

JOURNAL'S FAILURE TO DISCLOSE

Indoor Environment Connections

The Web site of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology last month posted an "important correction to the February 2006 issue," in which it said information about conflicts of interests of two authors "was inadvertently omitted at the time of publication." The article in question was a position paper called "The Medical Effects of Mold Exposure," which reviewed scientific literature on the relationship and concluded, among other things, that "evidence does not support the contention that mycotoxin-mediated disease (mycotoxicosis) occurs through inhalation in nonoccupational settings."

Omitted from the position paper were the declarations by authors Dr. Andrew Saxon and Dr. Abba Terr that they had received compensation for serving as expert witnesses in mold litigation. According to the correction notice, Saxon and Terr provided the journal with the information about their conflicts of interest. Terr was included on an expert witness list for Allstate Insurance Company in a case in Sacramento, Calif. Another court document shows that Saxon received \$54,362.57 for his role in a lawsuit in which the defense prevailed over an Arizona woman, Kari Kil-

ian, who claimed her exposure to mold had caused a neurocognitive disorder and other symptoms. The journal's correction said this information "should have appeared" in print alongside declared conflicts of interest for two other authors and a statement that a fifth author had no conflict of interest.

The Integrity in Science Project, which is part of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, reported in a newsletter on April 24 that the journal would strengthen its requirements on the disclosure of conflicts of interest. Earlier in the month, Merrill Goozner, director for the Integrity in Science Project, had sent a letter to Dr. Donald Leung, journal editor, urging him to publish all conflicts of interest disclosed to the journal. The April 24 Integrity in Science newsletter quoted Leung as saying that under the journal's change in policy, "All published manuscripts will carry a conflict of interest statement regarding each author."

Lake house reality wasn't so picturesque for Bullock

Chris Garcia, AMERICAN-STATESMAN FILM WRITER

Sandra Bullock might enjoy the title dwelling in her movie "The Lake House," but the actor's real lake house on Lake Austin went up in a puff of demolition dust earlier this year.

Such a long, sad story. Several years ago, Bullock adopted Austin as a second home. She began construction on a \$6.5 million dream mansion near the water. It was to have towers and spires, a spa, a movie theater and tennis court. It was never finished. Construction stopped in 2000 after Bullock moved in.

She moved out two days later, "claiming that the house was a potential deathtrap with a leaking roof, toxic mold, unsafe fireplaces, faulty wiring and crumbling walls," wrote The Times of London when Bullock huffed, puffed and blew her house down in February.

Much legal wrangling followed, including Bullock suing homebuilder Benny Daneshjou for unsafe construction in 2004. A jury awarded Bullock about \$7 million that year.

Word is that she finds the title of her new movie quite amusing.



Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves star in The Lake House.