 describes an environmental chamber and the conditions of operation to evaluate in a four-week period the relative resistance to mold growth on building products to be used outdoors. According to Judy LaZonby, president and technical director, The MicroStar Lab, Ltd, and chair of G03.04, as well as D01.28 on Biodeterioration, ASTM WK32079 will be more aggressive than a proposed standard currently being developed by D01.28 for interior applications.

Primary users of the standard will be manufacturers of building materials, chemical companies with mold-resistant chemistries and independent laboratories evaluating mold-resistant products. All interested parties are invited to join G03.04 in the ongoing development of ASTM WK32079. LaZonby notes that many of the people currently involved in the development of ASTM WK32079 are primarily interested in indoor mold growth and that it would be very helpful to have more people whose area of expertise is in mold growth on exterior building applications.

[Mold Growth on Exterior Building Materials is Subject of Proposed New ASTM Standard](#)



Asia Asbestos Diseases to Rise 20 Percent

World Health Organization officials warn deaths from asbestos-related lung diseases could rise sharply in Asia in the next 20 years.

Dr. Ken Takahashi, acting director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational Health, and his team assembled data on asbestos use in 47 Asian countries using data from the WHO Mortality Database and published studies.

The study, published in *Respirology*, the proportion of global asbestos use attributed to Asia has been steadily increasing over the years from 14 percent during 1920 to 1970 to 33 percent during 1971 to 2000 to 64 percent during 2001 to 2007. This increase has been reflected in the absolute level of per-capita use across a wide range of countries, the study says.

"Despite concerns of the global asbestos-related disease epidemic and Asia's growing importance in the world, data on current asbestos use and asbestos-related diseases in Asia remain limited," Takahashi says in a statement.

WHO says asbestos -- a cheap mineral fiber commonly used for insulation in construction -- is one of the most dangerous occupational carcinogens, and an estimated 107,000 people worldwide die of asbestos-related disease.

[Asia Asbestos Diseases to Rise 20 Percent](#)

Auckland (New Zealand) Leaky Home Provisions Nearly Doubled

This article is from Auckland, New Zealand.

Leaky home costs remain a "major issue" for the Auckland Council, according to a financial audit of the now-defunct six regional councils.

The amount set aside by the six legacy councils for leaky home claims was \$469 million, at October 31, last year. That was up by \$275.9 million, or 236 per cent, on the year earlier.

The largest amount was set aside by the former Auckland City Council. At \$295m for the 2009/10 year, it was an increase of more than \$134 million on the previous year.

The North Shore City Council was the second biggest with more than \$106m, an increase of more than \$61m on the year before.

The Papakura District Council was the only council of the six to not have to set aside any funds, and Franklin District Council set aside \$900,000.

The Auckland Council inherited the increasing costs from the legacy councils.

The costs also allowed for the roll out of a Government scheme, laid out in the 2010 budget, which sought to faster resolve leaky home claims.

The councils indicated if the scheme did not go ahead the costs to settle leaky home claims would increase by an estimated \$78.9 million.

Provost said accounting and disclosure of provisions for leaky homes improved in 2009/10, largely because of the preparations made for dissolving the former councils and identifying a good starting position for Auckland Council.

To read the entire article:

[Auckland Leaky Home Provisions Nearly Doubled](#)



Photo of Leaky Home Syndrome

NIOSH Seeking Comments on New Publication

NIOSH is seeking comments on a new publication titled:

Preventing Occupational Respiratory Disease from Exposures caused by Dampness in Office Buildings, Schools, and Other Nonindustrial Buildings

Announcement:

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/review/docket238/?s_cid=3ni7d2TW1105261930

Draft of the paper:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/review/docket238/pdfs/05-IEQ-ALERT-3-30-11.pdf>

Office buildings, schools, and other nonindustrial buildings may develop moisture and dampness problems from roof and window leaks, high indoor humidity, and flooding events, among other things.

This can lead to growth of mold and bacteria, the release of volatile organic 16 compounds, and the breakdown of building materials by the mold or by water damage. These 17 exposures can lead to potentially harmful symptoms and illness.

The deadline for comments is 5 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

See *Member Profile: Melinda Ballard* on page 4

Member Profile: Melinda Ballard

Melinda Ballard is President of Policyholders of America, a non-profit organization providing free claims assistance to homeowners who have filed claims covered by their homeowners' policies. Melinda formed POA after experiencing firsthand how insurance carriers often deal with their policyholders after disaster strikes.

In 1998, Melinda and her family lived in Texas and had a common water leak which was immediately fixed. She filed a claim with her insurance company to have the damaged flooring removed, but the insurance company delayed proper repairs citing a provision in the policy that says a claim is jeopardized if the policyholder does anything beyond temporary repairs.

Months passed, and the floor continued to buckle. Her family became ill, but she didn't know what was causing their symptoms.

A short time later, she was on a flight for a business trip, and the man seated next to her asked about her bloody nose. She told him about her family's symptoms, and he asked if they had experienced water damage in their home. As it turned out, the man seated next to her was a mold expert from Texas Tech University, and he was overseeing a mold cleanup project at the Governor's Mansion in Austin.

Over the next few years, Melinda was involved in litigation against her insurance company. The jury awarded her \$32 Million, but the insurance company appealed (twice). The case was eventually settled.

Melinda has an extensive background in business and politics. She was an executive for many leading fashion designers and fragrance companies. She has worked as a consultant on federal and state political races.

Melinda earned a Bachelor's Degree from Monmouth University and a Master's Degree from New York University. She has also completed several post-graduate executive management and legal programs.

Melinda is actively involved in a leadership role with the Global Indoor Health Network. She serves on the Board of Directors and is the Chairperson for the Membership Committee.



