



Methodological Errors in Dr. Shoemaker's Published Paper

In a recent article, Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker attempts to make a correlation between water-damaged buildings and a chronic toxic disease. (Shoemaker RC and House DE. A time-series study of sick building syndrome: chronic biotoxin-associated illness from exposure to water-damaged buildings. *Neurotoxicol Teratol.* 2005 Jan-Feb; 27(1):29-46.) In order to create this correlation, he uses a bizarre array of tests and treatments which are not grounded in sound, provable science. We have personally witnessed Dr. Shoemaker make these scientifically-flawed statements and have formally commented upon some of these scientific methodological flaws in his study design, testing and treatment approach. Below is an excerpt of my letter to the editor of *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*, which addressed these methodological flaws.

Anyone interested in additional information on Dr. Shoemaker's novel approaches to his practice of medicine should contact us. Additionally, we have an extensive library of his deposition testimony, trial testimony and exclusions of his testimony. We have participated in a number of those matters.

Abstract copy: To the Editor: *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*

Re: Shoemaker RC and House DE. A time-series study of sick building syndrome: chronic biotoxin-associated illness from exposure to water-damaged buildings. *Neurotoxicol Teratol.* 2005 Jan-Feb; 27(1):29-46.

Dr. Shoemaker's study violates almost every rule of scientific design. Included are:

- No confirmation of the independent variable (alleged exposure);
- Lack of any coherent, biologically-plausible basis for various combinations of tests performed;
- Use of a toxicologically meaningless term: "biotoxin";
- Lack of understanding of basic toxicology of mycotoxins, i.e., their metabolism;
- Selection bias;
- Attribution bias;
- No matched controls;
- No details of how confounders were identified, delineated and controlled for, i.e.,
 - temporal issues alternative causes for symptoms and laboratory findings
 - No blinding;
 - No placebo controls of treatment groups;

A copy of my complete response to Dr. Shoemaker's article is available upon request. Please send a request to [mailto: info@ictm.com](mailto:info@ictm.com) with the subject line noted "Methodological Errors in Dr. Shoemaker's Published Paper."