Pamela Garcia March 19, 2021

Subject: Occupational and Inhalation Exposures Program

Comments:

This is an extremely important area of study, that is severely lacking recognition as a major public health danger by too many frontline doctors, local governments, and health departments. I firmly believe many people are sickened, possibly killed, and lives and productivity negatively impacted by indoor mold. Much of this is due to negligent landlords and inconsistent or nonexistent laws, remediation procedures, and medical guidelines. From my review of the topic, real estate and liability insurance industries have played a role in suppressing this health hazard.



One of many things that I learned when I finally realized that indoor mold was an issue, is that a tenant has an uphill battle to fight, and gets very little assistance from local governments, health departments, and even doctors.

In addition, as I hired multiple mold inspection companies, and eventually the landlord hired a company, I saw that the inspectors followed some different procedures that could impact the data interpretation. For example, one inspector put the outdoor sensor close to the house, (for electrical outlet), which resulted in a high outdoor baseline reading. From conversations with the various inspectors, I became aware that mold is a major issue in many rented homes throughout

Many children's asthma, allergies, and learning difficulties may be caused by the moldy homes where they live and sleep. Many people may develop "COPD" due to indoor mold. The over-the counter medications and medications prescribed for chronic asthma, allergies, COPD impact the immune system. COPD and other respiratory "conditions" are leading causes of death in the US. Asthma and COPD are risk factors with Covid-19. How many people in minority neighborhoods that have "asthma" or "COPD" actually caused by indoor mold have died from Covid-19?

I would be willing to share all of my "mold exposure case" information, photos, records, etc in one or more of the proposed studies. I hope this can be used to help end this inadequately recognized health hazard/crisis that I believe is negatively impacting the lives of many low income and minority families, as well as many middle inxome families.