

FUTURE FOCUS

Future Environment Designs, Inc.

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**Trust your hunches....
Hunches are usually based on facts filed away just below the conscious level.**

~ Joyce Brothers (How to Get What You Want Out of Life)

References:

For this article, many of the references are very long. If you are interested in the references send us an email and we will forward you the references we used to write this article.

Special points of interest:

- We accept MasterCard, Visa, and American Express credit cards.
- Call us at (800) 969-3888 for your Safety Equipment & Supply needs.
- We are located at 6800 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 120W, Syosset, New York 11791.
- Visit our website at www.futureenv.com

Fungal Hemolysins as Biomarkers? What are Hemolysins?

Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition of Future Focus. Here it is spring already, 2008 seems to be speeding along. We hope all of the bad economic news in the papers is a rumor and all of you are having a great 2008. We would like to thank Mr. Stephen Vesper of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for his assistance in writing this issue's main article.

Mold continues to be a popular item in the newspapers including recent news stories in Newsday, the New York Post and Daily News. Ex-Governor Spitzer of New York has appointed a Mold Task Force and a local building owner has evicted a number of occupants to address a mold issue in the buildings. Health effects that have been attributed to mold have ranged from your basic headache, and cold symptoms to brain damage. These health effects may impact a few individuals, while others show no effect or completely different effects causing confusion among the public and professionals on whether the exposure to mold caused the health effects or some other exposure caused the health effects.

Current research, being funded by the EPA, is trying to find a biomarker (measurable indicator of human exposure) which will be able

to determine if a person was exposed to mold. The ideal biomarker should be easily measured in body fluids (i.e., blood, urine), occur in all strains of the fungus (Aspergillus vs Stachybotrys), and should be relevant to some of the health effects (i.e., inflammatory responses). The search for a biomarker for mold has led



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researchers to hemolysins. Hemolysins are produced by micro-organisms and generally act by creating pores in membranes. An example of a bacteria hemolysin is beta-hemolysin that is produced by group B streptococci which can cause hemorrhaging of the lungs. On the other hand, very little is known about fungal hemolysins. Stachylysin recognized as a hemolytic agent, produced by *Stachybotrys chartarum*, was not found until 2001.

As a protein produced by various micro-organisms, hemolysins have the potential

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2008 Training Sponsors:



FUTURE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNS PROJECT NEWS

MEDICAL EVALUATION AND FIT TESTING - ART STUDIO IN NEW YORK CITY

Future Environment Designs provided medical evaluations and fit testing for several employees of a New York City Art Studio creating art work using various resins. Workers use respirators for performing sculpting and pouring of the resin products. Medical evaluation and fit testing was performed to comply with the OSHA 1910.134 respiratory protection standard.

OSHA ASBESTOS CLASS IV TRAINING-PORT JEFFERSON

Future Environment Designs performed asbestos training for a condo complex in compliance with OSHA Class IV requirements for workers who may contact asbestos but not disturb asbestos. The purpose of this training was to comply with OSHA requirements under the 1910.1001 & 1926.1101 regulations.

OSHA SCAFFOLD USER & COMPETENT PERSON TRAINING-BROOKLYN

Future Environment Designs performed scaffold training for a General Contractor's workers using scaffolding and the General Contractor's competent persons who inspect the scaffolds before the workers used the scaffold. The training was performed to comply with the OSHA 1926.454 scaffolding regulation.

Reminders

- ◆ **We've been at 6800 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 120W, Syosset, New York for a year now. Training classes being held in Syosset are located at this address.**
- ◆ **Visit our website at www.futureenv.com for the updated training calendar for 2008 under the training tab.**
- ◆ **You can access our blog at <http://futureenv.blogspot.com> or you can access it or sign-up for the blog or this newsletter at our website under the newsletter tab.**
- ◆ **Train online and take 5% off the course by entering the following code at checkout: NEWS06**
- ◆ **Advertise your business or job opening with an FED sponsorship. Visit our website under the training tab and click on "for information on becoming a training sponsor" for our brochure.**

What are Hemolysins?

