

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS
IN OUR HOMES, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES



July 1, 2015

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Judge to Hear Motions in Knox County Mold Lawsuit

A hearing is set Monday on pending motions in a lawsuit by Knox County Clerk Foster Arnett Jr. over allegations mold in his office made him sick.

Arnett's lawsuit against the Public Building Authority, which manages the building where Arnett's office is located, was filed in February. Knox County Circuit Court Judge Bill Ailor has scheduled a motions hearing today in the case.

...continued in column 2

Judge to Hear Motions in Knox County Mold Lawsuit (continued)

The lawsuit claims "mold spores, toxic mold spores and/or other toxins" were released in the courthouse when the PBA renovated and restored the building's 253 windows in the spring of 2012, causing a "hazardous environment ... that has caused significant medical problems for (Arnett) and others who work in the building and poses a significant danger to the health of (Arnett), (his) employees and members of the public conducting business."

The lawsuit said Arnett's allergist diagnosed him in February 2014 with ongoing medical problems caused by mold exposure and that after Arnett's health "continued to deteriorate," he was diagnosed by Dr. John Callison of the University of Tennessee Medical Center's Heart, Lung and Vascular Institute with "bronchial asthma, which has the potential to be life-threatening."

Arnett commissioned testing, the lawsuit said, which "demonstrably indicate that (Arnett's) suite of offices is contaminated with toxic levels of the mold *Aspergillus*."

Of Arnett's 85 employees in six offices, 34 work in the old courthouse. The office of the County Clerk pays rent to the PBA from the County Clerk's budget for those offices.

Arnett's lawsuit asks the court to require PBA to "provide ... office space free from toxic mold and other toxins." Arnett called the lawsuit a "last resort" and said he feels responsibility for his other employees he believes may be sickened by mold, including a young pregnant employee.

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

See *Landmark case on lead poisoning* on page 2

Landmark Case Begins on Lead Poisoning in Children (China)

A court in central China on Friday began hearing a landmark case brought by families who have accused a chemical plant of being responsible for high levels of lead in the blood of their children and grandchildren.

A Reuters reporter was allowed into the courtroom in the town of Hengdong in Hunan province but prevented from doing interviews.

Lawyers have said the case is a test of the central government's resolve to address the human cost of environmental damage caused by decades of unbridled economic growth in China. It is believed to be the first time a Chinese court is hearing a case involving lead poisoning in a group of children.

The trial comes amid a series of public interest lawsuits filed since a revised environmental protection law that came into effect in January enabled the submission of such cases and increased the penalties for polluters.

Thirteen families in and around nearby Dapu town have accused Melody Chemical, a chemical plant and metal smelter, of pollution that caused elevated levels of lead in the blood of their children and grandchildren. They are seeking compensation, although the precise amount varies by child.

Reuters reported in May that of the original 53 families who agreed to participate in the lawsuit, most dropped out, some because of pressure from local officials. Dapu authorities denied any interference.

Dai Renhui, the lawyer for the plaintiffs, said:

"This case will be a useful reference for other families affected by pollution, particularly heavy metals pollution, and give them the confidence and courage to use the law to defend their environmental rights."

Dapu's lead problem made national headlines in 2014 in an exposé by state broadcaster CCTV.



Landmark case begins on lead poisoning in children (China)

Landmark Case Begins on Lead Poisoning in Children (China)—continued

After the broadcast, which said more than 300 children had high lead levels, officials opened an investigation and Melody was ordered to shut down.

In children, high lead exposure leads to cognitive delays and behavioural problems and can be fatal at extremely high levels. Its effects are permanent and irreversible. Studies have shown that childhood lead exposure is associated with higher adult violent crime rates.

Li Wenjie, eight, and Li Xiongwei, 12, were diagnosed with high lead in their blood in 2012 and cannot sit still at school, Li said. "The government hasn't given a thought to the safety of the people who live here," he added.

Environmental law experts said the court's acceptance of the lawsuit was a sign of progress, since courts have usually refused to hear controversial pollution-related cases.

President Xi Jinping's recent focus on the rule of law had also sent a message to courts, lawyers said.

On 1 June, China's supreme court issued a judicial interpretation which reiterated that even if emissions from polluting companies were within legal limits, they could still be liable for any harm caused.

