

## **Thomas S. Allems MD**

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### **Specialties**

Internal Medicine (board certified), Occupational Medicine (board certified), specializing in Occupational and Environmental Medicine / Toxicology. Scientific evaluation of mold claims, and toxic exposure claims (including pesticides, metals, solvents, etc.). Available for case consultation, interpretation of environmental test data with respect to human health risks, and expert witness work.

### **Degrees/Licenses**

MD (CA and Prov. of Ontario, Canada and Nebraska); MPH; Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME): Int. Med., Occ. Med. and Toxicology.

### **Reg/Lic**

Internal Medicine (board certified), Occupational Medicine (board certified), specializing in Occupational and Environmental Medicine/Toxicology.

### **Previous/Current Position**

UCSF Volunteer Faculty; scientific policy advisor to the American Council on Science and Health; Toxicology subcommittee of the American College of Occ. and Env. Med.

### **Prior Expert**

Expert witness, litigation support, record reviews, air quality/toxicologic data interpretation with respect to human health risks, corporate health/safety consultation.

From the Bar Association of San Francisco website, Northern California Register of Experts and Consultants, 4/1/2014

From the American Council on Science and Health website, search word "formaldehyde":



## Search Results for: formaldehyde

. Pages:1234»

### Formaldehyde follies, lawyer jollies

*Posted on May 30, 2012 by admin*

After ACSH's Dr. Josh Bloom was inspired to coin the phrase "Wheel of Extortion" just last week, in reference to Syngenta's disappointing class-action settlement in a suit against its herbicide atrazine, we have, unfortunately, come across another example to add to the wheel. A class-action settlement has been reached, following allegations that ... [Continue reading](#) →

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News, News and Views |*

### Brazilian Blowouts linked to formaldehyde health risks

*Posted on November 30, 2010 by admin*

When it comes to beauty products and services, it should come as no surprise that women will go to great, and sometimes questionable, lengths to attain the apogee of glamour. For a portion of these women, a new hair treatment technique called the Brazilian Blowout, that claims to eliminate frizz ... [Continue reading](#) →

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News |*

### Formaldehyde For Sale

*Posted on July 1, 2010 by admin*

The controversy over formaldehyde in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailers is back, and this time it is featured on the front page

of today's The New York Times. The FEMA trailers are being re-sold to temporarily house oil spill cleanup workers, but many workers are purchasing them as longer-term housing. ... [Continue reading](#) →

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News, News and Views |*

## **“EPA Foments Baseless Fear of Formaldehyde”**

*Posted on June 17, 2010 by admin*

Yesterday, your humble scribe revealed the fallacies in an Environmental Protection Agency's Formaldehyde Toxicity draft document on formaldehyde toxicity for an article posted on ACSH's Health Facts and Fears: ...the very science cited in the draft report specifically contradicts the findings publicly broadcast during the EPA's phone conference. Yet the ...

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*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News, News and Views |*

## **EPA Foments Baseless Fear of Formaldehyde**

*Posted on June 16, 2010 by admin*

Haven't Hurricane Katrina victims suffered enough, without some government agency using junk science to add to their worries? The Environmental Protection Agency has just completed a preliminary report suggesting that formaldehyde in the 120,000 trailers used to house Hurricane Katrina evacuees for years after the storm slightly elevated their risk ...

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*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News |*

## **Here we go again: Another phony chemical scare about 4-Methylimidazole (4-MeI). Get ready for a laugh.**

*Posted on January 23, 2014 by admin*

In the “Really Good Timing” department, our story on January 21st reported that Johnson and Johnson was removing traces of the formaldehyde

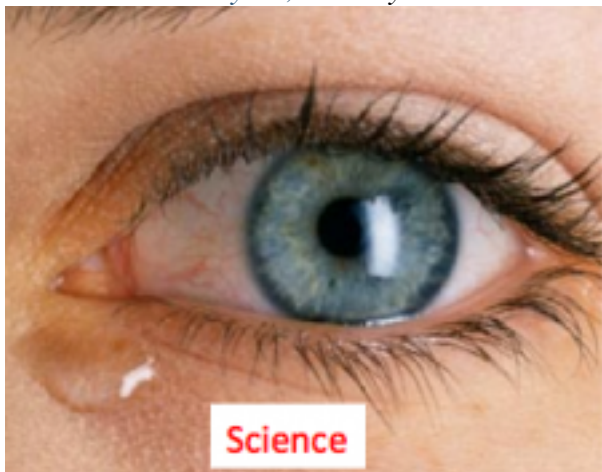
preservative from its baby shampoo—for absolutely no scientific or health-based reason.

