

Marianne Dreger

From: Jonathan Borak [jborak@att.net]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2002 2:45 PM
To: Dean Grove (E-mail)
Cc: Edward J. Bernacki MD, MPH (E-mail); Barry Eisenberg (E-mail); Tim Key MD (E-mail)
Subject: mold



ACOEM Mold - revised
draft.rtf...

Dean et al:

I am having quite a challenge in finding an acceptable path for the proposed position paper on mold. Even though a great deal of work has gone in, it seems difficult to satisfy a sufficient spectrum of the College, or at least those concerned enough to voice their views.

I have received several sets of comments that find the current version, much revised, to still be a defense argument. On the other hand, Bryan Hardin and his colleagues are not willing to further dilute the paper. They have done a lot, and I am concerned that we will soon have to either endorse or let go. I do not want this to go to the BOD and then be rejected. That would be an important violation of Bryan—I have assured him that if we do not use it he can freely make whatever other use he might want to make. If we “officially” reject it, then we turn his efforts into garbage.

As this was an effort that you, Dean, asked me to initiate I thought that you might have a good idea about what might be done.

The problem is the same as when this began. Mold is a litigation mine field. Everybody involved in the topic has a strong view and there is little middle ground. If we have a statement that deals only with science, we will be accused of ignoring the “Public Health” issues. If we embrace the Public Health, then we will be regarded as not scientific.

I have not previously been involved in an ACOEM issue that raised provoked emotions among member peer reviewers. My own feeling is that it may not be worth the disruptive effects that might result from forcing the issue. Also, I think that the authors are not willing to let this just sit for awhile. they have done a lot of work and want to see it in print.

For your interests, I have attached the latest version.

Jonathan