

Mould Exposure

Actress and health spokesperson, Suzanne Somers became very breathless. She had pains all over her body, fever, and a widespread rash. She was rushed to hospital and had an urgent CT scan.

The results were beyond her worst nightmare. She was brusquely told that she had a terminal cancer (of the lung) which had spread to her liver. She was told there was virtually no hope but there was a small chance that whole body chemotherapy could help, and she would need it immediately. Five doctors gave her the same devastating news.

Suzanne's daughter-in-law had a different idea. She suggested it could be caused by a mould called coccidiomycosis. The doctors weren't buying it, but Suzanne insisted on a biopsy. The biopsy ruled out cancer and further tests eventually confirmed coccidiomycosis. A horrible misdiagnosis lay behind her and a death sentence avoided by the skin of her teeth.

But how many patients would have believed their doctors in this situation and how many would have had the treatment recommended? And for how many would it have proved lethal?

There's another twist to Suzanne Somer's story. Her husband also developed multiple symptoms, despite a healthy lifestyle, including chronic sinus infections, twitching and eye watering. He required multiple trips to the hospital for intravenous antibiotics. His health took a downward spiral. Eventually the culprit was found. It turned out to be a mould. A room in the basement of their house had become waterlogged and developed black mould. This was then spread throughout the house via the air-conditioning system.

Without this diagnosis he would have got worse and worse. And yet few doctors have the skills to identify illnesses caused by moulds. Hopefully, a few more will after attending the [BSEM Scientific conference: Mould and Mycotoxins](#).

