

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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Research Papers Added to the GIHN Website

Dr. Jack Thrasher provided the following papers for inclusion on our website.

[Aspergillus fumigatus Inhibits Angiogenesis Through the Production of Gliotoxin and Other Secondary Metabolites](#) (2009)

[Current Issues in the Clinic Management of Invasive Aspergillosis—the AGIHO, DMykG, OGMM and PEG Web-based Survey and Expert Consensus Conference 2009](#) (2009)

[Genetic Susceptibility to Aspergillus fumigatus Infections](#) (2011)

[On the Way Toward Systems Biology of Aspergillus fumigatus Infection](#) (2011)

Whitestone (Canada) Municipal Employees Evacuated—Dangerous Levels of Mold

Whitestone municipal employees were given 10 minutes to get out of their offices Friday.

After results from an inspection came in that morning showing dangerous levels of mold in the building, staff left computers, files and furniture behind and set up shop in the Dunchurch Community Centre.

The inspection by Steenhof Building Services Group, which was originally hired to check all municipal buildings to provide estimates on making them compliant with accessibility requirements, showed penicillium, a type of mold spore, in the office's board room that more than doubled the amount of what's considered "healthy" by the company - although there are no specific federal or provincial guidelines for acceptable amounts.

The wall tested was replaced two years ago due to a mold issue.

Jerry Slavish, the engineer who conducted the inspection, said he tested the wall expecting to see clean results.

"In fact, I found disturbing results," he said at Monday night's council meeting, noting some of the molds the municipality previously tried to manage have continued to occur.

According to Slavish, if the municipality chooses to keep the building, the drywall and wall sheathing will need to come down, and all wall cavities will need to be cleaned out. The process would take at least four months, but could take much longer.

To read the entire article:

[Whitestone Staff Evacuated](#)

See *Tenant Sues Landlord Over Mold* on page 2

Tenant Sues Landlord Over Mold, Response

A Thomaston woman has filed a lawsuit against the managers and owners of the apartment she has rented for six years, claiming that there was extensive mold contamination that led to serious health problems.

Catherine Harriman also claims in the lawsuit, filed June 23 in Knox County Superior Court, that the response by the property managers intentionally inflicted emotional distress on her. She claims that she was given an eviction notice from the apartment after a complaint was made to the federal government about the mold in the government-subsidized unit.

The apartments are financed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development voucher program, according to the lawsuit.

Harriman claims that starting in early 2006 she noticed mold in the corner of the walls of the apartment, which she cleaned with bleach.

Harriman said mold reappeared in the spring of 2007 in the same corners and new locations. She stated that she reported the mold to Marjorie Kinney during her inspection of the apartment in 2007.

(The mold continued to reappear over the next four years.)

On April 2, 2011, Harriman's mother came to the apartment for a visit and was astonished at the amount of mold, the lawsuit states.

Harriman stated she hired Air Quality Management Services Inc. of Lewiston to do an assessment of the apartment and its test found that the results were staggering.

Harriman stated she was served with a seven-day notice to leave the apartment on May 19.

Harriman is claiming negligence, breach of implied warranty, breach of contract, illegal eviction, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

[Tenant Sues Landlord Over Mold, Response](#)



Knox County Superior Court in Maine

Nursing Homes with Mould Problems

Many nursing homes in New Brunswick with mould problems can't afford to wait much longer for the province to finish a review of infrastructure, advocates say.

Two nursing homes have reported recent problems with air quality stemming from mould. Residents of the Grand Manan Nursing Home have been forced to eat and bathe in their rooms since mould was first detected there last week.

Mill Cove Nursing Home, near Fredericton, is also facing recurring issues with mould, administrator Jason Dickson said Thursday.

Two residents had to be temporarily moved to vacant rooms this spring when air quality tests turned up mould in a nearby stairwell, he said.

In 2009, both Mill Cove and Grand Manan were among the long-term care facilities the province promised to replace. Now, the government is reviewing these infrastructure projects to ensure there is good value for taxpayers.

