

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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GIHN Member Announcements

Dr. Michael Gray and Dr. Janette Hope will be giving a presentation at the AAEM/ACAM Conference, November 16-20, in Portland, Oregon. They will give a 90-minute presentation about cases of illness due to mold exposure during the "Classic Cases in Environmental Medicine (Grand Rounds)" workshop on Thursday, November 17. Their presentation will be followed by a 90-minute roundtable discussion.

[AAEM/ACAM Conference, November 16-20, 2011](#)

Former CIA Agent Claims the Military Poisoned His Family at Camp Stanley

The ugly side effects surfaced soon after Kevin Shipp transferred in 1999 from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., to Camp Stanley, the sprawling U.S. Army weapons depot just north of San Antonio. His now ex-wife, Lorena Shipp, suddenly began to suffer near-constant migraines. Rapidly increasing bouts of confusion and short-term memory loss were so severe the family feared she was bordering on dementia. "I thought she was dying," Kevin Shipp said in a recent interview with the Current.

Son, Joel Shipp, then 17, and his two younger siblings battled nosebleeds, strange rashes, bleeding gums, and frequent vomiting, as well as emergency-room trips for breathing difficulties. A doctor later noted Joel's immune system had been ravaged.

The Shipp's claim that for two years, between the summers of 1999 and 2001, the government housed them in an Army-owned home infested with a variety of bacteria and mold—including the so-called "black" mold *Stachybotrys*—leading to a rash of illness that would plague the family for years to come. But what started as a simple personal injury lawsuit against the government spun out of control, according to veteran CIA officer Kevin Shipp, sparking a years-long battle with the federal government that reads like spy novel: mysterious illness, shadowy surveillance, and a government cover-up that destroyed a marriage and career.

After years of wrangling in secret, the Shipp's claim the government swayed a federal judge to quash the family's case against it, saying the need to protect government secrets trumped the family's right to a day in court.

"What happened to my family, it was absolutely horrible. I watched my kids get injured, and instead of facing up to it the government chose to cover it up," he said.

[Former CIA Agent Claims the Military Poisoned His Family at Camp Stanley](#)

See *Essay for Maryland Medicine* on page 2

Dr. Shoemaker's Essay for Maryland Medicine

Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker told me that *Maryland Medicine* will be publishing personal essays from physicians regarding their "personal perspective on practicing medicine." The essays are due by November 15 and must be 750 words or less. Part of Dr. Shoemaker's essay is provided below. To read the entire essay, go to <http://survivingmold.com>. **If other physicians in our group are interested in submitting an essay, please let me know and I will provide the details.**

My 35th medical school reunion is upcoming. Most of my classmates at Duke Med School are retired. I am still in solo practice in Pocomoke, Maryland far down Route 13 on the Eastern Shore. I have been here since 1980. I see no retirement in sight; there is too much to do.

My practice might be unique in the Old Line State. I gave up my Family Practice in 2002 to work on a group of illnesses that were poorly defined and poorly understood. Was making such a decision part of a mid-life crisis? Was it professional suicide? No: my new career has been the most rewarding experience-intellectually and emotionally- in medicine that I have experienced. I traded a high volume primary care practice for the search for underlying mechanisms in illnesses that are the medical orphans of the 21st century.

"My illnesses" are contentious enough: mold, Post-Lyme, ciguatera, fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is the short list. No wonder there are so many attorneys (personal injury and disability alike) wanting something from my office. Just 10 years ago though, who could show the mechanisms of inflammation these illnesses all have? Now we can. And now that the mechanisms by which abnormalities in innate immunity develop in these patients are defined, and they are all chronic inflammatory response syndromes (CIRS), successful therapies follow. Seeing someone injured by exposure to a moldy building, for example, return to productive life after 10 years of functional disability brings a sense of joy different from the professional pleasures from my earlier medical life. I used to treasure the feeling that came from helping a three year old survive ear infections, mono, marriage and then parenthood. I still do. The two phases of my medical career have reinforced my belief that physicians can truly make a difference in society.



