

Mrs. Sharon Noonan Kramer
2031 Arborwood Place
Escondido, CA 92029

October 29, 2013

Board of Directors
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)
P.O. Box 2316
Princeton, NJ 08543-2316

Re: Please cease funding discrimination of the environmentally disabled by the Choosing Wisely campaign.

Dear RWJF Board Members,

RWJF is a leading nonprofit in the United States which has tremendous influence over physician education and public health policies. I am aware that the Choosing Wisely campaign is purposed toward the goal of consistent physician and public education.

However, there is a problem with some of the medical trade associations participating in the campaign. The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) have for years, preached false science over disabilities caused by exposure to microbial toxins and other contaminants found in water damaged buildings (WDB).

Many of these nonprofit organizations' members generate substantial income as expert defense witnesses in toxic torts when selling the discriminatory false science. Via Choosing Wisely, their practices of promoting false science as physician education, purposed toward the goal to cause their expert opinions appear to be "current accepted science", continues.

Via Choosing Wisely, AAAAI is selling the following¹:

"Don't perform unproven diagnostic tests, such as immunoglobulin G(IgG) testing or an indiscriminate battery of immunoglobulin E(IgE) tests, in the evaluation of allergy. Appropriate diagnosis and treatment of allergies requires specific IgE testing (either skin or blood tests) based on the patient's clinical history. The use of other tests or methods to diagnose allergies is unproven and can lead to inappropriate diagnosis and treatment. Appropriate diagnosis and treatment is both cost effective and essential for optimal patient care."

The harm from this centers on the fact that allergists often times perform IgE testing. When the test results come back normal, the patient is then told that mold in their WDB could not be causing their illnesses. Not all illnesses from WDB exposures are IgE mediated. Some are IgG mediated. There is a plethora of medical research on the subject.

¹ AAAAI Choosing Unwisely <http://www.choosingwisely.org/societies/american-academy-of-allergy-asthma-immunology/>

In 2006, AAAAI was told in no uncertain terms to stop selling “garbage science” and a “litigation defense argument” as sound physician education. Their journal, the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology published several letters of protest from physicians and researcher all over the country – including by some AAAAI members. One can read the following letters online at the JACI.²

Respirable trichothecene mycotoxins can be demonstrated in the air of Stachybotrys chartarum–contaminated buildings David C. Straus, Stephen C. Wilson p760

Adverse reactions to fungal metabolic products in mold-contaminated areas Gerald B. Goldstein p760–761

Position paper on molds is seriously flawed Vincent A. Marinkovich p761–762

The role of airborne mold in chronic rhinosinusitis Jens U. Ponikau, David A. Sherris p762–763

Adverse health effects of indoor mold exposure Allan Lieberman, William Rea, Luke Curtis p763

How solid is the Academy position paper on mold exposure? Maurice H.V. Strickland p763–764

Rigor, transparency, and disclosure needed in mold position paper Ritchie C. Shoemaker, Harriett Ammann, Richard Lipsey, Edward Montz p764–766

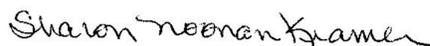
Nondisclosure of conflicts of interest is perilous to the advancement of science Kaye H. Kilburn, Michael Gray, Sharon Kramer p766–767

I am aware that the AAAAI received several more letters that were not published in the JACI. In 2007, the Wall Street Journal ran a front page article of the matter entitled, “*Court of Opinion, Amid Suits Over Mold Experts Wear Two Hats, Authors of Science Paper Often Cited by Defense Also Help in Litigation*”³ The Center for Science in the Public Interest⁴ also voiced their concerns of the conflicts of interest driving greatly flawed public health advisories and physician miseducation. Yet, it is nine years later and AAAAI continues on; this time with the use of funds from your nonprofit assisting them in dissemination of the discriminatory misinformation.

ACMT advice via the Choosing Wisely campaign is even more discriminatory than AAAAI. Attached is a letter sent to ACMT requesting they sunset their mold statement. Like this letter to you, it may be read online at Katy’s Exposure Blog. Short link: <http://wp.me/plYPz-3> The letter details the magnitude of lives being destroyed by medical trade associations with conflicted interest teaching litigation defense arguments, not science, to other physicians.

If you could encourage those who are participating in the Choosing Wisely campaign, funded in part by a grant from the RWJF, to stop teaching discrimination of the environmentally disabled it would be greatly appreciated by many. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Sharon Noonan Kramer

² JACI September 2006 [http://www.jacionline.org/issue/S0091-6749\(06\)X0430-X](http://www.jacionline.org/issue/S0091-6749(06)X0430-X)

³ WSJ article <https://katysexposure.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/wsjonlinejan92007.pdf>

⁴ CSPI regarding AAAAI conflicts of interest <http://freepdfhosting.com/319d8f6ea1.pdf>