"If there is a health crisis, everyone is going to have to react more quickly," he said, adding the health issues at the Mill Cove and Grand Manan homes should make them a priority.

[Nursing Homes Need Quick Fixes: Advocates](#)

See *World Health Organization news* on page 3

World Health Organization Says Cell Phones Cause Cancer

There are several good points in this article that help explain why the WHO and other government agencies were slow to admit that cell phones cause cancer. As you read this article, you will hear statements that could also be applied to the insurance industry and other naysayers who have spent huge sums of money denying the truth about the health effects of mold and other indoor air contaminants.

On May 31, 2011, the World Health Organization publicly acknowledged something many of us have sensed for years--the use of cell phones can cause cancer. This overdue revelation was made by a team of 31 scientists from 14 countries including the U.S., who looked at many of the same peer-reviewed studies I've been looking at.

The World Health Organization is currently discussing adding Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) to the International Classification of Diseases, ICD10 code list.

I discovered hundreds of peer-reviewed, solid studies, both nationally and internationally, linking our normal exposure to non-ionizing radiation, exactly the same kind coming from cell phones and cell towers, with single and double strand DNA breaks, loss of melatonin and subsequent chronic exhaustion, concentration disorders, headaches, connective tissue pains, extreme fluctuations in blood pressure, arrhythmias, and two cancerous afflictions: leukemia and brain tumors. Astrocytomas are the tumors we're seeing more and more of in people exposed to EMF's after only five years.

How could this be? Why wouldn't this have come out in a much bigger way by now? Simple: this information is fighting to get to you. The Industry has hired legions of PR spin doctors who dissect studies showing biological harm from its products, be it through Wi-fi, cell phones or cell towers. These middlemen argue vehemently against negative findings, so much so that most journalists covering this ongoing saga will accept the idea that "more studies are needed," or swallow the dubious "inconclusive evidence" tactic that Industry has sold the public on. Further strategies include flooding the Web with thousands of Industry funded studies, all of which reveal no harmful effects from cellular technology. But how many of us follow the money trails of these studies?

Think about where you get your information from. You probably rely on a popular stream of information coming through major media and community. That's not good enough with any issue, particularly this one. You have to read the science, before it gets doctored, the studies not funded by the



World Health Organization

World Health Organization (cont'd)

Telecommunications Industry, the volumes of epidemiological studies reporting scores of symptoms from living near towers and using cell phones. And if you don't look at this range of original research, you are in the hands of a series of corporations with an insatiable appetite for growth, capital and dominance without the slightest conscience for its customers' well being.

The Cellular Communication industry generates billions in profit and in revenue for the government. It is linked to retirement funds, media, banking giants, entertainment industries, the educational market, the music industry and medicine. If enough news stories broke, and significant doubt in citizens replaced their complacent routine use of cell phones, the Industry would be forced to redesign wireless technology for safety and not just with more bells and whistles.

So who's protecting us? The FCC? The FDA? The World Health Organization? Nope. All on the payroll, so to speak. Thankfully in the case of the WHO, there are some not under the spell of industry pressure as evidenced by the recent headlines. But these agencies all have revolving doors to the Telecommunications Industry. And if you follow the careers of key members, you'll see that either before or after their regulatory jobs, they've been on the payroll for the telecommunications industry, a painfully obvious conflict of interest that seems to drift by without the outrage it deserves. So the public health message is clear: "Carry on everyone. It's all good." And this is precisely why you haven't heard or read about this before in any sustained way from any major media. It's a titanic. It's too big and unsinkable. Well, for now anyway.

[What You Can't See and Don't Read About: The Harmful Effects of Cell Towers and Cell Phones](#)

See *Member Profile: Jim Davis* on page 4

Member Profile: Jim Davis

My name is Jim Davis. I am the son of USMC MGySgt. Lesley Davis (Ret.) who passed away on April 24, 2006 from ALS caused by Agent Orange. Dad's mission before he passed on was to insure all veterans, spouses, children and widows all received the benefits, medical care and attention and proper facilities from the VA.

