

Re: The Quackbusters

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.lyme/2005-08/msg00059.html>

- *From:* "lisasawitch" <lisasawitch@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 29 Jul 2005 10:48:23 -0700
-

Oh go tell it to Tim Bolen who's equally obsessed with quackbusters.

You are now officialy a TROLL!

Ilena Rose wrote:

> http://www.kospublishing.com/html/quack_busters.html

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> Quackbusters:

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> The Quackbusters

> Vitality May 2002

>

> By Helke Ferrie

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> "The great mass of people will more easily

> fall victim to a big lie than a small one."

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> Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, 1925

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> My first encounter with Quackbusters was on November 10,1998, when a

> public debate was sponsored by the American College of Toxicology in

> Orlando, Florida. The speakers on one side were Albert Donnay and

> Grace Ziem, both with Johns Hopkins medical school and experts on

> multiple chemical sensitivity. The Quackbuster representatives were

> its founder Stephen Barrett and Ronald Gots, the founder of the

> Quackbuster branch, Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute.

> Both men are also directors of the American Council on Science and

> Health, another branch of Quackbusters. Their presentations were later

> published in the prestigious International Journal of Toxicology (vol.

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> 18, no.6, 1999). The debate focused on whether chemical sensitivity is
> a psychological or a biological condition. In front of an audience of
> several hundred people, and aware that the entire debate was being
> video- and audio-taped, Gots stated that prestigious
> university-affiliated authors of a (named) main-stream peer-reviewed
> journal had recently provided incontrovertible proof, on the basis of
> rigorous scientific study and experiment, that chemical sensitivity
> was a psychological condition.

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> Gots was followed by Johns Hopkins' speaker Albert Donnay who informed
> the audience that this prestigious study was fictitious. The authors
> were fictitious, too. Even the journal was fiction. A gasp went
> through the audience. Amazingly, Gots made no attempt to answer. Even
> more astounding was the body language of both Gots and Barrett. While
> the audience was audibly shocked and murmurs were going through the
> crowd, those two Quackbusters leaned back in their chairs, fiddled
> with their pens in the bored and relaxed manner of total
> self-assurance awaiting the next item on the agenda.

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> How is this possible? I asked myself. If this had happened to a
> university professor, his tenure would be in jeopardy and his chances
> of ever getting published again in a peer-reviewed journal would be
> zero. Sure, some university professor lie and cheat and fudge the
> data, and occasionally huge government investigations into science
> fraud are launched, such as recently in Germany – but never does this
> happen so outrageously, brazenly in full public view. If cooking the
> data to support a favorite theory is like the skilled production of
> counterfeit money in a secret basement operation, Gots' performance
> was like a bank robbery in full daylight.

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> A bona fide researcher, even if he is a crook, must at least appear to
> be honest. But if your work is supported by an infinite money source,
> nothing much matters. Gots' and Barrett's job seems to be to keep lies
> circulating so doubt remains strong and fuel is given to the
> self-defensive all-too-human tendency to dismiss unpleasant
> information as scare-mongering. Such propaganda provides a highly
> effective break for change and saves billions of dollars for those
> whose products and practices would otherwise be compelled to change
> radically. So, who funds Quackbusters?

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> Birds of a Feather

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> The main Quackbusters are Ronald Gots, Victor Herbert and Stephen

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- > Barrett, retired physicians all who appear in countless public venues,
- > many high profile, to air their views on how untold millions are being
- > poisoned by vitamin C, why we should fight for the right to have
- > fluoride in our water, avoid unhealthy organic foods because they lack
- > those protective pesticides we urgently need, and trust in the
- > absolute safety of mercury amalgam fillings. Global warming is a silly
- > scare perpetrated by individuals in need of psychiatric help, and
- > vaccines cannot possibly cause health problems. On Barrett's web site
- > one finds in-depth article on everything he believes is fraud
- > (amounting to roughly one fifth of the US gross national product). The
- > most personal and viscous attacks are reserved for the likes of Linus
- > Pauling and many leading lights in current medical research.