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to act as a biomarker for exposures to fungi. Several studies have shown in addition to stachylysin being produced by *Stachybotrys chartarum*, Asp-hemolysin is produced by *Aspergillus fumigatus*, Nigerlysin is produced by *Aspergillus niger*, and Chrysolysin is produced by *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

Research on hemolysins continues in several areas including:

- identifying the hemolysins produced by the various species of fungi,
- testing to determine if the hemolysins occur in all strains of the fungi (this research has the potential to make it easier to identify the fungi a person was exposed to),
- can the hemolysin be easily

identified in body fluids of persons exposed versus controls,

- and can it be identified and measured in environmental samples.
- As this research continues it will give industrial hygienists and indoor air quality professionals the ability to determine when a person has been exposed to mold/fungi. With that information we may eventually be able to establish an exposure level that is considered safe. Then regulators will be that much closer to the establishment of remediation regulations similar to asbestos, or lead. We can hardly wait.

FUTURE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNS TRAINING SCHEDULE

April - July Courses (Location)	DATE
Visit our website for our up-to-date schedule at www.futureenv.com	
Asbestos Inspector Initial (Syosset)	Apr. 2 - 5
Asbestos Air Sample Technician/Project Monitor Refresher (Yaphank, New York)	Apr. 7
Asbestos Supervisor Initial (Long Island City, New York)	Apr. 7 - 11
OSHA 10 - Hour Construction Safety Course (Syosset)	Apr. 10-11
Asbestos Project Designer Refresher (Syosset)	Apr. 17
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Syosset)	Apr. 21
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Yaphank, New York)	Apr. 24
OSHA 10 - Hour Construction Safety Course (Plattsburgh, New York)	May 1 - 2
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Syosset)	May 8
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Syosset)	May 12
Asbestos Project Designer Refresher (Upton, NY)	May 15
Asbestos Project Designer Refresher (Plattsburgh, NY)	May 19
Asbestos O&M/Handler Refresher (Plattsburgh, NY)	May 20
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Plattsburgh, NY)	May 21
Asbestos Air Sample Technician/Project Monitor Refresher (Plattsburgh, NY)	May 22
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Plattsburgh, NY)	May 23
Asbestos Air Sample Technician/Project Monitor Refresher (Syosset)	May 29
Mold Remediation Course (Syosset)	Jun. 4
Mold Investigation Course (Syosset)	Jun. 5
Current Information on Mold Investigation & Remediation (Syosset)	Jun. 6
Asbestos Awareness (Plattsburgh, NY)	Jun. 11
Asbestos, Silica, and Mold Awareness (Plattsburgh, NY)	Jun. 12
Asbestos O&M/Handler Refresher (Upton, NY)	Jun. 19
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Syosset)	Jun. 20
OSHA 10 - Hour Construction Safety Course (Syosset, New York)	Jun. 26 - 27
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Lake Success, NY)	July 10
Mold Remediation Course (Syosset)	July 11
Asbestos O&M/Handler Refresher (Syosset)	July 17
Mold Investigation Course (Syosset)	July 18
Asbestos Project Designer Refresher (Melville, NY)	July 21
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Syosset)	July 24
Current Information on Mold Investigation & Remediation (Syosset)	July 25



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Keeping Employees Safe

We're on the web
www.futureenv.com

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Safety Suzy Says:

Senate Resolution 462 designated the week of April 1 - 7, 2008 as National Asbestos Awareness Week. The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

(ADAO) to recognize National Asbestos Awareness Week will be holding its fourth annual Asbestos Awareness Conference and Remembrance Service at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute on March 28 & 29, 2008 in Detroit, Michigan.

Managing Caulk Containing PCB in Schools.

As we wrote in our blog (see page 2 for the blog address), New York State Education Department (NYSED) together with the New York State Department of Health developed the protocol Manage Caulk Containing PCBs that will be Disturbed During Building Renovation and Maintenance to assist School Districts. In addition, NYSED will be reviewing all plans submitted to them to ensure the School Districts are following the protocol. This protocol covers school buildings constructed between 1950 and 1977 and may require soil sampling to determine the extent of the soil contamination, if any. Facility managers must also realize that caulks in this time period may also have asbestos or lead.

New York State Labor Law 220-H.

This Labor Law goes into effect on July 18, 2008 and requires that the advertised specifications for every contract for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and/or repair of public work, where the total cost of all work to be performed under the contract is at least \$250,000, shall contain a provision. The provision shall require all laborers, workers, and mechanics, employed either by the contractor, sub-contractor or other persons, shall be certified, prior to performing work, as having completed a minimum of a 10-hour OSHA construction safety and health course.