Photo of Bromley demolition site

Builder Sentenced After Workers Exposed to Asbestos on Bromley Demolition Site

A building contractor has been made to pay almost £27,000 after workers were exposed to asbestos-containing materials on a construction site.

Fadil Adil, of Coniston Road, Bromley, was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for the way work was carried out on the site he was in charge of, in Bromley High Street between June 21 and 29 last year (2010).

The project involved demolishing a building which had a restaurant on the ground floor and flats above.

And during the work asbestos insulating boards in the restaurant's ceiling were broken up by three workmen who were demolishing the building using sledgehammers and hand-operated breakers, meaning they could have been exposed to asbestos fibres.

An HSE investigation found that the defendant did not have a licence to work with asbestos, nor was he trained in construction management. And it found that at no point did Adil carry out an asbestos survey, nor did he provide any guidance to the workmen regarding the presence of asbestos.

"The dangers of asbestos are well known; it is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK with around 1,000 tradesmen dying each year from asbestos-related diseases.

[Builder Sentenced After Workers Exposed to Asbestos on Bromley Demolition Site](#)

See *Court Case involving ServPro and Sporidicin* on page 3

Court Case involving ServPro and the use of Sporicidin

In this declaratory judgment action, plaintiff Restoration Risk Retention Group, Inc. seeks shared insurance coverage with defendant Selective Way Insurance Company for defense and indemnification of their insured, Mitigation Services, Inc. d/b/a/ Servpro of Cherry Hill ("Servpro"). The trial court granted summary judgment to Selective dismissing Restoration Risk's complaint. Restoration Risk now appeals from a December 7, 2010 order denying reconsideration of the summary judgment order. We affirm.

In October 2007, Michael and Andrea Meltzer filed a lawsuit against Servpro alleging negligence and other causes of action arising out of mold remediation in their Mount Laurel home.

The Meltzers' complaint alleged that in September 2006 a rainstorm caused water to infiltrate into their basement. They contacted Servpro to remove the water and clean the basement. Servpro found mold in two areas and advised the Meltzers to obtain the services of an industrial hygienist to test for mold and to devise a plan for mold remediation.

The Meltzers hired industrial hygienist Chris Macri, who prepared a report and mold remediation plan. Servpro agreed to follow Macri's plan in removing the mold.

In October 2006, the Meltzers and their children temporarily moved out of their house when Servpro began its work, which included "fogging" in the living areas of the house. **After the work was completed, Macri returned to perform post-remediation testing. He detected a strong odor, which he identified as a chemical named Sporicidin. Macri saw residue on many surfaces in the living areas of the home. He advised the Meltzers that the use of Sporicidin was not included in his mold remediation plan and that he would never recommend the fogging of living spaces with that chemical.**

When Mrs. Meltzer entered the home to retrieve personal belongings, she suffered a severe headache and throat irritation.



Court Case involving ServPro and the use of Sporicidin (continued)

Macri devised a further plan to remove the Sporicidin odor and residue from the home, and Servpro undertook to remedy the contamination. After Servpro's additional work was completed, the Meltzers retained Michael M. Lynch, Ph.D., to inspect the house and report on its condition. Lynch noted that strong odors of chemical disinfectant were prevalent throughout the house, and he observed windows, mirrors, carpeting, and other porous surfaces covered with a heavy film. His report outlined yet another remediation plan. The Meltzers provided Servpro with Lynch's report and asked whether Servpro would perform the additional work. Servpro did not respond.

In April 2007, the Meltzers hired another company, Insurance Restoration Specialists, to execute the remediation plan recommended by Lynch. Despite the further remediation efforts, odors remained, and the Meltzers never moved back into their home.

The cause of damage to the Meltzer home was not a disputed issue of fact; it was the fogging of the home with excessive amounts of Sporicidin that caused the damages. The Meltzers' losses were a result of the mold contamination leading directly to further damaging remedial measures undertaken by Servpro to remove the mold. The "causal link" and a "substantial nexus" between the mold and the damages were clear and undisputed.

