

Re: In Praise of Lyme Activists

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.lyme/2004-12/1004.html>

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Weisman, I understand your position regarding advocacy and support your right to voice all your concerns and also think a critique is helpful, but I do not want to provide transcripts of people's statements for your commentary. I am sure you can do that very well on your own just by going to their websites. You and I differ here in our view of some individuals and events; maybe one day we will meet and discuss all this in person, and I am sure it would be a fun discussion with a lot of strenuous debate. But I cannot play internet straightman to your detailed dismantling of people I like and respect, whose hard work I have seen up close. I am sure you will do very well without transcripts provided by me --and that your commentary, if handled evenly (and you need to watch it there) will help to keep everyone on their toes.

You are right --I used clone and strain interchangeably when I should have explained. I am referring to Osp C clones. Those strains that are strictly clonal often do not disseminate beyond the rash but those that undergo genetic exchange and thus (for the OspC gene) are not clonal do disseminate. I hope this provides the clarity you asked for. If not, let me know. The point is that most of those considered "treatment successes" in studies of early Lyme disease never had the disseminating variety, based on current work. This means that by percentage, true disseminating early Lyme disease must be subject to far more treatment failure with the standard treatment than the studies suggest. Let me know if I am still being unclear. Gregory Gerber