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

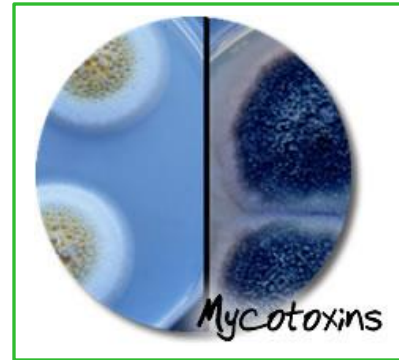
Environmental Mold and Mycotoxin Exposures Elicit Specific Cytokine and Chemokine Responses

Background: Molds can cause respiratory symptoms and asthma. We sought to use isolated peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) to understand changes in cytokine and chemokine levels in response to mold and mycotoxin exposures and to link these levels with respiratory symptoms in humans. We did this by utilizing an ex vivo assay approach to differentiate mold-exposed patients and unexposed controls. While circulating plasma chemokine and cytokine levels from these two groups might be similar, we hypothesized that by challenging their isolated white blood cells with mold or mold extracts, we would see a differential chemokine and cytokine release.

Methods and Findings: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from blood from 33 patients with a history of mold exposures and from 17 controls. Cultured PBMCs were incubated with the most prominent *Stachybotrys chartarum* mycotoxin, satratoxin G, or with aqueous mold extract, ionomycin, or media, each with or without PMA. Additional PBMCs were exposed to spores of *Aspergillus niger*, *Cladosporium herbarum* and *Penicillium chrysogenum*. After 18 hours, cytokines and chemokines released into the culture medium were measured by multiplex assay. Clinical histories, physical examinations and pulmonary function tests were also conducted. After ex vivo PBMC exposures to molds or mycotoxins, the chemokine and cytokine profiles from patients with a history of mold exposure were significantly different from those of unexposed controls. In contrast, biomarker profiles from cells exposed to media alone showed no difference between the patients and controls.

Conclusions: These findings demonstrate that chronic mold exposures induced changes in inflammatory and immune system responses to specific mold and mycotoxin challenges. These responses can differentiate mold-exposed patients from unexposed controls. This strategy may be a powerful approach to document immune system responsiveness to molds and other inflammation-inducing environmental agents.

Click [here](#) to read the abstract and the full paper.



Sewage and Mold Causing Illness

A resident at a Paulding County apartment complex believes a recurring sewage leak behind her apartment has affected the health of her 6-month-old baby boy.

"He's had three upper respiratory infections," said Ashley Engel. "He's just six months old. He shouldn't be getting sick like this."

Engel contacted Channel 2 Action News on Sunday after raw sewage bubbled out of the ground and into her apartment. She said it has happened three times since she moved into the Columns Apartments in Hiram last year.

"It got on the floor, in the bathtub in the toilet. It's nasty," said Engel.

Engel is not the only tenant affected by the sewer backups, which she says is the result of poorly installed underground pipes. Tenant Keith Cotton said sewage also leaked into his apartment and is causing mold and mildew on the walls and window sills.

"It's a health issue," said Cotton. "My fiancé is allergic to mold and mildew. This is a health issue it has to stop."

Both tenants complained that maintenance crews failed to address the underlying problem and did not remove sewage stained carpets and landscaping.

Mr. Cotton said his wife has contacted the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to investigate. A representative at the apartment management office declined to comment.

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

See *Missing Link between brain and immune* on page 4

Missing Link Found between the Brain and Immune System

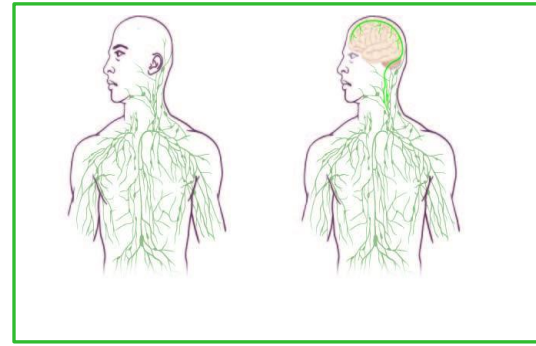
In a stunning discovery that overturns decades of textbook teaching, researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine have determined that the brain is directly connected to the immune system by vessels previously thought not to exist. That such vessels could have escaped detection when the lymphatic system has been so thoroughly mapped throughout the body is surprising on its own, but the true significance of the discovery lies in the effects it could have on the study and treatment of neurological diseases ranging from autism to Alzheimer's disease to multiple sclerosis.

