

How it became a false concept that it is scientifically proven poor indoor air quality is the leading cause of illnesses globally and what you can do to nip this false health marketing in the bud.

1. Here is where the scientifically void concept originated in 2011: "*Mr Ebenezer Fiahagbe, a Senior Programme Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has said indoor pollution has been as among the top five environmental risks to public health which also contributes to an annual 8.5 million deaths globally.*" So what Mr. Ebenezer said was that poor IAQ is one of the main causes of environmental risks and environmental illness contributes to 8.5 million deaths globally, which is reasonably true.

2. However, an obviously math and logic challenged reporter from the Ghana News Service titled his article about this statement to be "*Indoor air pollutants cause 50% of illnesses globally*" <http://freepdfhosting.com/36b9110ba1.pdf>

3. Truth About Mold, which is the web site owned by the President of Global Indoor Health Network, "GIHN", picked up the article and put it on their statistics page. (See second article down) <http://freepdfhosting.com/f9aa7f89d3.pdf>

4. GIHN put out a Position Paper this year, "Common Toxins in Our Homes, Schools and Workplaces" in which the main theme of the paper is that it is scientifically proven "Indoor air pollutants cause 50% of illnesses globally" based on the title – not the actual content - of the Ghana article. <http://freepdfhosting.com/c806962c9f.pdf>

5. To claim it is proven poor IAQ causes 50% of illnesses globally is the same as claiming that it is scientifically proven poor IAQ is the # One cause of illness worldwide. If one cause of illness causes half of all illnesses, then all others causes combined would make up the other half, making the first one the #One cause of illness, worldwide.

**Apparently, no one bothered to read what Mr. Fiahagbe actually said when writing the GIHN paper and relied solely on the title of the article for the main theme of the position paper.**

6. Eleven questions were posed to GIHN regarding their proof that poor IAQ is the #One cause of illness globally, who wrote it, who reviewed for reference and were those whose names are being used in implied endorsement permitted input or view before it became the position of the org. <http://wp.me/pLYPz-3r1>

7. Their answers were: "*This statement was made by Ebenezer Fiahagbe, a Senior Programme Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ghana*" and "No" the members of GIHN were not given opportunity to review, only the six member BOD reviewed and the six physicians/PhDs who wrote it (three of whom are on the BOD).

8. These are GIHN members whose names are being used in implied endorsement of this ridiculous concept, which includes members of several professional orgs such as AIHA and IAQA: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/members.html>

It gets worse.

9. In the GIHN position paper, Mr. Fihagbe of the international EPA is not attributed as making this statement other than by reference to the Ghana News Service article. The concept is spun further in the actual paper that poor IAQ causes *even more* than half of illness worldwide and that this is fact according to the U.S. EPA. To quote from the GIHN paper: "*..according to a United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spokesman, indoor air pollution causes over half of all disease globally.*"

10. Amazingly, even when this error in the theme of the paper (that poor IAQ is NOT proven to be the leading cause of illness, globally) has been brought to GIHN's attention by members and that they neglected to fact check their sources, GIHN standing by their position paper. To quote reply to member query: "*We provided a reference for that statement. In fact, it's footnote #1 in the paper. Here's the direct link for that news article. <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/details/Science/Indoor-air-pollutants-cause-50-of-illnesses-globally/?ci=8&ai=25707#.Ullc0IawUsc>*" Member reply back: "*The content and title are in total contradiction. Just, please take me off as a member.*"

11. SO THE POINT BEING: If your name is being used as a member of GIHN in implied endorsement of this scientifically void concept that makes us all who work to advance science and policy to help the sick, look like a bunch of unscientific, alarmist yahoos and you don't DEMAND that this GIHN Position Paper be retracted; then you are no more helping to keep scientific integrity in policy than those who stood silently by over ten years ago and let the false concept that poor IAQ in water damaged buildings is proven to cause no illness. We have all seen what damage occurs if you don't nip false health marketing in the bud over the mold and IAQ issues. Make this one stop before it gets out of the gate.