

From: Cheryl Wisecup <cw7790@msn.com>  
Date: Mon, Dec 17, 2012 at 6:08 AM  
Subject: Exciting news about the GIHN position statement  
To: Cheryl Wisecup <cw7790@msn.com>

GIHN Members,

We have exciting news to share with you. As we mentioned in our email message two weeks ago, a question was raised about one statistic that was included in our paper. The statistic in question was included in the following quote:

"Indoor air pollution causes 50% of illnesses globally."

This quote was included in the title of news articles in Ghana relating to a presentation on indoor air quality that was given by Mr. Ebenezer Fiahagbe, a Senior EPA Programme Official in Ghana. **When we decided to use that quote, we assumed (since it was such a specific statement) that it was part of Mr. Fiahagbe's presentation. We have confirmed that our assumption was correct. Mr. Fiahagbe did use that quote in his presentation.**

[Contrary to what the members of GIHN were told, Mr. Fiahagbe made no such statement in his presentation in Ghana, Africa. What he was actually quoted as saying is, "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**" <http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2011/02/21/indoor-air-pollutants-among-top-five-environmental-risks-to-public-health/> ]

We also found the original source for the quote, and it is important to note that the quote can be found on numerous websites. (See the attached file for a partial list of websites that use the 50% quote.) More information about the original source of the 50% quote is provided in our paper.

As we looked into this question, we decided to take a more "global" view of this issue. Specifically, we decided to do a more extensive investigation regarding the global burden of indoor air contaminants. This research effort resulted in the development of an exciting new section in our paper titled "Global Burden of Indoor Air Contaminants" which includes statistics relating to the health effects and financial costs of indoor air contaminants. We believe that GIHN members and other readers of our paper will find this information to be useful and informative, and it adds another dimension to our understanding and documentation of this important public health issue.

[http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/files/GIHN\\_position\\_statement\\_Revised\\_12\\_17\\_2012.pdf](http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/files/GIHN_position_statement_Revised_12_17_2012.pdf)

Wisecup eblast to GIHN members directly lying to them about the validity of a key statistical quote GIHN was promoting as EPA stated science.

On a related note, you have received a previous email discussing the difference between a peer-reviewed research paper and a position statement. There are several differences including the fact that position statements can evolve over time as new information becomes available or as the organization's views changes. **As such, our position statement will likely continue to evolve in the future.**

[The false 50% quote, which GIHN members were told, **“We have confirmed that our assumption was correct. Mr. Fiahagbe did use that quote in his presentation”** was then removed from the paper]

In addition, we are continuing to move forward with another current project that involves the anticipated publication of Part II of our position statement (on the diagnosis and treatment of illness caused by mold and its related components).

Please feel free to share this information with your family, friends and colleagues. We will be sharing our newly updated paper with a variety of audiences and interested parties.

We are continuing to develop a united community of experts and laypersons, and membership interest in GIHN is growing. It's exciting to see everyone working together to help advance this important public health issue. Thank you again for your tireless efforts to help raise awareness and assist others who are being affected by indoor air contaminants in their homes, schools and workplaces.

In unity,

Dr. Michael Gray

Dr. William Rea

Dr. Janette Hope

Dr. Scott McMahon

Dr. Jack Thrasher

Dr. Alan Vinitzky

Melinda Ballard

Cheryl Wisecup

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