"Instead of asking, 'How do we study the immune response of the brain?' 'Why do multiple sclerosis patients have the immune attacks?' now we can approach this mechanistically. Because the brain is like every other tissue connected to the peripheral immune system through meningeal lymphatic vessels," said Jonathan Kipnis, PhD, professor in the UVA Department of Neuroscience and director of UVA's Center for Brain Immunology and Glia (BIG). "It changes entirely the way we perceive the neuro-immune interaction. We always perceived it before as something esoteric that can't be studied. But now we can ask mechanistic questions."

"We believe that for every neurological disease that has an immune component to it, these vessels may play a major role," Kipnis said. "Hard to imagine that these vessels would not be involved in a [neurological] disease with an immune component."

New Discovery in Human Body

Kevin Lee, PhD, chairman of the UVA Department of Neuroscience, described his reaction to the discovery by Kipnis' lab: **"The first time these guys showed me the basic result, I just said one sentence: 'They'll have to change the textbooks.' There has never been a lymphatic system for the central nervous system, and it was very clear from that first singular observation - and they've done many studies since then to bolster the finding - that it will fundamentally change the way people look at the central nervous system's relationship with the immune system."**



Missing Link Found between the Brain and Immune System (continued)

Even Kipnis was skeptical initially. "I really did not believe there are structures in the body that we are not aware of. I thought the body was mapped," he said. "I thought that these discoveries ended somewhere around the middle of the last century. But apparently they have not."

'Very Well Hidden'

The discovery was made possible by the work of Antoine Louveau, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in Kipnis' lab. The vessels were detected after Louveau developed a method to mount a mouse's meninges - the membranes covering the brain - on a single slide so that they could be examined as a whole. "It was fairly easy, actually," he said. "There was one trick: We fixed the meninges within the skullcap, so that the tissue is secured in its physiological condition, and then we dissected it. If we had done it the other way around, it wouldn't have worked."

After noticing vessel-like patterns in the distribution of immune cells on his slides, he tested for lymphatic vessels and there they were. The impossible existed. The soft-spoken Louveau recalled the moment: "I called Jony [Kipnis] to the microscope and I said, 'I think we have something.'"

The unexpected presence of the lymphatic vessels raises a tremendous number of questions. And there's an enormous array of other neurological diseases, from autism to multiple sclerosis, that must be reconsidered in light of the presence of something science insisted did not exist.

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

See *CDC to conduct testing at USD* on page 5

CDC to Conduct Testing at University of South Dakota

The Centers for Disease Control will send a testing crew to the University of South Dakota next month to evaluate a building that a former employee says has been a source of health problems for students, faculty and staff.

USD asked the federal agency for a review of its response to mold complaints earlier this month after one-time administrative assistant Nancy Andresen went public with her health issues, which she attributes to a lax response to issues at Noteboom Hall.

University officials say air the quality tests taken before and after responding to complaints two years ago prove that the response was adequate.

The decision by the CDC to do an on-site review came after USD sent its findings to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The CDC could have responded in writing or called to address the problem, but its experts chose to visit the school from July 27 through 29 to gather their own data.

"For requests concerning mold, we leave it to the professional judgment of our evaluation team to decide on the most appropriate response," said CDC spokeswoman Nura Sadeghpour. "In this case, they felt the concerns warranted an on-site investigation."

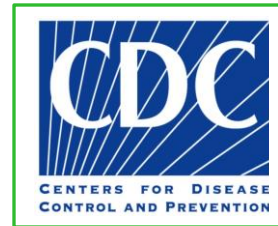
The Health Hazard Evaluation will include interviews with employees or their representatives and the employer – USD in this case – and reviews of any records provided by either side about exposure and health. Only evaluators are present during interviews with employees.

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

Click [here](#) to read an earlier article titled "Worker claims mold in USD building made her sick."

USD employee said "Between hives and hair loss and migraines and sinus infections, it got to be too much."

Air quality tests can hide problems of mold and mycotoxins in carpets, dust and ventilation, said Jack Thrasher, a Sacramento-based toxicologist.



du is First Company in the World to Earn UL Building Indoor Air Quality Certification

UAE's telecommunications service provider 'du' is now the only company – on a global level – to ever earn the prestigious UL (Underwriters Laboratories) Building Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification for its office buildings. These include the du offices in Al Salaam Tower, Dubai Academic City offices in blocks 8 and 9 and Al Barsha Command Centre in Dubai, Abu Dhabi Offices, and Fujairah Call Centre.