Melinda Ballard

Eight Substances Added to List of Carcinogens

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today added eight substances to its Report on Carcinogens, a science-based document that identifies chemicals and biological agents that may put people at increased risk for cancer.

The industrial chemical formaldehyde and a botanical known as aristolochic acids are listed as known human carcinogens. Six other substances — captafol, cobalt-tungsten carbide (in powder or hard metal form), certain inhalable glass wool fibers, o-nitrotoluene, riddelliine, and styrene — are added as substances that are reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens. With these additions, the 12th Report on Carcinogens now includes 240 listings.

"Reducing exposure to cancer-causing agents is something we all want, and the Report on Carcinogens provides important information on substances that pose a cancer risk," said Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., director of both the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP). "The NTP is pleased to be able to compile this report."

John Bucher, Ph.D., associate director of the NTP added, **"This report underscores the critical connection between our nation's health and what's in our environment."**

[New Substances Added to HHS Report on Carcinogens](#)

See *Deadly Fungus Strikes Joplin Survivors* on page 5

Deadly Fungus Strikes Joplin Tornado Survivors, Volunteers

The Greene County (Mo.) Health Department has issued a memo to health care workers who are treating injured victims of May's deadly Joplin tornado, warning them that a powerful fungus has infected patients' wounds.

The Springfield News-Leader reports as many as nine cases have been reported in tornado victims across the area in various hospitals. Once the aggressive fungus -- called zygomycosis -- enters the body, it causes the death of infected cells. Three or four patients, who otherwise would have survived their wounds, have died from it.

If the fungus stays in a limb, like an arm or leg, some treatments have necessitated amputation to save the patient. Others with wounds near the head weren't so lucky -- as soon as brain tissue started dying, it was too late to save the patient.

Infections spread through the blood and affects blood circulation. It is unknown how many people may be suffering from infections, but the problem doesn't stop with those injured by the tornado.

The National Institutes of Health lists severe symptoms of the infection: fever, headache, sinus pain, and swelling. Complications that can arise from these fungal infections include nerve damage, blindness, blood clots to the brain and lungs, or even death in extreme cases.

Cases of the deadly fungal infection have shown up in massive disasters before such as the 2004 tsunami off the coast of Indonesia. Health officials in Greene County stated in their memo that this particular infection is "invasive" and that aggressive treatment may be needed "within 24 hours" of reoccurring symptoms.

Dr. Jack Thrasher brought this to my attention.

[Deadly Fungus Strikes Joplin Tornado Survivors, Volunteers](#)



Key Lake processing site in Saskatchewan, Canada

Key Lake Workers Say Site Infested with Mould; Will Walk Off Job

Contract workers in Key Lake Saskatchewan (Canada) are threatening job action if their living quarters aren't cleaned up. Around 260 workers live at the uranium processing site in Key Lake, which deals with ore taken from the McArthur River mine. They are fed up with what they think is black mould growing "in the kitchen and living quarters, everywhere," says one worker who asked to remain anonymous.

The employee says the parent company, Cameco, has known about the situation since January. "They did some kind of report, they took pictures, and they took samples of the mould to get it figured out."

But the worker says Cameco has refused to spend the money to fix up the trailers, kitchens, and bathrooms for the workers.

"They don't want to spend the money to bring up new trailers, that's at least about \$4 million for sure, with the kitchen and all that. Right now the air duct system has problems with the mold, and they just want to fix that," he says. "They're going to try to revise the system, but that's a crock of (expletive). For people to try to sweep it under the rug, I mean, come on."

The worker says all of the employees threatened to walk off the job, but are willing to come back if Cameco cleans up the living quarters.

[Key Lake Workers Say Site Infested with Mould](#)

Indoor Air and Mold Recommendation in CDC Report on Chemicals and Public Health

Dr. Lisa Nagy brought this to my attention. She is a member of the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Scientific Understanding Work Group. (Some of our members participated in the web dialogue last year and submitted comments and suggestions.) Dr. Nagy played a leadership role in ensuring that the *Action Agenda* included the following recommendation.

Recommendation 3.7: NAS, NIH, or a similarly authoritative entity should evaluate the potential health impact of indoor air quality and its various components during fetal and child development to 1) identify adverse health effects from indoor air pollutants, including fragrances from consumer products, dust, mold, and mycotoxins, and 2) improve scientific knowledge of pollutants with potential links to human health, with a focus on neurologic, mental health, endocrine, and immunologic diseases.

There is growing concern that chemical exposures from indoor air can have significant and negative health effects, particularly on fetuses, children, the physically compromised, the elderly, persons with chemical sensitivities/intolerances, and those previously harmed by chemical exposures. Given that Americans spend approximately 90% of their time indoors, and that those most vulnerable are most likely to spend even more time indoors (Woodcock & Custovic, 1998), indoor air quality is an important environment to understand. The proposed evaluation would be designed to improve the scientific understanding of the effects of indoor air pollutants, including improved understanding of individual susceptibilities. The study should generate a database of indoor air pollutants linked with health data, define the effects of individual components of indoor air on human health, and assess the influence of exposure to indoor air pollutants (including mold and mycotoxins) on susceptibility to other chemicals.

The *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* is a collaborative project, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The *National Conversation* vision is that chemicals are used and managed in ways that are safe and healthy for all people.

[National Conversation—Action Agenda](#)

[Next Newsletter: Friday, July 1, 2011](#)



Free Housecleaning for Cancer Patients

If you know a woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning – once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service.

Fighting cancer is difficult enough, but living with it is even tougher--and that's where the Cleaning for A Reason Foundation steps in. This nonprofit offers free professional housecleaning and maid services to improve the lives of women undergoing treatment for cancer.

This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women.

Dr. Laura Mark brought this to my attention.

[Cleaning for a Reason](#)

Quick Links

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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

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