

# Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc.

## Statement of Qualifications

In absence of current state and/or federal accreditation programs for fungal and bacterial identification laboratories, Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc. is a participant in the American Industrial Hygiene Association EMPAT program for fungi and bacteria (AIHA EMPAT #162969). Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc. is a Licensed Mold Analysis Laboratory for the Texas Department of State Health Services (LAB0146), the only state currently issuing a license. To ensure quality and validity of our test data, our laboratory follows the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) guidelines recognized by the US EPA, US FDA, and the Standards Council of Canada.

Dr. Sean P. Abbott, founder and President of Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc., is a specialist in fungal identification and received his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta for his work with the biology and systematics of microfungi. With over 15 years experience in the field of IAQ and mycology, Dr. Abbott has over 30 publications and has written one book from his research on airborne molds as biological hazards, opportunistic human pathogens, and fungal systematics. Linda Abbott, founder and General Manager of Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc., brings over 15 years of experience working in the mycological lab environment to our company. Both Sean and Linda have held previous positions at the University of Alberta Microfungus Collection and Herbarium in Edmonton, Canada, where they were first introduced to the indoor air quality industry. Additionally, both have also held management positions at Environmental Microbiology Laboratory in California.

Dr. Abbott's hands-on approach to our staff training program has allowed all of our analysts to benefit from his expertise in the identification of molds, mushrooms and bacteria. Each of our analysts hold science degrees in microbiology or related fields in addition to having prior work experience in the field of indoor air quality analysis and/or mycological research.

Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc., through Dr. Abbott, has had extensive involvement with industry organizations, providing expertise to assist in the development of acceptable standards of care in our profession. The following list outlines some of our contributions to this effort:

- Contributing author of the national document, IICRC S-520 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation.
- Current board member of a chapter of American Indoor Air Quality Council (AmIAQ).
- Current chair of the Basic Science Committee of the Indoor Environmental Institute (IEI).
- Scientific consultation to the State of Nevada Senate and Assembly regarding potential mold related legislation (AB 303, 2005) (SB 131 & 132, 2003)

In addition to the efforts outlined above, we have also collaborated with many public and private training agencies to provide training courses and presentations to public and private sectors of the industry.

Current interests of our laboratory include assessing methods of detecting mold contamination in buildings, optimal sampling protocols, and sample analysis methods, determining the potential effects of airborne molds on human health in residential and occupational environments and the biology of fungi in our environment.

Natural Link MOLD LAB, Inc. and its staff are members of the following scientific and industry associations:

- American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
- American Indoor Air Quality Council (AmIAQ)
- American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
- ASTM International (ASTM)
- Environmental Solutions Association (ESA)
- Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA)
- Indoor Environmental Institute (IEI)
- Mycological Society of America (MSA)
- North American Mycological Association (NAMA)
- Pan American Aerobiology Association (PAAA).