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- > For Barrett and friends nobody –absolutely anybody – has any
- > authority. The alternative crowd is for them as bad as, the (alas!)
- > progressively more and more deluded mainstream such as the World
- > Health Organization, the NIH, the FDA, the White House task force on
- > complementary medicine, Harvard and Johns Hopkins medical schools, and
- > any other serious person or institution trying to make sense of the
- > world's ills. As for good old-fashioned research, the only democratic
- > tool humanity has got by which to establish what is real and what
- > works – that's only permitted in Barrett's world as long as the
- > results fit his opinion. In the world of Gots and Barrett there are no
- > surprises. They are trapped in a black-and-white movie from the early
- > 1950's and they want us all to be trapped in it too. In a detailed
- > analysis of why doctors turn to complementary medicine, Barrett
- > diagnoses them as suffering from paranoid mental states, fascination
- > with the paranormal, profit and prophet motives, psychopathic
- > tendencies, and boredom.

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- > That last item is closer to the truth than even Barrett could stand: I
- > have had literally hundreds of doctors tell me at international
- > conferences on environmental and complementary medicine that they were
- > bored to tears with prescribing drugs and have their patients return
- > for more and more drugs, getting sicker and sicker. Then they switched
- > to real medicine (the kind inspired by Hippocrates who 2,500 years ago
- > taught about clean air, water and wholesome food) and being a doctor
- > became exiting at last. "Life began when I stopped seeing drug reps,"
- > one said, and another sighed happily, "I haven't used my prescription
- > pad in years. I am not sure where it is."

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- > Barrett tells us that "Neither Quackwatch nor I have any financial
- > ties to any commercial or industrial organization" and "Quackwatch has
- > no salaried employees" and is funded by personal donations and profits
- > from publications. "If its income falls below what is needed ... the

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> rest comes out of my pocket." His and Gots' pockets are interesting,
> to say the least. The funding sources of their organizations were
> readily available on the Internet until recently; in the early '90's
> he stopped disclosing such information. The last annual report to list
> donors was published 1991 where we find all our toxic friends:
> Monsanto and Archer Daniels Midland (both of genetic engineering
> fame), the Nutrasweet Company (neurotoxic aspartame etc.), Union
> Carbide (as in Bopal disaster), the producers of pesticides,
> fertilizers, and fluoride Dow Chemical, Dupont, Cargill etc., the
> biochemical warfare and pharmaceutical producers Eli Lilly, the
> Uniroyal Chemical Company, all the big petroleum and pharmaceutical
> companies, and various refined sugar producers and refined food
> producing giants. Two thirds of the world's economy is controlled by
> this list of North American Big Business. With friends like that, who
> needs to worry about telling the most fantastical lies in public?
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> To test Quackwatch's insistence that it is based on public support, I
> applied to become a member in 1999. First I was told that the annual
> membership fee was US \$25,000. I said, "That's fine, send me the
> membership application form." Was I calling on behalf of a
> corporation? No, I informed the person, who then said, "We prefer
> corporate members."
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> Stephen Barrett, a retired psychiatrist, has written 49 books
> debunking what he identifies as health fraud. He also enjoys debunking
> UFO's and experiences of the paranormal. He operates six Web sites. In
> his CV he claims that he did peer reviewing for some of the top
> medical journals (e.g. New England Journal of Medicine, Annals of
> Internal Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association). Since
> the peer review system is secret, there is no way of verifying this
> claim.
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> Of course, mainstream medicine has as much trouble discriminating
> between what's sound and what's dubious in medicine as the rest of us.
> So, it came as no surprise that in 1999 Quackwatch was able to
> convince the New England Journal of Medicine to co-host a conference
> on a critical appraisal of alternative medicine. The journal's justly
> famous then editor, Marcia Angell was the keynote speaker, but rubbing
> shoulders with Quackwatchers did not impair her fine mind and sound
> judgement. All the hype and tongue clicking notwithstanding, the
> conference produced lots of sound stuff. Angell's editorial integrity
> is now the stuff of legend, as she sounded the wake-up call for
> medical publication rules and standards of ethics with her June 22,
> 2000, editorial. She identified the rot by asking to whom the
> pharmaceutical industry is accountable and argued that it is time