Because of my promise to dad to carry on his mission, in May 2006, I began as a one-man show sending out 535 letters every single week to all members of Congress requesting and politely demanding they fulfill the promises made over the past decades to care for those who wore the uniform and their families.

Veterans-For-Change was born in August 2006 with a very small membership of 25 people composed of veterans, spouses, widows, family members and friends and to date continues to grow.

The purpose of Veterans-For-Change is to make major changes in the treatment and rights for all veterans in regard to benefits claims, appeals, medical care and treatment, VA Facilities, PTSD, Agent Orange, POW & MIA recoveries, diabetes, TBI and dioxins.

Members combine their talents, information, and ideas and contribute to a monthly letter that's sent to all 535 members of Congress expressing the concerns over various issues and offers possible solutions.

Our attention is focused on making changes within the VA system to ensure claims are honored and medical facilities are using the best equipment with a properly trained, licensed and compassionate medical staff.

We circulate petitions relating to legislation supporting Veterans, have a homeless Veterans program, an outreach program and more. We conduct research, develop ideas, solutions and programs and do our best to make sure they're put into action.

Additionally, we provide guidance and assistance to veterans, spouses, their children and widows with their claims and appeals.

We must guarantee the rights of every single veteran and obtain the rights and benefits promised!

To become a member of Veterans-for-Change, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE/>



Jim Davis

Mold Exposure Law in New Jersey

Legislation requiring the state to establish standards for exposure limits to mold in residential buildings and certification of mold inspectors and abatement workers has been released by an Assembly panel.

The bill (A-3773) would require the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services to 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.

"Mold can exacerbate health problems including asthma and allergies in children, and currently there are no standards to control its harmful potential," said bill sponsor Assemblywoman Celeste Riley (D-Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester). "Other states have passed laws establishing guidelines, and now it's time for New Jersey to follow suit and protect its residents against the health risks that can be caused by mold."

Under the bill, the DCA would also be required to: (1) establish standards for mold hazard abatement procedures including specialized cleaning, repairs, maintenance, painting, temporary containment and ongoing monitoring of mold hazards or potential hazards; and (2) establish a certification program for persons who inspect for the presence of mold hazards in residential buildings and who perform mold hazard abatement work in residential buildings.

[New Standards to be Set for Mold Exposure in Residential Buildings](#)

See *Military Children Face Decrepit Schools* on page 5

Military Children Face Decrepit Schools, Broken Promises

This is a lengthy and detailed article highlighting the poor conditions in schools attended by children of military families, but members of GIHN know that these substandard conditions exist in numerous schools throughout the country.

Catie Hunter is only 11 years old. Her father, an Army platoon sergeant, has spent five of those years away from her, serving his country in Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan. At her elementary school on an Oklahoma military post, ceiling tiles are removed so that when a Great Plains storm rumbles in, rain can cascade from the rotting roof into large trash cans underneath. To get to class, Catie must dodge what she calls “Niagara Falls.”

Each day as the fifth grader enters Geronimo Road Elementary School, she walks beneath the tiles, bent and browned, some dangling by threads of glue. In her classroom, an archaic air conditioning unit at times drowns out her teacher’s voice. Signs of disrepair abound: chipped floors, termite-infested walls, cracks the size of the principal’s finger along brick halls. A bucket, strapped by a bungee cord, hangs over the gym door — another makeshift fix for leaks.

“I’m really proud of the fact that the school is still standing,” said Catie, a pixie of a girl who twitches her nose when she talks. “Sometimes, I wonder if it’s going to fall in.”

Catie’s Fort Sill schoolhouse, built before Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower ran for president, isn’t the only one in poor shape. Tens of thousands of children — from Georgia to Kansas, Virginia to Washington state — attend schools on military bases that are falling apart from age and neglect, and fail to meet even the military’s own standards. Some schools have tainted water and fouled air; others are so overcrowded teachers improvise, holding class in hallways, supply closets, and in one instance, working in a boiler room.

