If all of us get sick tomorrow, maybe it is the candy jar or maybe it is the courtroom air.

Q I don't think it is the candy.

A Maybe somebody sneezed on you and you caught a virus. When it is cause effect or coincidental, it is always open to question.

The usual evolution, though, is that in something that ultimately proves to be true, additional cases occur. And there may be another, a third, a fourth, a fifth.

And over the course of a few years or even a few decades, if a sufficient number of cases appear relating the same potential cause and the same disease, then someone may think it is sufficiently suspicious to further explore the possibility, and the exploration usually goes in two directions.

One way is to take the substance in question and expose experimental animals to the substance. And if rats or mice or guinea pigs develop a disease process similar to what has been seen in people, this suggests that there may be some biologic capacity of