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Dr. Barbara S. Shane
NTP Executive Secretary
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Sent via Email: shane@niehs.nih.gov

Dear Dr. Shane,

I wish to commend the National Toxicology Program for placing the study of illnesses due to mold and mold toxins on the December 6, 2007, Board of Directors meeting agenda. Currently in the United States, there is much conflicting information of the science regarding the understanding of these illnesses.

The “Toxic Mold Issue” has been a highly controversial and highly litigated one with fear from both the physical and financial ramifications of the issue being the primary culprit driving the contention and confusion. Much of the “science” over the matter has been established within the courtrooms of America, where there are always two sides to every story told. We need our government to step in and clearly tell one side – the true scientific understanding not influenced by financial interests.

As it stands today, the physicians of America are deeply confused by the courtroom science over the mold issue. People are not able to receive proper medical treatment for illnesses caused by microbial contamination found within water damaged buildings. Nor, or they even being warned that microbial contamination could be the possible cause of their symptoms of ill health. As a result, the current situation is allowing the ill to become sicker than they should, which increases the financial liability for stakeholders of moldy buildings, which increases the contention, which increases the litigation, which causes two sides of “science” to be perpetually told in the courtrooms of America. And the matter continues to confuse the physicians of America. The self perpetuating, vicious circle unnecessarily rages on. As a nation, we are currently wasting the health of our citizens and the finances of our businesses by allowing fear and the courtroom to dictate the scientific understanding of mold/mold toxin induced illnesses.

Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that the NIEHS, National Toxicology Program step in and help to break this self-perpetuating circle that has proven to be a true nightmare for US Citizens from both the physical and financial aspect.

I have read Dr. Dori Germolac's proposed approach and goals of the matter. [See: http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/files/Mold_Project_Update_BSC_FINAL.pdf] I have read Dr. Germolac's expected outcome of such study, which is,

“These studies will provide important information regarding which fungal organisms may be causative agents for human health effects, target organs for fungal toxicity, the utility of biomarkers other than IgE as measures of exposure and effect, and dose-dependant effects with particular emphasis on respiratory, immune, and neurologic endpoints.”

I concur with Dr. Germolac's evaluation of the matter and am of the opinion the National Toxicology Program would be moving in the right direction to study these aspects of mold/mold toxin induced illnesses. For the National Toxicology Program to take on such a project, would serve the public well and would assist all US Citizens who are currently losing their health, both physically and financially to the dreaded “Toxic Mold Issue”. I thank the NTP for their attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Noonan Kramer