At that time, ACSH's Dr. Josh Bloom noted, "In the end it doesn't really matter, because chemical Y will eventually be replaced by chemical Z, and the 'scientific extortion' process will start again." Almost as if on cue, chemical Z hit the news today. The Chemical Z du jour is called 4-methylimidazole (4-MeI), and is part of the caramel coloring that give sodas (especially colas) their color. [Continue reading](#) →

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News and Views, Nutrition and Lifestyle, Public Policy | Tagged carcinogens, chemicals, soda |*

## No More Tears shampoo, no more fears? Not so fast

*Posted on January 21, 2014 by admin*



It's not just another day in the office of environmental group X. Big decisions have to be made.

Have they milked a phony scare of chemical Y to the point of diminishing returns, or are there still enough people to terrify to keep this one going?

In the end it doesn't really matter, because chemical Y will eventually be replaced by chemical Z, and the "scientific extortion" process will start again.

Well, it looks like it may be time to dust off chemical Z, because environmental and consumer groups have [finally bullied](#) Johnson and Johnson into removing a preservative called quaternium-15 from its No More Tears baby shampoo. The chemical acts by slowly decomposing to

give miniscule amounts of formaldehyde—the actual preservative.

How minuscule? According to J&J scientists, the amount of formaldehyde (which is naturally produced in your body anyhow) is about one-fifteenth the amount found in an apple. OMG!

“But you can’t be too careful” says Heather White, executive director of the Environmental Working Group (EWG), the parent organization of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. She then added, “Will a kid get cancer because there’s formaldehyde in their shampoo? We don’t know the answer to that. But why is there a carcinogen in their shampoo? When in doubt, take it out.”

ACSH’s Dr. Josh Bloom, who is quite familiar with these tactics notes, “Same old. Take a chemical that does something or other at a ridiculously high exposure level—in the case of formaldehyde there is a slight increase in nose and throat cancer in embalmers, who just about bathe in the stuff over a lifetime—and intentionally correlate this with what happens at exposures that are millions of times lower. The answer is nothing. And these guys know it. But it sure is good for business. It would be difficult to come up with a better example of a more effective activist group campaign than this?”

Speaking of safety, is the new formula really any safer?

Dr. Bloom says, “Let’s look at some chemicals in the new formula, cause some of them sure look mighty worrisome to me.”

New chemicals added:

Sodium benzoate (aka benzoic acid): A soda preservative that has falsely been claimed to break down to benzene, a known carcinogen. But maybe it does anyhow.

Sodium hydroxide: The active component of Drano.

Sodium Trideceth Sulfate: A detergent. Oh oh.

Two different artificial dyes: Harmful? Who knows? But when in doubt take them out.

Cocamidopropyl betaine: The EWG says that “it has been associated with irritation and allergic contact dermatitis, reactions that could be due to the ingredient itself or to impurities present.”

Ethylhexylglycerin: It’s slippery. Be careful!

Phenoxyethanol: From the EWG website—”Other HIGH concerns: Irritation (skin, eyes, or lungs), Occupational hazards; Other MODERATE concerns: Organ system toxicity (non-reproductive)”

Citric acid— Watch out!. You could get hit by a truck delivering it.

If this sounds ridiculous to you, it is. And so are the claims about the original formula. But J&J was “forced” to make these changes because of falsely perpetuated claims, not science. But it has accomplished nothing, and has cost them millions of dollars – and who do you think will wind up paying this increased cost?

Dr. Bloom concludes, “There isn’t a single chemical around that won’t be toxic at some dose. But by cynically taking advantage of the public’s ignorance of science and a general fear of all chemicals, these groups get funding, publicity, and recognition. In this case they made Johnson and Johnson fold up like a three dollar lawn chair. Others will inevitably follow.”

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News and Views, Public Policy | Tagged Consumer Activist |*

## **Be afraid of your nail polish, says the NYTimes’ “Ask Well” column. Really?**

*Posted on January 9, 2014 by admin*

This is what happens when you let your “health” advice column be taken over by an “environmental writer.” This week’s Science section of the New York Times included an advisory about [Continue reading](#) →

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News and Views | Tagged chemicals, cosmetics, EWG, formaldehyde, nail polish, Phthalates |*

## **Even retail giant Walmart caves to anti-chemical activists**

*Posted on September 18, 2013 by admin*

In fear of getting left behind, Walmart — the world’s largest retailer — followed in Procter & Gamble’s footsteps last week in deciding to require full disclosure of chemicals used by companies selling cosmetics and cleaning products. [Continue reading](#) →

*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News, News and Views, Opinion | Tagged chemicals, parabens, Phthalates, Procter & Gamble, triclosan, Walmart |*

## **Culture of Alarmism letter**

*Posted on May 24, 2013 by admin*

ACSH is a co-signer of the Culture of Alarmism letter sponsored by the Independent Women's Forum (IWF). The IWF project is an effort intended to counter the "Mind the Store" campaign that seeks to pressure retailers into removing thousands of products from shelves for fear of the "hazardous" chemicals contained in the products. In signing [...]

The post [Culture of Alarmism letter](#) appeared first on [Health & Science Dispatch](#).

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*Posted in Chemicals and Environment, News, News and Views |*