

Center for Science in the Public Interest
1875 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20009
Main switchboard: (202) 332-9110
Fax: (202) 265-4954
Merrill Goozner
GoozNews
Integrity in Science Watch – Week of 4/24/2006

Allergy Journal Strengthens Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Policy

The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI), an Elsevier publication, will require greater financial disclosure from authors and automatically publish those disclosures, the editor said. Two mold experts, Dr. Abba Terr and Dr. Andrew Saxon, failed to disclose their roles as defense witnesses in mold exposure liability lawsuits when publishing a review in the journal earlier this year that downplayed the risks from household mold exposure. Editor Donald Leung said future author conflict of interest forms accompanying JACI submissions will now include "specific questions" about expert witnessing and the journal will "ensure that all published manuscripts will carry a conflict of interest statement regarding each author."
Integrity in Science Watch -- Week of 3/31/2006

The prestigious Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI) last month failed to disclose two physicians' roles as insurance company defense experts in their scientific review "The Medical Effects of Mold Exposure," which downplayed risks to human health from household mold. According to court documents obtained by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Dr. Abba I. Terr, Stanford University School of Medicine, and Dr. Andrew Saxon, University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine, were paid up to \$600 an hour for testimony in cases brought by homeowners alleging their illnesses were caused by mold. JACI, the journal of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), requires authors to disclose conflicts of interest to the editor, who then has discretion in publishing them. In a letter to editor Donald Leung, CSPI urged AAAAI to make disclosure mandatory and prevent authors who fail to disclose conflicts of interest from publishing in the journal for three years.