



## Study Casts Doubt on Mold Threat

(November 5) -- A literature review conducted by the Texas Medical Association's Council on Scientific Affairs has found no correlation between mold and health problems, says allergist and council chairman Dr. Ed McClusky. Only people allergic to the black mold (*Stachybotrys chartarum*) will experience problems, the research indicated, with symptoms including congestion, sneezing, watery eyes, and asthma-like problems in some patients.

Mold has caused homeowners' insurance premiums in the state to skyrocket, forced many insurers out of the market, and left homeowners scrambling to find coverage. In fact, Farmers Insurance Group reported only 11 claims in 1999; but that number soared to 10,813 in 2001. Although one study was found that blamed black mold for lung bleeding in infants, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention insists that the research was marred by shortcomings and "did not prove an association."

Source: Corpus Christi Caller-Times (11/02); Victory, Joy

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