



Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation

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Sherwood Gorbach, M.D., Editor
Clinical Infectious Diseases
Tufts University School of Medicine
200 Harrison Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Dear Dr. Gorbach:

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation strongly supports the membership of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) in calling for a retraction of the Wormser, Dattwyler, Shapiro et al. article entitled “The clinical assessment, treatment, and prevention of Lyme disease, human granulocytic anaplasmosis, and babesiosis: Clinical practice guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America” published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* on November 1, 2006 (volume 43(9), pages1089-1134). We are alarmed and disappointed that *Clinical Infectious Diseases* has chosen to publish an article that clearly violates principles of scientific integrity.

The authors of the article have chosen to accept evidence that is opinion. They make strong recommendations based on that weak evidence, while ignoring or dismissing research that contradicts their conclusions. The article will have far reaching consequences as guidelines from the powerful Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) are generally accepted as accurate.

Our national organization represents people in Canada who are affected by Lyme disease. Our Board of Directors includes physicians, researchers and Lyme disease sufferers who are committed to bring awareness, support and research to the rapidly growing numbers of Canadians affected by Lyme disease. We believe the article should be retracted because the authors have ignored the evidence that indicates that: 1) Lyme disease and the co-infections that occur with Lyme disease are complex illnesses that are often difficult to treat; 2) Lyme disease testing is unreliable; 3) longer term antibiotics are often necessary because the infection persists despite treatment; 4) Lyme disease is frequently a neurological disease; and 5) most patients with chronic Lyme disease improve with long-term antibiotics.

There is something gravely wrong in the publication of this guideline article. Given the controversy surrounding Lyme disease and the bitterness and mistrust mainly pitting patients

with Lyme disease and their treating physicians against the powerful IDSA, it seems to us that *Clinical Infectious Diseases* should NOT have published these guidelines without assuring that the authors have treated the subject fairly and have reflected a balanced view. We ask that the article in question be retracted immediately.

Sincerely,

Jim Wilson AIIC
President

- cc. Dr. Colin McMillan, President, Canadian Medical Association
- Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada
- Dr. Graham Tipples, President, Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
- Diann Nicholson, Director, Research Ethics Administration, Canadian Association for Research Ethics Boards (CAREB/ACCER)
- Dr. Michel Laverdière, President, Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada
- Dr. Louise Nasmith, President, College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Dr. Raphael Stricker, President, International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society
- Dr. Martin J. Blaser, President, Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Dr. Alan Bernstein, President, Canadian Institutes of Health Research