[Court Case Involving ServPro and the Use of Sporicidin](#)

Member Profile: Linda Delp

I am very proud to be a member of GIHN. When I first became ill around 1999, I thought I was the only one in the world dealing with indoor mold. I was healthy and active--busy raising my gifted daughter and involved with her studies. I was going to school and bowled twice a week, then my life changed forever.

My journey started with sinusitis and I became unusually weak one Spring. I was treated with antibiotics and seemed to recover. The next Spring the same thing happened, but it was worse this time. The doctor gave me a stronger antibiotic, but I had a serious reaction--Severe Urticaria. Actually, I had a physical after the allergic reaction, and everything was fine except my white blood count. After the physical, I had another reaction and had to go to the hospital again.

Next, I went to an allergy/asthma doctor, and he prescribed prednisone and other medications for several months. After all that medication, a CAT scan revealed that my sinuses were infected. The next step was an ENT, and we were discussing sinus surgery.

During this time, I had the Health Department visit our home, and they discovered mold in the basement behind the walls--from cracks in the foundation. I reported the problem to my landlord, and finally 6 months later, they showed up only to remove 30-year-old wallpaper and apply new paint. By the time they were done, I was headed for sinus surgery. Our landlord told us we had to move--after living there for 8 years and taking such good care of the home.

The next two places also had indoor mold which added to our trauma. I did work on a lawsuit for a year on my own, so that we wouldn't be where we are today--without medical care. I had a New York lawyer, but the court refused to give me extra time to get a local lawyer which was difficult since no one seemed to know about indoor mold.

My husband also had seizures and last year had to have quadruple bypass surgery. We are basically living the best we can—with my husband having to work 50 extra hours just to get by. We have just about lost any hope.

How can it be that our leaders have allowed this to happen while so many suffer.



Linda Delp

New Report Documents Chemical Industry Efforts to Delay Health Assessments of Toxic Chemicals

Big business chemical industries have repeatedly blocked the Environmental Protection Agency and other government bodies from assessing the harms of hazardous chemicals. NRDC provides a meticulous accounting of the evidence behind this in *The Delay Game*. This [new report](#), released today, uses three chemicals, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene (TCE) and styrene, to illustrate a larger systemic breakdown, in desperate need of a fix.

Without government experts to assess the health harms of industrial chemicals, we have only industry science to turn to. If you think the government isn't looking out for you, do you think that the corporate boardrooms of America will do better?

We are putting our own health and the health of our families and communities in the hands of the chemical industry when we fail to defend our government scientists and experts from public calls to dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency, cut funds for our public servants or just sit idly by while the industry blocks the health assessments and subsequent safeguards that protect our air, water, and land.. This is a recipe for more cancer, asthma, birth defects, and other illnesses and deaths from increased exposure to toxic chemicals in our consumer products, our homes, our food, our drinking water, and ultimately our bodies.

[New NRDC Report Documents Chemical Industry Efforts to Delay Health Assessments of Toxic Chemicals](#)

See *Phase-Down of Mercury Amalgams* on page 5

WHO Suggests Phase-Down of Mercury Amalgams

The World Health Organization today released its long-awaited 2009 meeting report on the "Future Use of Materials for Dental Restorations" in preparation for the third of five Intergovernmental Committee deliberations that are expected to lead to the adoption of a legally binding treaty on mercury by 2013. Hailed by consumer groups as a "breakthrough," the WHO report suggests, over time, the global "phase down" of amalgam.

According to the report: "Mercury is one of the ten chemicals of major public health concern that WHO prioritizes. Dental amalgam is a significant source of exposure... National, regional and global actions, both immediate and long-term, are needed to reduce or eliminate releases of mercury and its compounds to the environment."

WHO is committed to work with the health sector and national, regional and global health partners to:

- reduce mercury exposure;
- eliminate the use of mercury wherever possible;
- promote the development of alternatives to the use of mercury;
- lead the profession in the negotiations of the development of the legally binding instrument on mercury.

"It was evident from the meeting presentations that mercury-free dental fillings are already widely used in some countries, so reality may be overtaking policy decisions," said Bender. "Medical insurance covering alternative materials could be crucial for a swifter transition allowing mercury-free tooth-colored fillings to become the rule and not the exception."

