Steward Observatory Safety Committee April 10th , 2018

Update on Indoor Air Quality Issues

Historic Review of IAQ Issues in Building 65

- History of sewer odors, chemical odors, reports of mold growth and occupants experiencing health problems in the building
- Steps taken to isolate and exhaust sewer odors and modify HVAC balance of mechanical rooms, and update HVAC exhaust in the machine shop
- IAQ Assessment by ATC Environmental Consultants
- Building Systems Assessment by GLHN
- FM Actions to Prevent Rainwater Intrusion
- HVAC Terminal Unit (Mixing Box) replacements
- Deep Cleaning and Analytical Testing in Targeted Areas SWHC/WT
- Roof Repair, Cleaning, and Testing in the Annex Bldg 64

Recent Actions

- Four quarterly environmental sampling events scheduled
- Testing performed by RMS, includes swabs and air samples, analysis by Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR)
- Testing coupled with visual inspection to look for moisture problems
- Schedule intended to evaluate IAQ impacts from seasonal variations
 - Q1 June 28, 2017
 - Q2 October 12, 2017
 - Q3 February 21, 2018
 - Q4 July 2018

Interpreting Test Results

- qPCR analysis identifies individual mold species in samples
- Environmental Relative Moldiness Index (ERMI) looks at a panel of 36 mold species which are typically found in mold-impacted buildings
- ERMI divides mold species into Groups I and II
 - Group I 26 mold species commonly associated with water damage
 - Group 2 10 mold species common to indoor environments
- ERMI score is derived by comparing the logarithmic concentration difference in Group 1 and Group 2 mold species
- Scoring is only performed on surface swab samples, not air samples
- Score is being used as a screening tool to evaluate changes over time

| ERMI Score | Level or Risk | Likelihood of Mold Problem |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| -10 to -4 | Level 1 | Lowest |
| -4 to 0 | Level 2 | Lower |
| 0 to 5 | Level 3 | Moderate |
| 5 to 20 | Level 4 | High |

Q1 results

- Q1 four species identified
 - Aureobasidium pollulans (Group 1)
 - Cladosporum sphareospermum (Group 1)
 - Aspergillus niger (Group 1)
 - Cladosporum cladosporiodes I (Group 2)
- ERMI scores for surface swabs were 3.1, 2.6, 3.4, 0.8 for areas tested. Scores of 0-5 are Level 3 or moderate likelihood of mold issue
- Air sample results were generally low values and unremarkable
- Visual inspection identified some water damaged ceiling tiles, which were scheduled for replacement

Q2 results

- Q2 nine species identified
 - Group 1 Aureobasidium pollulans, Cladosporum sphareospermum, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Eurotium amstelodami, Aspergillus ochraceus, and Penicillium spinulosum
 - Group 2 Cladosporum cladosporoides I, Cladosporum cladosporoides II
- ERMI scores for surface swabs were 10.6, 1.5, 4.8, 1.2, 12.3, -1.0, 6.2 for indoor areas tested. Increases likely attributable to monsoon moisture and higher humidity
- Air sample results were again generally unremarkable
- Visual inspection verified replacement of previously identified water damaged ceiling tiles. No leaks or new water damage noted

Q3 results

- Q3 11 species identified
 - Group I organisms identified: Aureobasidium pollulans, Cladosporum sphareospermum, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus versicolor and Aspergillus penicilloides.
 - Group 2 organisms identified: Cladosporum cladosporoides I, Cladosporum cladosporoides II, Alternaria Alternata, and Penicillium chrysogenum.
- ERMI scores for surface swabs were -2.0, 4.7, 0, -9.7, -0.9, 12.8, -10.3, 1.3, 2.3, -5.1, for indoor areas tested. Decreases in every area except for room 359 and 358 ceiling tile. The results for the outside swab was -7.5.
- Air sample results
 - Room N-134: Higher counts of Aureobasidium pollulans than outside.
- Visual inspection verified replacement of previously identified water damaged ceiling tiles. Some of them were not replaced, but they were immediately reported and action was taken.

New leaks or missed stained ceiling tiles in rooms N-122,364, and 360. They were

investigated, taken care of and replaced.

| ERMI Score | Level or Risk | Likelihood of Mold Problem |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| -10 to -4 | Level 1 | Lowest |
| -4 to 0 | Level 2 | Lower |
| 0 to 5 | Level 3 | Moderate |
| 5 to 20 | Level 4 | High |

Q3 results: Focus/Problematic Areas

- Room 358 fallen ceiling tile with visible black patch and room 359 results presented higher results than Q2 and than the outdoors.
 - No sign of water intrusion, smell or other stained ceiling tiles
- Room 466/468/470 (new target area)
 - Room 468 was thoroughly cleaned when first reported
 - Sampled again
 - Lower Result than outside mold swab and lower result than when sampled in 2017

Remediation Efforts

- Room 358, 359 and 360
 - Mixing Boxes, ductwork, ceiling tiles were removed
 - All 3 rooms were deeply cleaned.
 - Mixing Boxes, ductwork and ceiling tiles were replaced
 - Sampled again to see how conditions changed
 - Performed air and swab sample to confirm.

Q4 Results

- Q4 8 species identified
 - Group I organisms identified: Aureobasidium pollulans, Cladosporum sphareospermum, Aspergillus niger, Wallemia sebi, Eurotium Amstelodami, Chaemotium globosum.
 - Group 2 organisms identified: Cladosporum cladosporoides I and Mucor racemosus.
 - ERMI scores for surface swabs were 4.9, 2.5, -1.9,-2.6, 3.6, 0.8, -2.7, 0, -1.8, 2.6, 5.3
 - Decreases in every area except for the 3rd floor hallway, and Room 470.
 - The results for the outside swab was 3.6 (higher than the 3rd round).
- Air sample results
 - We noticed a general decrease in the quantity of organisms found in this event when compared to the past events.
 - Aspergillus niger was found in air samples outside the building. Same species found in Room 470 in high quantities.
- Visual inspection verified replacement of previously identified water damaged ceiling tiles.
- Large amount of stained ceiling tiles in Room 168. Replaced





