

**The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
& the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee**

Extend An Invitation To Senate Legislative Assistants

We Urge You to Join Us for a Briefing on

“The Health Effects of Mycotoxins and Mold”

Thursday, January 12th at 2:30 PM

Room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building

A panel of fungal disease experts will provide an overview of our current understanding of the health effects of mycotoxin and mold exposure. In addition, the panel will discuss the ways in which mold related illnesses are currently treated, recommend areas where increased education would benefit doctors and patients, and suggest areas where more research is needed.

The panel will consist of:

**Dr. Mary Jane Selgrade,
EPA Office of R&D**

**Dr. Laura Kolb,
EPA Office of Air and Radiation**

**Dr. Vincent Marinkovich,
Diagnostic & Treating Immunologist/Physicist,
Mycotic Diseases**

**Dr. David Sherris,
Professor & Chairman of Otolaryngology at SUNY Buffalo,
Chronic Fungal Sinusitis**

**Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker,
Diagnostic and Treating Physician,
Biotoxin Illness**

**Dr. Chin Shan Yang,
President P & K Microbiology Services, Inc.
Fungal Microbiology**

**Sharon Noonan Kramer,
Moderator**

Biographical Sketches of Presenters for “Illness from Mycotoxins & Mold” Briefing

Dr. MaryJane Selgrade

Dr. Selgrade is Chief of the Immunotoxicology Branch, Experimental Toxicology Division, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in Research Triangle Park. She received her B.S. degree in Biology from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, and her M. S. and Ph. D. degrees in Medical Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. After a National Research Council Associateship in the Immunology Section at the Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina, Cancer Research Center, at Chapel Hill, and a Visiting Assistant Professorship in the Microbiology Department at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, she joined EPA in 1978. She is also an adjunct professor in the Curriculum in Toxicology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and in the Toxicology Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Dr. Selgrade’s research interests center around the interactions between xenobiotic compounds (particularly ambient and indoor air pollutants and food allergens) and the immune system and consequent effects on susceptibility to infectious and allergic disease. She has published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters in these areas. She has served on the Society of Toxicology Program Committee, and has been Vice President and President of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. She is currently President of the Inhalation Toxicology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology and an Associate Editor for *Toxicological Sciences*. She is the recipient of two EPA Science and Technology Achievement Awards and most recently received a Bronze medal for her work on an inter Laboratory study of indoor mold in support of the Agency’s Children at Risk program and Asthma Initiative.

Dr. Laura Kolb

Dr. Kolb is an Environmental Health Scientist with the US Environmental Protection Agency. She is based in the EPA Washington, DC, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air. She holds a degree in Biology and also a Master of Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health, George Washington University, 1992.

Prior to joining the EPA, Dr. Kolb worked as a researcher and scientist with Sciences International Inc., Alexandria, VA and ICF/Kaiser, Fairfax, VA. Dr. Kolb has been instrumental in furthering the governmental scientific understanding of illness as it relates to indoor air quality. As evidence to her commitment to improving the world, she spent four years with the Peace Corps, as a secondary science teacher in the impoverished country of Honduras.

Dr. Vincent A. Marinkovich

Dr. Marinkovich received his Bachelor of Science degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1955 and his Doctor of Medicine degree from Harvard Medical School in 1959. He completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1961. He received a Jane Coffin Childs award to study population genetics with Professor Alan Stevenson at Oxford University, Oxford, England and biochemical genetics with professor Harry Harris at King's College, London. He returned to Caltech in 1962 on an NIH Fellowship to study immunology.

Dr. Marinkovich received clinical allergy training at Stanford and was appointed director of Allergy and Immunology in the Pediatric Department at Stanford. With a five-year Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health, he received funding to establish an immunology research laboratory at the Stanford Children's Hospital. In 1971, Dr. Marinkovich took an academic sabbatical to study hypersensitivity lung diseases with Professor Jack Pepys at the Brompton Cardiothoracic Institute in London. Upon his return to Stanford, he continued to teach as a clinical associate professor in Pediatrics. For many years, he split his time half-and-half between the private practice of allergy and research leading to the development of a new technology for the simultaneous detection of IgE to a multitude of allergens from a single serum sample. This technology is now used worldwide in diagnosing allergy.

In the subsequent years, his research centered on food and mold hypersensitivity. In 1999, he and his co-workers developed a new, very accurate technology for multiple allergenic antibody (IgE) identification, using only 5 microliters of serum. This small volume makes it possible for the first time, to use a fingerstick to obtain sufficient blood to diagnose allergy. The FDA cleared the test as an accurate measure of specific IgE antibody and approved the test for sale to consumers. Dr. Marinkovich is now exploring the ways in which this new, quantitative, economical and efficient test can be most useful in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases.