To read the press release:

[WHO Report Suggests "Phase Down" of Dental Amalgam Globally; Breakthrough Will Lead to Phase Out of Dental Mercury, Say NGOs](#)

To read the WHO report:

[Future Use of Materials for Dental Restoration](#)



St. Mary's College Students to Move Off Campus Because of Mold

St. Mary's College of Maryland is planning to move nearly 200 students out of two dormitories because of lingering mold problems following the late summer's heavy rains. Some will be temporarily housed in other areas on campus and many will go to off-campus hotels.

In an Oct. 18 letter posted on the college's website, President Joseph Urgo said the college determined Monday it would need to move 191 students from Prince George and Caroline residence hall.

"We have found our experience with mold in the residence halls this semester extremely frustrating, as have other colleges and universities in rain-soaked areas this season," Urgo wrote. "Hurricane Irene and subsequent, prolonged damp and rainy weather exacerbate mold conditions in these residence halls."

The college did some cleaning of the residence halls during a break in classes but found continued evidence of mold

Remediation plans include removing the ceilings, insulation and all affected materials on the two floors in both buildings. The rooms and furniture will then be cleaned and vacuumed following protocols established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[St. Mary's College Students to Move Off Campus Because of Mold](#)

Fragrances in Cleaning Products

Today, most fragrances are synthesized, primarily from petroleum products. About 3,000 chemicals are used in the fragrance industry, but very few of these have been tested for their cancer-causing potential or other health effects.

A single fragrance usually contains multiple chemicals— as few as 10 chemicals or as many as several hundred. One study conducted at the University Of California, San Diego, showed that mixing multiple chemicals together in a fragrance brew can actually make each individual chemical more potent, so that less was needed to cause a sensory reaction. The researchers also discovered that fragrances don't just stimulate our olfactory nerve, which identifies scent. The chemicals can also stimulate other nerves that perceive irritation. And they've found that as exposure time to a fragrance increases, irritation grows, even though the scent itself may seem to diminish.

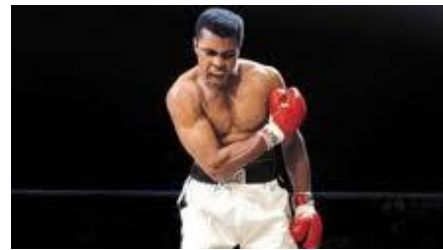
Limonene, a lemon or orange scent used in many products, as well as other aromatic compounds found in pine and other essential oils can cause difficulty breathing. Solvents used in cleaners, such as ethanol and styrene, can cause headaches, fatigue and dizziness. Styrene is a possible human carcinogen. Phthalates, used to lengthen the duration of a scent are suspected hormone disruptors.

Just to make things more confusing, it turns out that scent formulas are often protected as private information by law. That means, you'll often see the generic term "fragrance" or "perfume" on the label without information about the actual chemicals used and the amounts.

Even products labeled "fragrance -free" may, in fact, contain fragrance! According to FDA Consumer, the term "fragrance-free" implies that a cosmetic product has no detectable odor, but it may contain fragrance used to mask a bad-smelling raw material.

[Fragrances in Cleaning Products](#)

[Next Newsletter: Friday, November 4, 2011](#)



Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali Sues Home Owners for Mold and Leaks

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali is suing the former owners of his Kentucky home after he was forced to make innumerable repairs to the property since moving in five years ago. Ali and his wife Yolanda purchased the estate in Louisville in 2006, but have struggled to maintain the mansion due to a series of defects.

According to Tmz.com, Muhammad has filed a lawsuit against the former owners after discovering leaks, mold and defective decking. The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, alleges the married couple who owned the home previously were aware of the problems but chose not to disclose them to potential buyers. The former boxing champion also complains that the house suffers from a leaky roof and chimney.

The three-time heavyweight champion and his wife bought the house in eastern Jefferson County for \$1.9 million in 2007.

[Muhammad Ali Sues Home Owners for Mold and Leaks](#)

Quick Links

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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

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

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments