

MOLD REMEDIATION AND LEGAL LIABILITY

A New Phase for the Industry and a New Approach to Dealing with It

The team at Wonder Makers has developed and refined a four-hour seminar entitled *Mold Science, Medical, and Legal Information — Connecting the Dots*. This detailed work was recently offered as a pre-conference seminar at the IAQA convention in Orlando. A primary piece of the presentation is that it is closely supported by an extensive collection of references – 51 studies, government documents, and reports that confirm the conclusion that we are again entering a time of increased mold risk. We received many positive comments about the seminar and the overall feedback on the reviews was extraordinary. It is clear that pulling the various studies together and presenting it in a comprehensive, understandable way is opening the eyes of many in our industry to the substantive changes that are again impacting mold remediation.

It appears that the pace of this change will continue to accelerate. A Fungal Research Group (FRG) meeting recently held in New Jersey focused on the response to mold resulting from Hurricane Sandy. The presentations there made it clear that medical data connecting mold to serious health effects keeps piling up.

The new information presented in *Connecting the Dots* is valuable for contractors, consultants, attorneys, and representative of the insurance industry, and their customers, clients, and colleagues would benefit from hearing this presentation, as well. Wonder Makers is actively soliciting individuals and groups to sponsor the *Connecting the Dots* seminar in order to help our industry understand the changes that are underway and prepare to deal with them. The seminar can be hosted by an organization to educate their clients and cement their role as a leader in this critical area. It can also be offered as a paid seminar (similar to the approach taken by IAQA) in order to generate funds for local chapters of IAQA, AIHA, ASSE, ASHRAE, or other professional associations. Please contact Susan in our office for more information on availability and cost of the seminar (ssp@wondermakers.com or 888-382-4154).

The Fungal Research Group conference also highlighted the need for proactive approaches to preventing and remediating microbiological contamination. (As emphasized in the seminar, the health effects are clearly connected with water-damaged buildings [WDB], not just mold). Fortunately, the mold remediation industry (as well as fire/flood restoration) has found some transitional technology from the food service cleaning sector that is improving the speed and effectiveness of microbiological contamination cleanup. Wonder Maker's presentation at the FRG conference described the "Sandy Solution," a comprehensive approach with foam cleaning at its core. We have included the written summary for that presentation, which was shared as the

session abstract, on our website. The PowerPoint program from the conference is also available on our website. It is worth the time it takes to open it and especially focus on the center section where there is a description of foam cleaning.

To buttress that, the contact information for the Foam-It Corp, which is part of Innovative Cleaning Equipment, is listed below. We recommend touching base with these people since the best way to control liability in this area is to conduct work within the standard of care, using the most effective technologies possible.

Innovative Cleaning Equipment
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Please let us know if you would like additional information regarding the Sandy Solution or offering the *Connecting the Dots* seminar. We appreciate our colleagues and clients and continue to work hard to ensure that our resources provide real value.

About the Author

Michael A. Pinto currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Wonder Makers Environmental, Inc. He has more than 30 years of safety and environmental experience from jobs in the private sector, the non-profit arena, and regulatory agencies. Michael is the author of five books, including *Fungal Contamination: A Comprehensive Guide for Remediation*, over 150 published articles, and 18 commercial training programs. He can be reached at map@wondermakers.com.