“I would feel disrespected if I were on my second or third tour of duty and then my kids were in a school that was dilapidated and too small or falling apart,” said Chet Edwards, a former congressman who chaired a House appropriations military construction subcommittee before losing reelection last year. “If there is one school in the world military children are attending that is dilapidated and undersized, that’s wrong. But the fact is there are a lot of serious problems out there.”



Photo of Catie Hunter

“It’s like pulling teeth to get Congress to recognize there may well be a federal responsibility here.”

— John Forkenbrock, executive director of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

Military Children Face Decrepit Schools, Broken Promises (continued)

The 1978 Defense Dependents Education Act requires the military to provide “academic services of a high quality” to the children of soldiers on active duty. A 1988 Defense Department directive goes further, broadly guaranteeing military families “a quality of life that reflects the high standards and pride of the nation they defend” — including education.

But an array of substandard conditions at many of the 353 schools for military children around the world undercuts such assurances. Three in four Defense Department-run schools on military installations are either beyond repair or would require extensive renovation to meet minimum standards for safety, quality, accessibility and design, an investigation by the Center for Public Integrity’s iWatch News has found. Those schools do not meet the military’s own expectations, and—for lack of money from Washington —aren’t likely to improve greatly any time soon.

The Pentagon has placed 39 percent of its 194 schools in the worst category of “failing,” which means it costs more to renovate than replace them, reports to Congress show. Another 37 percent are classified in “poor” physical shape, which could require either replacement or expensive renovations to meet standards.

Please be sure to read the entire article to get more details about poor indoor air quality in schools and the funds needed to replace or renovate these schools.

[Military Children Face Decrepit Schools, Broken Promises](#)

University of Texas (UT) Researches Indoor Air Quality to Find Solutions for a Healthier

While sun burn and heat exhaustion pose great risks to those who spend too much time outdoors, indoor air pollutants may cause respiratory issues and other health complications, according to UT researchers.

Engineering Professor Richard Corsi and his team of five professors and more than twenty graduate students in the Indoor Environmental Science and Engineering Program are studying the many aspects of indoor air quality.

Corsi said humans spend approximately 72 years of their lives indoors, so most of the exposure to pollutants happens indoors. He said his research focuses on exposure to ozone indoors.

“When ozone levels go up in cities, death rates and hospital visits go up, and most exposure to ozone comes from buildings,” Corsi said. “Ozone is a really chemically reactive compound that forms new chemicals when it comes into contact with different substances. Some are harmless but some are very toxic.”

Corsi said ozone reacts negatively with carpet and most paper products, creating byproducts that can be detrimental to the respiratory system. He said he and his team are working to identify materials that remove ozone and other indoor air contaminants and to promote the use of those materials when new buildings are being made.

Brent Stephens, a civil engineering graduate student, is working on a dissertation project researching how outdoor pollutants come indoors, assessing how filters work in real environments and how central heating and air conditioning systems operate and affect indoor particle concentration.

Stephens said the air inside a building is turned over every two to three hours on average, constantly replaced by new outdoor air. He said high amounts of pollutants find their way indoors through nearly invisible cracks in a building’s seals.

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University of Texas (UT) Researches Indoor Air Quality to Find Solutions for a Healthier Life (cont'd)

Cooling and heating systems, which are the only standard ways to filter indoor air, only operate 20 to 25 percent of the time, Stephens said. He said the only way to ensure better air quality is to use more energy and keep those systems operating more frequently and to use high grade air filters.

Elena Capsuto, assistant director of campus and occupational safety for the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, said the University conducts frequent indoor air testing and responds to any reported issues and concerns to ensure the high-grade quality of indoor air.

She said there was mold found in some University buildings because of water leakage but could not release those building names until reports are officially sent out. She said the University recently tested for asbestos and lead in three buildings and is awaiting the reports.

[UT Researches Indoor Air Quality](#)

Quick Links

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Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments