

The Fight of My Life...

by S. Scott Lagge

In December 2008, my son Carter started having strange flu-like symptoms that persisted over weeks then months. The symptoms would come and go and over time other symptoms started to occur. At the end of this document, I will list all the symptoms, there are so many I don't want it distracting from the story. The doctors kept telling us that all his tests were normal, but I knew something wasn't right, in fact, it was TOTALLY obvious to me.

After repeated doctor's visits, my wife and I became frustrated at the joke of the doctor's office. We dealt with snickers, whispers, and obvious disbelief that something was wrong with my son. I knew in my heart that something was seriously wrong, so I kept pressing in and ignored the behavior of the medical staff and demanded that something be done for Carter. We saw several specialists but I could tell that our pediatrician had prefaced the meetings by telling the specialists that this was all "in our head." I knew this because I was hearing the exact same words from our pediatrician being spoken through the mouth of the specialists. It was as if everyone was collaborating to convince me that Carter was fine.

Finally, Carter's pediatrician starting pressing me to seek psychiatric help. I told her I would get a psychiatric evaluation to prove that I was fine but rebutted that I was now going to seek Legal counsel. Now, she felt pressed to make a diagnosis in part to just get rid of me I think. Carter was diagnosed with severe chronic fatigue but when the treatments didn't work and repeated doctors visits brought us to one dead end after another, I took matters into my own hands and spent hours in front of my computer doing research. Meanwhile Carter's health continued to deteriorate. He missed over a third of the school year in kindergarten and the first semester of 5th grade.

I was feeling tired and run down too and was having a difficult time making it through each day. After going to a doctor for fatigue, joint pain, shortness of breath, and severe pain in my feet and legs and lower back, the blood work came back and my rheumatoid levels were very elevated but everything else was 'Normal'. Everyone was telling me that it was stress getting to me because of Carter's health, but frankly I thought that was as absurd as the diagnosis of Chronic Fatigue given to Carter by his pediatrician.

After my hospital visit in August 2010, I started noticing how emotionally diminished my wife Sheri had become over the year and a half that Carter was sick and at the news of my own health problems. Unfortunately I thought it was due to the stress of Carter being sick, much like what I was experiencing. Maybe it was stress because Sheri was starting to struggle with joint pain and fatigue similar to what I was feeling. Neither of us was sleeping, and both of us were on edge and felt all control over our life slipping away. It's a miracle our marriage survived!

My daughter Jessica was in 4th grade when this all started. She was always a great student, but by her 5th grade year (Carter's 1st grade), her grades were dropping, she was tired constantly, and was starting to have frequent headaches and migraines and similar joint and muscle pain. We ran through the same drill with doctors with Jessica as we did with Carter. Nothing was wrong with her they would say. I was sinking into a depression because of all the turmoil in our

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house and the pain of not being able to fix what was going on with my children. There was a genetic link being made by this time that our family was clearly susceptible to rheumatological disorders, but the fact that I was seeing everyone's health impacted all at the same time made me realize that something environmental was going on.

Sitting in front of a computer one day I came across www.survivingmold.com and starting reading one story after another that sounded exactly like mine. I knew instantly not only intellectually but intuitively and at that instant I had no doubt we had a mold issue in our house. The crushing weight of the reality of this broke my heart for my family. We moved out immediately and left everything behind to go live with my mom. We stayed with her for 3.5 months while I had the house remediated and while we began the journey down the long road to recovery. This has been harder than anything else I've gone through and I want to make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else, but I know it will, and when it does, I want to be there to help people navigate through all the obstacles. When you're sick from mold, it sucks the life from you and even small tasks seem extremely difficult. Even for a healthy person, the task of remediating the mold, repairing the property, finding the right doctors (this is the biggest struggle), getting legal help, would seem daunting, but to a person made sick from mold, this all seems **impossible!**

I've attached another document that explains the devastating impact of mold. Please take the time to read it, copy it, give it to every parent, homeowner, friend, Realtor and loved one you can. Having experienced this personally, I can tell you that there are so many modern diseases that have taken root in our culture that begin with our body's inability to remove toxins and, as a result, inflammation. ***If you know anyone that has an unexplained illness or exists in a place where they're not healthy but doctors can't issue a diagnosis, this is one of the first places I would look.***

Here are some common misdiagnoses:

- 1 Fibromyalgia
- 2 Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- 3 Multiple Sclerosis
- 4 Depression
- 5 Stress
- 6 Allergy
- 7 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 8 Somatization
- 9 Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- 10 Attention Deficit Disorder

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Please see the attached document titled, "A Healthy Home" to learn more about the symptoms and pathology of this disease. When you're viewing the symptoms, please keep in mind that Carter had almost ALL of these problems as did my daughter Jessica and myself.

The jury is still out on what mold does and it's difficult to make cause and effect conclusions, especially in Science and Medicine. ***What I realized is that most doctors are not equipped or trained to deal with this type of illness.*** The current recommendation by doctors is, "Get out of the house and everything will be fine"! That's not true, many people damage their immune systems permanently and won't heal without the right medical intervention. We left our home in August 2010 and have been in a healthy home since that time and we are still fighting to get our lives back!

There's no doubt we've made huge improvements and life seems more normal, but all of us still deal with symptoms on a much smaller scale. We really have to be careful not to get exposed to moldy environments again because it quickly erodes our health now. You can see the problem this presents just in normal everyday living. The schools our kids attend, work, restaurants, theaters, etc, etc.... It's a game changer. I'm really in this for the children -- mine and yours! I never want to see another child suffer like mine did.

Please feel free to contact me, I could go on and on about this topic but I'm happy to answer individual questions. My cell number is 303.944.8552 and my email is scott.lagge@comcast.net.