To date, Dr. Marinkovich has diagnosed and treated well over 5000 people with hypersensitivity illness from mold exposure. His work on the subject is published in peer reviewed scientific journals. With over thirty years experience on the subject, he is recognized and respected worldwide as a specialist in the field of mold induced illness.

Dr. David A. Sherris

Dr. Sherris is the Chairman of Otolaryngology, University at Buffalo, State University of New York. He is a surgeon specializing in Head and Neck Surgery with his degrees earned at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington and the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. Dr. Sherris has received many awards for his achievements in his field, including the 2003 America's Top Physicians Award, Consumers' Research Council of America, Washington, DC.

Prior to his affiliation with the University of Buffalo, Dr. Sherris worked nine years at the Mayo School of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. A teacher, mentor, surgeon and researcher, he holds several patents in the field of otolaryngology and is extensively published for his research and teaching protocols.

Much of Dr. Sherris' peer reviewed research is on the subject of pathogenesis of eosinophilic fungal rhinosinusitis. The work of he and his Mayo colleagues have greatly advanced the understanding and treatment protocols for the ever increasing incidences of chronic sinus conditions.

Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker

Dr. Shoemaker is a medical doctor who received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1977. His private practice in Pocomoke, Maryland has concentrated on diagnosis and treatment of illnesses caused by biologically produced neurotoxins (biotoxins). To date, Dr. Shoemaker has treated over 5000 patients with acute and chronic illnesses caused by cyanobacteria, dinoflagellates, spirochetes and fungi.

Dr. Shoemaker's research and clinical work with mold-exposed patients, including comparison of genetic, inflammatory, physiologic and angiogenic factors in patients has led to successful treatment of the multisystem, multisymptom illnesses caused by exposure to water damaged buildings (WDB). Prominent in his data sets are recording of symptoms, demonstrating the prominence of chronic fatigue, cognitive impairments, respiratory, neurology and rheumatologic problems in WDB patients.

Six books have been authored by Dr. Shoemaker. He has published extensively on biotoxin-associated illnesses in peer reviewed medical journals. He has presented at international meetings sponsored by the CDC, EPA and multiple professional societies. His collaboration with Dr. Kenneth H. Hudnell, neurotoxicologist US EPA, provides a model for how community physicians can interact with research specialists to promote public health. The clinical and research data you will hear today are a result of his extensive clinical experience with patients ill from exposure to water damaged buildings.

Dr. Shoemaker was named Family Practice Physician of the Year 2000 for the State of Maryland

Dr Chin S. Yang

Dr. Yang is President of P& K Microbiology Services, Inc. Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The company provides consulting and laboratory services to industrial hygienists and environmental health professionals on characterization of aero-allergens and air-borne microflora; microbiological investigation and control in indoor environments. Before founding his own company, he worked as a microbiologist for the Office of Environmental Hygiene, U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Federal Occupational Health. He holds numerous degrees in the field of biology/botany with a PhD in Forest and Environmental Biology, State University of NY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. A focus of his continuing education has been medical microbiology (virology, bacteriology and mycology).

Dr. Yang is extensively published in numerous scientific journals on the subject of microbial investigation. Over the years, he has consulted for many government agencies including the US EPA. He is a contributing author to the "Guidance for Clinicians on the Recognition and Management of Health Effects related to Mold Exposure and Moisture Indoors", 2004. This document is written for physicians and health care providers faced with a rapidly growing number of patients troubled by contaminants. It is published by the Center for Indoor Environments and Health at University of Connecticut Health Center with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Yang is widely recognized as a leading research and teaching microbiologist in the field of indoor microbial contaminants.

Mrs. Sharon Kramer

Moderator

Mrs. Kramer holds a BA in Marketing from the University of Mississippi, 1977. She has over twenty five years experience in marketing with a background in computer sales. While employed for the NCR Corporation, Mrs. Kramer received advanced marketing and communication education. She is currently a Realtor affiliated with one of the nation's oldest privately owned firms, Willis Allen Real Estate, Rancho Santa Fe, California. Over the past four years, Mrs. Kramer has volunteered much effort to promoting the advancement of understanding and treatments of illnesses caused by fungal exposure.

[Footnote added to this doc on 6.24.06, The EPA opted, at the last minute for Drs Selgrade and Kolb not to participate. Our original request was for Dr. Kenneth Hudnell, EPA Neurotoxicologist. Dr Hudnell was not provided permission to present.](#)