

MOLD MEDICINE VERSUS MOLD HYPE

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MOLD MEDICINE VERSUS MOLD HYPE

- MEDICINE BEGAN HUNDREDS OF YEARS
AGO
 - ERGOTISM IN THE MIDDLE AGES
 - HYPE BEGAN WITH 1994 CDC CLEVELAND
NEWBORN STUDY
 - MEDIA FEEDING FRENZY
 - RETRACTED IN 2000 BY INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL REVIEWS
 - RETRACTION NEVER DISCUSSED
-

PARALELL TRACTS

- HEALTH-MOLD SCIENCE: MAINSTREAM MEDICINE
 - TEXTBOOKS OF MYCOLOGY
 - NO *STACHYBOTRYS* NOTED
 - COSTLY POPULAR FRENZY:
 - DRIVEN BY
 - “INDOOR AIR SPECIALISTS”
 - ENGINEERS
 - REMEDIATORS
 - MEDIA
 - ATTORNEYS
 - FEW ACTIVIST PHYSICIANS
-



The diagram illustrates the 'Mold Management Dilemma' as a spectrum between two extremes. At the top, a long double-headed arrow spans the width of the slide. Below it, the title 'THE MOLD MANAGEMENT DILEMMA' is centered. Three large green arrows point downwards from the title area to the three main columns. The left column is headed 'DENIAL' and lists 'SOME ADJUSTERS', 'SOME PROVIDERS', and '\$ 32 MIL. BALLARD'. The center column is headed 'PROPER RESPONSE' and lists 'MEDICINE -BASED', 'SCIENT. ADVISORY', 'SENSITIVITY', 'FOCUSED', 'FEAR REDUCTION', and 'REDUCED \$'. The right column is headed 'MOLD FEAR' and lists 'WORRIED PUBLIC', 'MEDIA HYPE', 'PROVIDERS—', 'BUY IN', 'DON'T KNOW', '\$ PROFIT', and 'EXHORBITANT \$'. A horizontal decorative line runs across the bottom of the text area.

THE MOLD MANAGEMENT DILEMMA

DENIAL

SOME ADJUSTERS

SOME PROVIDERS

\$ 32 MIL. BALLARD

PROPER RESPONSE

MEDICINE -BASED
SCIENT. ADVISORY
SENSITIVITY
FOCUSED
FEAR REDUCTION
REDUCED \$

MOLD FEAR

WORRIED
PUBLIC
MEDIA HYPE

PROVIDERS—
BUY IN
DON'T KNOW
\$ PROFIT

EXHORBITANT \$

WHY CLEAN UP MOLD?

- AESTHETICS
 - STRUCTURAL
 - HEALTH—THE PRIMARY DRIVER
 - FEW PHYSICIANS INVOLVED
 - ALMOST NO MEDICAL OVERSIGHT
-

IS MOLD TODAY WORSE OR MORE DANGEROUS?

- NEW STUDIES BUT LITTLE EVIDENCE OF GROWING HEALTH PROBLEM RE INDOOR EXPOSURES
 - MOST DATA IS ANECDOTAL OR IMPRECISE EPIDEMIOLOGY
 - CROFT
 - HODGSON
 - JOHANNING
 - CDC REPORT—NOW RETRACTED
-

ANECDOTES AND CASE SERIES

- BREAST IMPLANT CONCERNS AND LITIGATION A RECENT EXAMPLE
 - 17 WELL-CONTROLLED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ENDED THE ISSUE
-

“EPIDEMIOLOGICAL” “MOLD” STUDIES

DEPEND ALMOST ENTIRELY ON SYMPTOM
REPORTING—AN UNRELIABLE ENDPOINT

FEW FINDINGS (IE. “IMMUNE” ALTERATIONS)
MINUTE—CLINICALLY IRRELEVANT
LIKELY UNRELIABLE
NO ESTABLISHED CONTROL GROUP

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- **MOLD TOXINS INDOORS HAVE NEVER BEEN PROVEN TO CAUSE DISEASE**
 - **NO MEASUREMENTS**
 - **LIKELY TOO LOW—COMPARE WITH OCCUPATIONAL LEVELS**
 - **MUCH LOWER THAN EXPERIMENTAL ANIMAL DATA**
 - **LOWER THAN MANY OUTDOOR LEVELS**
OUTDOOR MOLD LEVELS WHICH CAN EXCEED 50,000 SPORES/M³
-

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- MOLD TOXINS HAVE NEVER BEEN PROVEN TO CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE
 - JOHANNING STUDIES DO NOT SHOW THIS
 - HODGSON STUDIES NEGATIVE
 - DR. GORDON ADMITS HIS DATA DOES NOT ESTABLISH THIS
 - EXCLUDED IN HAVNER DECISION IN BALLARD CASE IN TEXAS
 - TOXINS MADE BY STACHYBOTRYS ARE NOT NEUROTOXIC
-

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- THE TERM “TOXIC MOLD” MAKES NO SENSE.
 - ALMOST ALL MOLDS CAN MAKE MYCOTOXINS
 - EVEN “BENIGN “*ALTERNARIA* MAY MAKE UP TO 80 MYCOTOXINS
-

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS “TOXIC FUNGAL SYNDROME” OR “FUNGAL SYNDROME” OR BIOAEROSAL RELATED ILLNESS**
 - **“EXPERTS” MAKE THIS UP TO EXPLAIN SYMPTOMS.**
 - **NO ICD9 CLASSIFICATION.**
 - **NOT GENERALLY ACCEPTED**
 - **NOT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE**
-

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- **THERE ARE NO CHRONIC DISEASES CHARACTERIZED BY SYMPTOMS ALONE DUE TO MOLD**
 - **MOLD-RELATED DISEASES ARE SPECIFIC AND DIAGNOSABLE**
 - **SYMPTOMS CANNOT BE USED TO ESTABLISH CAUSATION**
 - **MOLD DOES NOT CAUSE ADD, CFS OR FIBROMYALGIA**
 - **NOT GENERALLY ACCEPTED**
 - **NOT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE**
-

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- **MOLD AT SUMMER CAMP OR IN THE WOODS IS VASTLY MORE EXTENSIVE AND THEORETICALLY MORE DANGEROUS THAN INDOOR LEVELS**
-

CORRECTING MOLD HEALTH MISINFORMATION

- **INDOOR LEVELS OF MOLD DO NOT CAUSE CANCER**
 - **AFLATOXIN AT HIGH EXPOSURE LEVELS IS A KNOWN HUMAN CARCINOGEN**
 - **FDA REGULATES LEVELS IN FOODS**
 - **HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT INDOOR LEVELS COULD EVER POSE CARCINOGENIC RISK**
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MOLD SCIENCE

- ALLERGIES
 - HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS
 - ORGANIC DUST SYNDROME
 - INFECTION
 - POSSIBLE IRRITANT EFFECTS
 - TOXICITY (WITH VERY HIGH DOSES)
 - DOSE IS CRITICAL
-

SOLUTIONS TO MOLD CRISIS

- SOLID SCIENTIFIC-MEDICAL FOUNDATION
 - ADVISORY BOARD
 - INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT
 - SINCE THE DRIVER IS HEALTH HAVE MEDICAL OVERSIGHT
-

MOLD ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT: SINGLE-SOURCE SOLUTION

