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The role of indoor air in healthcare and our survival new tools and new understanding

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Engineering puts much thought and works into designing and managing building HVAC systems with the goals of preserving building materials, conserving energy consumption and keeping occupants comfortable. The primary function of most buildings, however, should be to protect the health and safety of people. Paradoxically, the intersection of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and occupant health or disease is one of the least understood subjects in the field of public health! This is not from deliberate neglect of engineers but from lack of medical research on IAQ and health. Two significant trends are occurring in this century: people spend more and more time indoors, and the incidence of chronic disease is higher than ever before. Are these two factors related? If so, how can indoor air management support occupant health and not promote chronic illnesses? In this presentation, we will accomplish the following: (a) Understand the current Indoor Air Quality environment. (b) Present New Research findings on the relationship between indoor air management and patient infections in hospitals. Micro-biome Study will be presented with new data. (in press 2017). (c) Review existing studies on IAQ and occupant health. (d) Review solutions to improve IAQ and maximize Patient outcomes in Healthcare facilities and overall occupant health in non-healthcare buildings.

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