

Each of you has asked to be kept abreast of our progress, below is a recent release detailing our progress and providing information on the public forum regarding the study to be held in Sacramento October 28 & 29, 2002.

California Assembly Bill 284: An Update on the Research in Progress

On October 5, 2001 California Governor Gray Davis signed Assembly Bill 284 (AB 284), authored by Assembly-woman Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Ventura), into law. AB284 requires the California Research Bureau (CRB), in consultation with the California Department of Health Services, to perform a study of, and publish review panel findings on, the affects of fungal contamination on indoor environments. The study is to be published no later than January 1, 2003.

The bill requires that the CRB select and organize meetings of a review panel to assist in the preparation of appropriate content for the study. The review shall, as mandated by law, to the extent resources and expertise permit, include findings on all of the following:

" (a) The health effects of exposure to fungi, based on a review of the literature addressing immunology, infectious disease, and medical evaluation.

(b) The practices for assessing fungal contamination, including the use of visual inspection, surface sampling, air monitoring, and the proper analysis of environmental samples.

(c) To the extent feasible, the appropriateness of commercially available methods for identifying fungal contamination of building components including, but not limited to, walls, ventilation systems, and support beams.

(d) The options for preventing and remediating fungal contamination in indoor environments. The findings are intended as a practical guide regarding options for building managers, homeowners, and members of the general public who may have concerns about fungal contamination in living and working environments.

(e) Recommendations on hazard communication for distinct sub-populations, including workers employed in high-risk occupations.

(f) The development of a recommended reading list related to molds, their health effects, their impacts on indoor air quality, and related topics for local government officials, including environmental health officers.

(g) Any additional topical areas deemed appropriate by the review panel."

In order to provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders to have input early on in the process the AB 284 project coordinator, CRB Analyst Pamela J. Davis, invited interested parties to submit recommendations for both the study bibliography, and the review panel participants/characteristics. Response to these requests was quite strong resulting in the collection of over 400 potential bibliographic references and more than 70 CV submissions from potential review panel participants.

From the CV's submitted and in accordance with the directives of the law, the following 14 panel members were chosen:

Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH, Director, Occupational & Environmental Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health;

Harriet Burge, Ph.D., Harvard School of Public Health, Associate Professor of Environmental Health;

Eugene Cole, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., Brigham Young University, Department of Health Sciences, Professor of Environmental Health;

Frederick Fung, M.D., M.S., SHARP Rees Stealy Medical Group, Toxicology and Occupational Health University of California at San Diego and Irvine;

James Holland, R.E.A., C.R., W.L.A., C.M.R., CEO, Restoration Consultants;

Robert Levin, M.D., Ventura County Health Officer;

Edward Light, C.I.H., M.S., President, Building Dynamics, LLC;

Joseph Lstiburek, Ph.D., P. Eng., M.Eng., Principal, Building Science Corporation;

Kenneth F. Martinez, C.I.H., M.S., National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health;

Philip R. Morey, Ph.D., M.S., C.I.H., Air Quality Science, Inc.;

Stephen S. Ruggiero, P.E., Simon, Gumpertz & Heger, Incorporated;

Brian Shelton, M.P.H., B.S., Director of Laboratories & Consulting Microbiologist, VP/COO Pathcon Control Associates;

Linda Stetzenbach, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Director Microbiology Division;

Chin S. Yang, Ph.D., M.S., Microbiologist, P&K Microbiology Services, Inc.

October 28 & 29, 2002 - Open Forum for the purpose of stakeholder input
A draft of the paper will be made available for review by interested stakeholders in early October 2002. On October 28 & 29, 2002 the review panel will convene in Sacramento California for the purpose of hearing stakeholder comment on the draft document and determining various findings as required by law. Persons who would like to receive a copy of the commentary draft of the study or who would like to participate in the forum may contact Pamela J. Davis at pdavis@library.ca.gov or at the California Research Bureau, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 95818 for more information.

Pamela J. Davis, R.N., P.H.N. is a Policy Analyst with the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the California State Library, California Research Bureau. The text of a paper written by Mrs. Davis and published by the CRB in March of 2001, titled "Mold, Toxic Mold, and Indoor Air Quality" can be found on-line at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/01/notes/v8n1.pdf>.

To view the full text of AB 284 on-line visit:

http://leginfo.public.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0251-0300/ab_284_bill_20011007_

chaptered.html

Pamela J. Davis, RN, PHN

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