UL Environment's Building IAQ Certification Program is the world's first comprehensive IAQ certification and preventative maintenance program for buildings. Based on extensive tests, UL has assured that the du buildings certified exceed the highest indoor air quality standards. The buildings and their systems underwent comprehensive visual inspection and air samples were evaluated for common air pollutants such as volatile organic compounds, formaldehyde, CO₂, CO, moisture, and dust. Beyond the initial period, maintenance of the certification will require an annual assessment and inspection.

du's most prominent achievement lies in its pioneering role to not only assess the buildings for indoor air quality, but to commit to a certification, which entails meeting benchmarks and continuing to demonstrate performance. du has demonstrated great vision and commitment to healthy indoor environment and is the first company in the world to certify their buildings for Indoor Air Quality Performance.

Click [here](#) to read the article. To learn about the Underwriter Laboratories' Building IAQ Certification, click [here](#).

See *Carbon monoxide poisoning* on page 6

Miami Father and Son Saved After Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

"I think we're carbon monoxide poisoned," he said, as he gasped for air and begged for help for his son. "He's not responding."

When paramedics arrived at the home on the 1000 block of Northwest 51st Street, both father and son were barely responsive, said Miami Fire Rescue Capt. Ignatius Carroll.

"They were in rough shape," Carroll said. "But they started to come around."

"So far they both are revived so that's a good thing and they're going for testing."

Carroll said the father placed a generator on the bottom floor of the two-story home because the power was turned off Wednesday night and ran extension cords upstairs.

In the 911 recording, the man explained that he used a generator to just get through until the morning. The dispatcher told him to drag his son outside to the fresh air.

Carroll said something had prompted the father to wake up and he didn't feel right. He then checked on his son.

"Whatever it was that woke him up, probably saved both of their lives," he said. Carroll said the pair was lucky.

"Carbon monoxide is called the silent killer," he said. "It usually claims the lives of people."

In April, a man was killed and several people had to be treated after a car was left running inside a garage of a Wilton Manors home.

Carroll hopes the tragedy will serve as a reminder that generators should never be left on inside or even near a home and that carbon monoxide alarms should be installed.

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



How to avoid buying flood-damaged cars

How to Avoid Buying a Car that Has Been in a Flood

Paying a bargain price for a used vehicle could end up costing you more than you save. In the wake of the recent floods, more flood-damaged vehicles are entering the used-car market and costing unknowing buyers thousands of dollars in repair costs.

Some cars are bought by independent parties, who then "title wash" the damaged vehicles. Title washing occurs when a seller fixes a car's cosmetic damage and retitles it in a state with relaxed vehicle titling laws, like Oregon or Vermont. These states don't require owners to include existing flood or salvage brands in the new titles, leaving it up to individual insurers to evaluate total loss.

An NICB salvage fraud checklist instructs buyers to check under floor mats and vehicle crevices for stains, mildew or debris, and to look for fading on the interior.

Additionally, rusted screws in the console area and moisture in the seat belt retractors are signs that the car has been under high levels of water. Malfunctioning speakers and other electronics are also indicators of water damage.

Scafidi said running the vehicle identification number through NICB's VINCheck database is another useful measure. The database can tell you if a specific vehicle has been declared damaged or reported stolen by the organization's member companies, even if it has been title washed.

To learn more, click [here](#).

See *Call for protection from EMF exposure* on page 7

Scientists Call for Protection from Non-ionizing Electromagnetic Field Exposure

The following letter was sent to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Honorable Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization. It was signed by a large number of scientists from around the world.

U.N. Member States

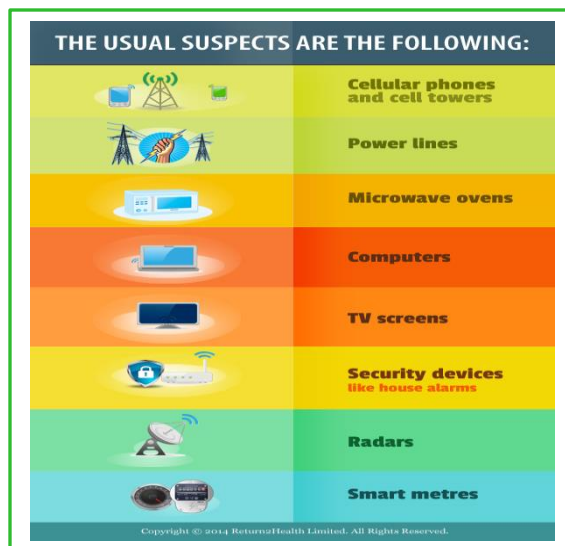
We are scientists engaged in the study of biological and health effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF). Based upon peer-reviewed, published research, we have serious concerns regarding the ubiquitous and increasing exposure to EMF generated by electric and wireless devices. These include—but are not limited to—radiofrequency radiation (RFR) emitting devices, such as cellular and cordless phones and their base stations, Wi-Fi, broadcast antennas, smart meters, and baby monitors as well as electric devices and infra-structures used in the delivery of electricity that generate extremely-low frequency electromagnetic field (ELF EMF).

