

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Inside This Issue

- 1 Mold Outbreak in Social Security Office
- 1 Welcome New Members
- 2 Guam's Tallest Building Rises
- 2 Stricter Policy on Rental Units (Michigan)
- 3 Glass Houses—No Wood or Metal
- 3 Changes to our Website
- 4 Member Profile: Liza Naylor
- 4 Pleasantville Refuses to Release Mold Report
- 5 Residential Dampness and Mold Associated with Respiratory Infections and Bronchitis
- 5 Mould Infects Preston (Australia) Tenant
- 6 EPA Draft of New School Siting Guidelines
- 6 Global IHN Committee Updates

Welcome New Members

No new members, but we have several membership requests in process.

Please encourage your friends, families and coworkers to apply. They can send a message through our website at:

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/contactus/>

They can also contact me via my personal email address.

We have streamlined our membership process. If you would like to see our new Membership Application, please let me know.

Mold Outbreak in Social Security Office

The American Federation of Government Employees, the country's largest federal employee union, is demanding the immediate closure of a Social Security Administration claims office in Ironton, Ohio due to a black mold outbreak. The mold outbreak which was first noticed two years ago, has left nine out of 11 workers ill, all of which have filed workers' compensation claims, and poses a threat to the hundreds of people who go in and out of the contaminated office every week.

"I've asked and demanded they close the office," said AFGE Local 3448 President David Sheagley. "The employees are experiencing respiratory problems and headaches among other symptoms because of the repeated exposure to the mold. Around 100 people are in and out of that office every day – retirees, the disabled – and they are being exposed to black mold. This is a dire public safety issue."

[Mold Outbreak in Social Security Office](#)



Social Security Administration—Sick Building

See *Guam's Tallest Building Rises* on page 2

Guam's Tallest Building Rises

There are some interesting comments in this article regarding the building process for this new hotel and convention center in Guam.

The hotel is being built with environmental care in mind, although the hotel doesn't plan to go after the highly sought Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, or LEED, certification. LEED certification follows a process of meeting eco-friendly building designs.

The hotel will focus on aspects of environmentally friendly elements that will ease the building's footprint and the owner's energy bill.

The hotel will use photovoltaic solar panels to help ease the power drain from the community. The panels won't feed back into the Guam Power Authority power grid, but circulate within the building.

To lessen the amount of water used by the hotel, a rooftop rainwater catchment system will collect up to 250,000 gallons of water. Other features of the hotel will include several layers of insulation, particle-catching air-conditioning units to reduce mold, and waterless urinals in the bathrooms.

Once completed, it will be the tallest building on Guam.

To read the entire article:

[Guam's Tallest Building Rises](#)

Stricter Policy on Rental Units:

"..the main thing the inspectors will be looking for are life safety issues, mold, lead, and various other things. Life safety is really the crux of all things..."



New Hotel and Convention Center in Guam

Stricter Policy on Rental Units (Michigan)

On Wednesday night the Union Township board (in Michigan) approved ordinance 2010-03, a stricter policy on rental inspections.

"In general it's all about safety. Physical safety, fire safety, ventilation safety, and in older units: mold," John Barker, Township Supervisor, said.

When Barker first took over as township supervisor a few years ago he was "stunned" that there were no rental housing inspections.

Union Township has a large number of rental housing, with 6,000 in the township alone coming from student renting.

The utilities are going to be the major area for concern, anything that has gas, electricity, or plumbing. However the main thing the inspectors will be looking for are life safety issues, mold, lead, and various other things.

"Life safety is really the crux of all things the first few years. Then we will fine tune the inspections to make them more proficient," Robinson said.

It won't be just student housing that will be affected by this, mobile homes, married homes, condos, town homes, and hotels will all be a part of the new ordinance.

[Union Township Approves Stricter Policy on Rental Units](#)

Glass Houses—No Wood or Metal

Here's another interesting concept for houses. They use waste glass, and there is no wood or metal. Because the houses are made of glass, there is no chance for mold problems. The houses can withstand hurricanes and earthquakes.

Simon Parrish says he has spent about 20 years developing a method of housing construction that can stand up to just about anything. Now, he is letting the rest of the world know about it.

In a process that was developed and eventually brought to market by Parrish and his father, Malcolm, waste glass is transformed into a very fine powder similar to sand. It is then combined with a resin to form reinforced wall sections that are resistant to fire, water and mold.

"It's absolutely the best material to make a house from," Simon Parrish said.

There is no wood or metal in the house. Channels for plumbing and electrical wiring are built into the panels.

[Article about Houses Made of Waste Glass](#)



Model of glass house

Changes to Our Website

The following research papers were provided by Dr. Jack Thrasher.

[Association of Residential Dampness and Mold with Respiratory Infections and Bronchitis—A Meta-Analysis](#) by William Fisk et al. See more information on this paper on page 5. Also check out the following related paper by Kishi et al:

[Regional Differences in Residential Environments and the Association of Dwellings and Residential Factors with the Sick House Syndrome: A Cross-Sectional Questionnaire Study in Japan](#)

[Added our New Logo to the Website.](#) We added our new logo to the website. Check out the new look at:

[Global Indoor Health Network](#)

[Donate to Global Indoor Health Network.](#) Check out the changes on our "Donate" page. We now have a **PayPal button** to make it easier to submit donations. We also added a link to our new **on-line store**. Please share this link with your friends, family and colleagues. We have many ideas for moving this issue forward and will need funding to achieve our objectives.