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> medical research does some serious soul searching. As of September
> 2002 the rules governing conflicts of interest in medical publication
> have been re-written worldwide. Barrett's friends are having a hard
> time, at last – as is his entire organization, because the law suits
> against Quackwatch are increasing in number and seriousness. Check out
> jurimed@xxxxxxxx for the details.

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> By Their Works Ye Shall Know Them

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> So observed Jesus 2000 years ago with astute psychological insight –
> fortunately, that cuts both ways. Serious long-term irritation can
> produce magnificent pearls. Quackwatch's Dr. Victor Herbert
> specializes in vitriolic smear campaigns. Linus Pauling describes his
> many irritating meetings with Herbert in Linus Pauling in His Own
> Words (1995): "Here is this Victor Herbert, who to this day keeps
> writing papers and giving speeches saying that no one benefits from
> taking extra vitamins, and he won't even look at the evidence.... I
> finally became sufficiently irritated by this fellow that I decided I
> ought to do something about it. So I sat down one summer ... and in two
> months wrote the book Vitamin C and the Common Cold." [1971]

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> Quackwatch's negative influence is formidable. The formula of their
> attacks on health freedom is fairly simple and easy to detect and its
> success depends on persistent repetition. The Quackwatch formula
> simply requires citing scientific literature that is outdated,
> irrelevant or non-existent. Only the specialist or nitpicking
> investigative journalist will ferret out the truth. In attacking the
> White House Commission on Complementary Medicine (annual budget of US
> \$ 50 million at the National Institutes of Health) initiated by
> President Clinton in March 2000, Barrett devotes enormous amounts of
> cyberspace to its condemnation. Triumphantly he informs the browser
> that even members of that task force have broken away in disgust and
> made their dissent known publicly. What really happened can be found
> in the rather reliable March 28, 2002, issue of the world's premier
> science journal Nature. Two members of that task force stated that
> more money should be allocated towards research into complementary
> medicine, and that the task force's final report would have been
> better if it had cited even more research to support its suggested
> program of action.

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> Quackwatch also delights in using the medial regulatory systems to go
> after doctors who have strayed from the One True Barrett Path. The
> State of New York is currently holding hearings (the equivalent of a
> public inquiry) into the inappropriate way in which the disciplinary
> process has been used, with Quackwatch "expert" witnesses, to stop

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> doctors from using complementary medicine. The popular radio show "The
> Touch of Health" was relentlessly attacked with viscous and insulting
> e-mails by Ontario Quackwatch member Dr. Polevoy until the show was
> closed down. One of the worst examples of Quackwatch's power comes
> from Nova Scotia. In the early 1990's the faulty air filtration system
> at Halifax's Camphill Hospital caused 900 people to become seriously
> chemically injured and today more than 300 remain permanently
> disabled. When these cases began to come before Workers's Compensation
> tribunal in the late 1990's, it was Ronald Gots who appeared as the
> "expert". The expert opinion reports, accepted by the tribunal,
> weren't even signed by doctors and Gots explained that the secretaries
> could be trusted to know the physicians' intentions. Gots' expertise
> caused all claims to be denied and the claimants were encouraged to
> seek the help of a psychiatrist. Enter Johns Hopkins researcher Albert
> Donnay who provided the whole truth and nothing but the truth,
> scientific and legal, to the appeals board. Since then case after case
> has been won on appeal.

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> Some time ago, when I was scheduled to speak at the Health Expo, a
> friend found me on the Canadian Quackwatch site described as a
> doctor's wife who promotes quackery in public lectures. I am
> flattered. The information I provide must be dangerously accurate.