Scientific basis for our common concerns

Numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines. Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life.

These findings justify our appeal to the United Nations (UN) and, all member States in the world, to encourage the World Health Organization (WHO) to exert strong leadership in fostering the development of more protective EMF guidelines, encouraging precautionary measures, and educating the public about health risks, particularly risk to children and fetal development. By not taking action, the WHO is failing to fulfill its role as the preeminent international public health agency.

Click [here](#) to read the entire letter and to view the list of signatories.



Bill Would Ban E-Cigarettes in New York

The fate of a bill banning electronic cigarettes in most public indoor spaces in New York now rests with the state Senate.

The state Assembly on Thursday voted 85 to 58 to approve the measure, which would make the small, battery-powered vaporizers subject to the same indoor restrictions as traditional cigarettes. The bill now heads to the Senate, where it is awaiting a vote as lawmakers vow to return to the Capitol next week.

E-cigarettes have grown in popularity in recent years as an alternative to traditional lit cigarettes. But they aren't currently affected by the Clean Indoor Air Act, which bans smoking in public indoor places, including restaurants, bars and all workplaces. If approved by the Senate and signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, e-cigarettes would be covered under the indoor-air law.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has raised concerns about e-cigarette use by teens, particularly because some of the products contain nicotine, which is addictive. Use has skyrocketed among middle and high school students, from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 13.4 percent last year, according to the CDC.

A number of medical groups have thrown their support behind the bill, including the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association and the state Medical Society, which represents doctors in New York.

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

See *Castle Rock Family...mold* on page 8

Castle Rock Family Concerned About Mold: 'I Couldn't Breathe'

The Rogers family's apartment in Castle Rock is missing chunks of drywall after days of continuous rain flooded their apartment. **Blooms of mold have sprouted on the walls and the carpet is still wet days later.**

"You could walk on it. It made a squishing sound, like you were walking in a puddle," said resident Naomi Rogers.

The heavy rain that pummeled the Front Range on Thursday caused her apartment at The Pines at Castle Rock to flood, leaving her with soaked carpet and visible spots of mold inside her home.

Nearly a week later, the carpet and most of her family's belongings are still damp.

"Saturday night was really bad. I couldn't breathe, I was opening my windows," said Naomi.

Naomi and her husband don't have flood insurance and they can't afford to stay in a hotel. Their five children are staying with relatives until the problem is resolved.

"Their rooms are destroyed, there's no drywall. Their closets are still wet," said Naomi.

The Rogers family is not alone. Travis Chancey with Abbots Fire and Flood said recent weeks of rain have created flooded apartments, condos and homes that have left mold behind.

"We're seeing over 100 calls a day and we had over 500 over the weekend," said Chancey.

"When it releases this type of mycotoxin in the air, it spreads through the home, the air conditioning and it causes more cross contamination," said Chancey.

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

Next Newsletter: August 1, 2015



Four Children Die of Pesticide Poisoning (Iran)

Four Saudi Arabian children on a pilgrimage to Iran died after falling sick in their hotel rooms which had been fumigated, the Iranian health minister said on Monday.

Symptoms of pesticide poisoning were seen in the blood samples of the victims who were taken ill as a result of fumigation in the hotel where a group of 33 Saudi pilgrims was staying, Health Minister Hassan Hashemi said adding that four of them died on Sunday night, state run news agency IRNA reported.

Urging an immediate probe into the incident, Hashemi called for severe punishment for those responsible for the incident.

Mashhad Prosecutor Gholam Ali Sadeqi said a probe has been launched into the incident.

"A special inspector has been designated to immediately look into all aspects and probable causes of the incident," said the prosecutor.

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

Quick Links:

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Health Effects:
<http://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health-effects>

Position Statement:
<http://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/GIHN-position-statement>
