



## Engineering Sciences Section – 2005

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### **C57 Microbial Consulting - Science Limitations in Expert Work**

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The goal of this presentation is to help those engaged in microbial consulting understand how scientific proof (and lack thereof) affects expert work and to what degree.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing a technical understanding of the limitations of the science behind microbial consulting as relates to expert work.

The science, which forms the basis of microbial consulting, is currently based on association of microbe genus and species to observations or self reported complaints. Even though the science is only a few years old, experts are all too often reaching conclusions, which go beyond the scientific basis available in this practice area.

This presentation will examine the basis of microbial science and focus on the limitations that the state of the science places on the expert. Focus will be made in three key case studies and why it frequently occurs that cases settle before going to trial.

Many mold-consulting projects also involve opinions on building materials and building design and how both play into resulting microbial amplification issues. The interplay between engineering design opinions and microbial consulting experts work will be examined as well.

**Mold, Microbial, Evaluation**