[Donate to Global Indoor Health Network](#)

See *Member Profile: Liza Naylor* on page 4

*Global Indoor Health Network
Website Updates*

globalindoorhealthnetwork.com

New PayPal Button

Link to our On-line Store

Member Profile: Liza Naylor

From Baltimore, Liza brought her two daughters to the rolling hills of Pennsylvania. There, Liza met and married her husband, Dave, and his two children and settled into life raising four. As a stay-at-home mom, Liza became involved in scouting, running children's day camps, helping in the schools and community.

Liza's two girls began to get sick while in the elementary school. Constant and unexplained illnesses for which the pediatrician was unable to find causes or links continued to get worse. Before building their own home, they lived in a leaky mobile and without knowing it, their children were attending elementary school with excessive mold problems. The connection with overexposure to mold was made in the spring of this year when her youngest daughter's lung function was dropping quickly and her hives, split lip, stomach pain, asthma attacks and headaches during the school day could no longer be controlled. After careful research, Liza discovered that the laws regarding indoor air quality and integrated pest management are dangerously lax and schools are not required to follow policies protective of our developing children.

If factual, accurate information was available early on before small symptoms become chronic illnesses, families could make different choices to help protect their health. Liza now works with her school district and in her community to raise awareness of mold in schools and homes as a major health contaminant.

An avid reader, Liza enjoys international culture and cuisine, and sewing and quilting, as well as primitive outdoor living.



Liza and her oldest daughter, Meagan

Pleasantville Refuses to Release Mold Report

Headline: *Pleasantville refuses to release school mold report, claims it contains personnel information about superintendent's job status*

The Pleasantville School District's business administrator, Dennis Mulvihill, said Grantham's status was a personnel issue and that was the reason the board went into closed session Tuesday night while reviewing the mold report.

Mulvihill also said the report on mold problems at the **Leeds Avenue School** was not distributed to Board of Education members during a special meeting the night before and that members simply reviewed the report's findings.

The Press of Atlantic City has filed a records request for the report under New Jersey's Open Public Records Act.

To read the entire article:

[Pleasantville Refuses to Release Mold Report](#)

See *Residential Dampness and Mold* on page 5

Residential Dampness and Mold Associated with Respiratory Infections and Bronchitis

Dampness and mold have been shown in qualitative reviews to be associated with a variety of adverse respiratory health effects, including respiratory tract infections. Several published meta-analyses have provided quantitative summaries for some of these associations, but not for respiratory infections.

Demonstrating a causal relationship between dampness-related agents, which are preventable exposures, and respiratory tract infections would suggest important new public health strategies. We report the results of quantitative meta-analyses of published studies that examined the association of dampness or mold in homes with respiratory infections and bronchitis.

Conclusions: Residential dampness and mold are associated with substantial and statistically significant increases in both respiratory infections and bronchitis.

To read the entire article:

[Association of Residential Dampness and Mold with Respiratory Tract Infections and Bronchitis: A Meta-Analysis](#)



Mould Infects Preston (Australia) Tenant

New Research Study and Meta-Analysis By William Fisk et al

“Residential dampness and mold are associated with substantial and statistically significant increases in both respiratory infections and bronchitis.”

Mould Infects Preston (Australia) Tenant

A Preston public housing tenant is pleading for a transfer from the mould-infested unit that has made him ill.

Anthony Denzic, 39, has developed a severe infection from mould and dampness covering the walls and ceiling of his Mornane St ground-floor apartment.

The former bar worker first sought medical advice in June when his sense of smell had changed, he had lost his appetite and become lethargic.

In August, a CT scan showed his left sinus was almost completely blocked by a growth from the exposure to mould.

A letter from his doctor, seen by the Leader, stated that Mr. Denzic’s condition was unlikely to improve unless the exposure to mould ceased.

Department spokesman Brendan Ryan said the Office of Housing was aware of the problem and a mould specialist had been sent to inspect the property. “If the tenant needs to move out while any rectification work is done, then we can organise this and pay the relocation costs,” Mr. Ryan said.

[Mould Infects Preston Tenant](#)

EPA Draft of New School Siting Guidelines

The following introduction is provided on the EPA website:

School buildings are fundamental components of the educational process and children spend more time in schools than in any other environment except their home. More than 53 million children and 6 million staff occupy more than 135,000 public and private schools in the U.S. A well located, thoughtfully designed, soundly built and efficiently operated school enhances the educational process by providing a safe and healthy environment for children, teachers and other staff. State-of-the-art schools also provide many opportunities to enhance the educational process itself and to meet multiple community goals. The decision to site and build a new school is a complex one. These voluntary guidelines are intended to assist communities and community members in making the best possible school siting decisions.

To read the draft of the new guidelines:

[EPA Draft of New School Siting Guidelines](#)



Check out: [Global IHN on-line store](#)

Next Newsletter: Friday, December 3



Check out: EPA New School Siting Guidelines

Global IHN Committee Updates

We have the following updates.

Research Committee: Ken Hudnell, Chairperson, has prepared a draft of the guidelines for research papers for our organization. The guidelines provide a list of questions and factors to consider when planning and preparing our research papers. I appreciate Ken's efforts to share his expertise with our Research Committee. The other members of the Research Committee are Ritchie Shoemaker and Jack Thrasher. As soon as the guidelines are finalized, we will distribute them to our members. At that time, we will also provide an updated copy of our list of research projects.

Education Committee: The Education Committee has started making plans for how we will address the education and awareness component of our mission statement. They are defining and prioritizing our target audiences and are considering several ideas for how we can begin providing education regarding this important public health issue.

The Education Committee includes Jack Thrasher as Chairperson along with Laura Mark and Lee Thomassen. We have also added two additional members to our Education Committee. Kristina Townsend and Andrea Fabry have joined the Committee.

I appreciate the efforts of each of these individuals and their willingness to get involved and contribute to this important cause.

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments