

# NEWS

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**For more information contact:**

Elizabeth M. Whelan, Sc.D., M.P.H.

Edward G. Remmers, Sc.D.

Phone (212) 362-7044 • Fax (212) 362- 4919

## **"BEWARE OF DOCTORS CASHING IN ON ENVIRONMENTAL ILLNESS," WARNS SCIENTIFIC PANEL.**

**New York, NY— June 1993** A panel of physicians and scientists warned consumers to be highly skeptical of health care practitioners who claim that exposure to trace levels of environmental chemicals can cause unexplained illnesses. This small group of physicians is cashing in on a new, unrecognized medical specialty called "clinical ecology." Although individual allergies to substances do exist, there is no scientific evidence that minute traces of chemicals from foods or other environmental sources cause these "diseases."

These clinical ecologists provide diagnoses and treatments for ailments they label: "multiple chemical sensitivity," "twentieth-century disease" or "environmental AIDS." These diseases are not acknowledged by mainstream medicine. Stephen Barrett, M.D., author of a new report published by the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH), *Unproven "Allergies": An Epidemic of Nonsense*, cautions: "Patients who rely on clinical ecologists run the risk of misdiagnosis, mistreatment, financial exploitation and/or delay in proper medical care."

The report further reveals that the diagnostic techniques used by clinical ecologists are suspect, and their treatments are ineffective or even harmful. "Their methods have not been tested in scientifically valid studies or evaluated in peer-reviewed journals," notes ACSH's President, Dr. Elizabeth Whelan. "Instead," she continues, "clinical ecologists promote their methods in popular magazines and on the talk-show circuit."

Clinical ecologists appeal to individuals seeking medical explanations for such common symptoms as headaches, sneezing, runny nose and stomach irritation. "These physicians fill a psychological needs by validating a patient's view of the world as a hostile place filled with harmful chemicals and contaminated foods. They offer a welcomed alternative to those who have little confidence in mainstream medicine," stated Dr. Barrett.

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To obtain a copy of the new report, send \$3.85  
(postage and handling included) to:

*Unproven Allergies*  
American Council on Science and Health  
1995 Broadway, 2nd Floor  
New York, NY 10023-5860