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> Sources and Resources:

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> The battle over access to safe medicine and knowledge of disease
> prevention is fought to a large extent over the Internet by which the
> news travels faster than through medical journals, government agencies
> and the courts. Therefore, the following sites and e-mail connections
> are recommended as most helpful:

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> If you are involved in work that requires knowing how the enemy
> thinks, surf the Quackbusters' web sites which are operated by Dr.
> Stephen Barrett: www.quackwatch.com; the Canadian counterpart is run
> by Kitchner pediatrician Dr. Terry Polevoy www.healthwatcher.net

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> To find out how Quackbusters really operates visit:

> www.iahf.com/quackbusters.html; www.savedrclark.org; and

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- > www.internetwks.com/pauling/lie/index.html; and
- > www.healthfreedomlaw.com to find out what law suits are in progress
- > against Quackbusters and for what reasons get on the e-mail list of
- > Tim Bolen: jurimed@xxxxxxxxx
- >
- > For the science and current developments regarding mercury amalgam
- > visit www.iaomt.org, the site of the International Academy for Oral
- > and Medical Toxicology whose scientists have won many legal victories
- > for non-toxic dentistry; many of these dental medicine scientists are
- > associated with the World Health Organization and the National
- > Institutes of Health and are advisors to the health authorities of the
- > European Union.
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- > For the scientific facts, international consensus, current research
- > and personal help regarding Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, visit Johns
- > Hopkins medical school associate Albert Donnay's site www.mcsrr.org
- >
- > An excellent source of information on the current status of available
- > clinical treatments and research in complementary medicine for cancer
- > and many other environmentally mediated diseases is the National
- > Institutes of Health site www.CMBM.org. You can download, free of
- > charge, the entire text of all the presentations made by the world's
- > top researchers at the NIH international conferences.
- >
- > For facts on herbal medicine and a balanced interpretation of the
- > ongoing debate battle between pharmaceuticals and natural remedies
- > visit www.herbalgram.com
- >
- > A first class source of information on the worldwide growing awareness
- > about the effects of fluoride visit www.fluoride.org.uk
- >
- > To learn about the dangers, science, and legal actions going on
- > worldwide with regard to vaccines visit www.909shot.com; this is
- > especially helpful with regard to the facts on the connection between
- > autism and the MMR vaccine
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- > If you want to be kept up-to-date on all of these politically loaded
- > health issues (and many more besides!) request to be put on the e-mail
- > list of one of the best sources of information: croft@xxxxxxxxxxxxx
- >
- > An excellent source for information on health freedom issues, and
- > especially newly developed treatments, is the news letter of the
- > International Council for Health Freedom which operates in 17
- > countries; available through ccichf@xxxxxxxxxxx tel.619-702-1282, Visit
- > their site www.ichf.net
- >
- > K. Ausubel, When Healing Becomes A Crime, Healing Arts Press,2000
- >
- > J.P. Carter,MD, Racketeering in Medicine, Hampton Roads Publishing
- > Co., 1993
- >

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- > M.L. Culbert, Medical Armageddon, C and C Communications, San Diego, 1997
- >
- > W. Duffy, Sugar Blues, Warner Books 1975 (the first of this type, still a bestseller)
- >
- > D. Haley (US Congressman), Politics in Healing, Potomac Valley Press, 2000
- >
- > J. Lisa, The Assault on Medical Freedom, Hampton Roads Publishing Co., 1997
- >
- > G. Lanctot, M.D., The Medical Mafia, Here's The Key Inc., 1995

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ *Re: The Quackbusters*
◇ *From: Ilena Rose*

• *References:*

- ◆ *The Quackbusters*
◇ *From: Ilena Rose*

- Prev by Date: *Re: The United States Department of Justice...knows that KATHLEEN IS A TERRORIST AND LIAR!*
- Next by Date: *Re: What's Eating Ilena Rose: No One which is why she's so sexually frustrated and is a TROLL!*
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