



IAQradio Episode 725

May Dooley

In Memoriam

This week on IAQ Radio+ we replayed our interview with May Dooley (3/10/2017), Principal of EnviroHealth Consulting, Inc. of Hummelstown, PA. May started her career as a secondary science teacher prior to going into home inspection and indoor environmental health consulting in the mid 80's. By 2017, she completed over 3,000 residential and commercial IEQ inspections in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast US. May was one of those people that never stopped learning; the list of seminars, conferences and meetings she has attended is impressive. She dealt with both routine and unusual IEQ issues, we enjoyed relistening to her explanation of what she referred to as “electrical pressure”. May had an MS in Secondary Science Education from Hofstra University and an MA in English from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

It's indisputable that May Dooley was a caring and sharing person, who left both our world and the field of Indoor Environmental Quality better than she found them.

Z-Man's Blog: 3/10/2017

There isn't too much emphasis on mold, rather not enough emphasis on everything else

May Dooley owner of EnviroHealth Consulting in Hummelstown, PA, was today's guest on IAQradio. After a stint working as a middle school science teacher, she entered the pre-purchase inspection field as a franchisee for HouseMaster of America. Ten years later, her career evolved to environmental inspections with EnviroHealth Consulting, started in 1994, 6 years before mold was put on the map with the Ballard/Allison lawsuit and before training was available for residential mold inspecting.

May started looking for often invisible mold with an on-site microscope, matching what she saw on-site with pictures from the reference guide, **Identifying Filamentous Fungi** by Guy St-Germain and Richard Summerbell. From those early days, her inspections evolved to a focus on finding sources of mold growth and using extensive culture plate air testing (better than spore traps for diagnostics) to gauge the extent of cross contamination.

May also used a method of genetic/DNA testing developed by Joe Spurgeon, PhD, a research-based method which avoids the often misleading scoring method of ERMI.

Most of May's inspections were doctor-driven, and clients came with test results from ERMI, mycotoxin, and blood tests. She and her clients worked together to solve the mystery of their exposure, as well as learn what else they can about the invisible world at their homes. May "deputized" the clients in this joint project. They learned to use the equipment, take 20-30 culture plate air samples, and sit with her at the microscope and computer monitor to review the tapes that she had gathered at their home.

In addition, she incorporated concepts from her training with Bau Biologie to include a search for other contaminants that might impact on health, including exposure to lead paint, synthetic fragrances, water issues, ineffective vacuum cleaners (including the cleaning service's vacuum cleaner), electromagnetic fields (EMFs), etc.

"Electromagnetic fields" and "radiation" are umbrella terms, incorporating the whole electromagnetic spectrum from low frequency to very high frequency to ionizing radiation. All are biologically active and can harm, since our bodies are electric (**The Body Electric** by Robert O'Becker). Here are the types of EMFs routinely measured, with recommendations made for reducing exposure:

Household current – AC magnetic fields, measured with a simple gaussmeter (GaussMaster for home use; FWBell triaxial gaussmeter or equivalent for inspector). Measure at power lines, motors, sleeping and sitting areas, more. Readings under 1 mG (milligauss) are recommended for prolonged exposure, but zero is the safe number.

Household current – AC electric fields (voltage), measured with a multimeter set on AC electric setting. Instructions are found at May's website, www.createyourhealthyhome.com, EMF tab, Body Voltage tab. Measure at beds; sleep often improved with great reduction in voltage, also anecdotes about cessation of bedwetting. Readings under 20 mV are recommended at sleeping areas. Suggestions for reducing readings often 2000 mV or higher are found at the Body Voltage tab mentioned above. A reading of 32,000 mV at one bedroom was due to a mis-wired furnace; turning off the furnace breaker the repair was made enabling the client to sleep in his house.

Radio frequency – both analog (TV, radio, fluorescent lights, microwave ovens) and digital (Wi-Fi, cellular, tablets, smart meters), measured by meters such as the ElectroSmog TES-92, about \$150. Options for reducing exposure are presented in May's EMF report format. Our bodies are used to analog signals, but digital (pulsed) signals are new. We are all in a gigantic experiment, but at least we can reduce the signals closest to us – from computers (such as switching to Ethernet cable), tablets (keeping on airplane mode when the Internet is not needed) and cell phones (using a corded land-line for routine use).

Magnetized innersprings – pull a compass across the springs & gauge the degree of magnetization – best to keep metal away from the sleeping area. Recommended: organic cotton mattress without innersprings and with a wooden bed frame.

Ionizing radiation – measured with a Geiger counter – granite counter tops and fireplaces, green antique glass, antique glow-in-the-dark watch faces, clients recently having radioactive testing/treatment done Radon – self-help kits from radon.com, etc.

In closing, May shared a blessing from a client (reflecting her Jewish phraseology): “You should be able to do this holy work.” And indeed, it is holy work, for we are privileged to interface with folk who may be struggling with health and other pressures. We are invited into their homes to deal as truthfully, diplomatically, responsibly, and gently as we can ... to help them to peace of mind that (with adjustments) their home will be a healing place for them and their family – helping them to be free of exposure to mold's toxins and other allergens, to noxious gas leaks, to healthful reduction in EMF exposures, etc., and to give them a vision of living in a healthy home.

Resources :

May Dooley

www.createyourhealthyhome.com; www.moldcontrolonabudget.com,

Joe Spurgeon PhD, jospur46 at gmail dot com, www.expertonmold.com,
714-719-5020

MicrowaveNews.com reports on the health impacts of electromagnetic fields (EMFs), archive of back issues and sign-up bulletin notification of new international research findings.

Z-Man signing off

Z-Man's Blog: 3/15/2024

May Dooley- Redeaux

Nuggets mined from replaying the show.

May had the luxury of getting most of her clients from physician referrals.

According to May, indoor environmental investigators need to wear many hats to solve the giant puzzle of an IEQ problem. Fearful of overlooking something significant; May dove deep in her inspections, considering potential sources overlooked or unknown by others (e.g. pesticides, EMFs, radiation, etc.).

The joy of the microscope. May began using the microscope as a premed college student. Renewed her interest in microscopy in her study of Building Biology which taught her to begin a property inspection by taking her portable microscope to worksites and taking composite tape-lift samples (up to 12 sites each). These samples helped her see the invisible. As it would be cost prohibitive to send all her samples to a lab for analysis, she learned how to do her own analysis. Understanding the limitation that samples she analyzed herself may not be admissible in court, May referred to her sampling and analysis as screening. When she sought confirmation of her findings; she would send them to a lab for 3rd party analysis.

The importance of a practical sense approach to improving IEQ. Not everyone burdened with health problems and related high costs can afford to throw away furnishings and renovate their homes to resolve IEQ problems. Consider recommending options client consideration such as detox and improving the immune system.

May was pro sealant, opining that sealant provided clients with long term protection against mold growth. According to May, physicians were supporters of misting for removal of airborne particles.

Z-Man signing off