MOLD MEDICINE VERSUS MOLD HYPE

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- 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 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
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

Mold Health Evaluation
Facility Assessment
Maintenance & Prevention
Remediation

SINGLE-SOURCE SOLUTION