

Hallelujah! Have a look at the Emperor's new clothes!

# Hallelujah! Have a look at the Emperor's new clothes!

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.lyme/2008-05/msg00017.html>

---

- *From:* the 3rd Man <[sir\\_der05@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:sir_der05@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 3 May 2008 09:09:50 -0700 (PDT)
- 

Can ANYONE explain to me how a review panel looking over the IDSA Guidelines is a great "victory"?

How this could possibly be "promising news for patients"?

What if, (and this seems entirely likely to me), they just have a look and say,

"Yep. Looks just fine and dandy to me, where do I rubber-stamp this puppy"?

Wow. Hoo-bleeping-ray for our side. Hey...what happened to the BIG ANTITRUST deal? No RICO for Kathleen?

Let's put a big, BIG smiley face on this... (and hope no one notices)...

This sounds like complete and utter bombastic BULLSHIT PROPAGANDA to me...(A deliberate distortion of reality to a degree that approaches outright falsehood)...

Gee, it sort of sounds like we accomplished nothing whatever of any tangible value...

...but we certainly want YOU to think we did...as the TRUTH tends to negatively impact our fund-raising activities.

(Hopefully this is just BS spin...it would actually be more worrisome if they BELIEVE their own CRAP).

=====  
CONTACT: Melissa Chefec, 203-968-6625 or Nicole Rodgers, 202-822-5200, ext. 249/226

Hallelujah! Have a look at the Emperor's new clothes!

Hallelujah! Have a look at the Emperor's new clothes!

Settlement Announced in Landmark Investigation of Lyme Disease  
Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines  
Patients Rights Groups Applaud Connecticut Attorney General  
Blumenthal's Settlement in Anti-trust Case Against Powerful Medical  
Society

Hartford, CT, May 1, 2008 Patients rights groups today hailed  
Connecticut Attorney General Blumenthal's announcement of a settlement  
in a landmark antitrust investigation into the Lyme treatment  
guidelines of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).

My office uncovered undisclosed financial interests held by several  
of the most powerful IDSA panelists, said Blumenthal. The IDSA's  
guideline panel improperly ignored, or minimized, consideration of  
alternative medical opinion and evidence regarding chronic Lyme  
disease, potentially raising serious questions about whether the  
recommendations reflected all relevant science.

The groundbreaking settlement announced today forces a complete review  
of the IDSA guidelines by a new panel free from conflicts of interest,  
specifically excluding previous panel members. This panel will  
consider a range of scientific evidence in a public forum broadcast  
live over the internet and will be overseen by a specialist in  
financial conflicts of interest in medicine.

This settlement makes it clear that the IDSA guideline development  
process was corrupted by a commercially driven panel that excluded  
evidence supporting longer term treatment of Lyme disease, said  
attorney Lorraine Johnson, Executive Director of the California Lyme  
Disease Association (CALDA). This settlement allows suppressed  
scientific viewpoints and evidence to be heard, and it is promising  
news for patients.

This is the first-ever antitrust investigation against a medical  
society's guidelines development process.

We congratulate Attorney General Blumenthal for exposing the IDSA's  
conflicts of interest and helping reduce the suffering of Lyme  
patients everywhere, said Pat Smith, president of the national Lyme  
Disease Association (LDA). Diane Blanchard, co-president of Time for  
Lyme adds, The IDSA guidelines are dangerous for patients who suffer  
longer-term Lyme symptoms that do not fall within the IDSA's narrow  
disease definition.

The IDSA guidelines are treated as mandatory within the medical  
community. More than 50 physicians who use longer-term treatment  
approaches have been investigated or sanctioned by state medical  
boards. The guidelines can also result in financial problems for  
patients, since insurance companies refuse to reimburse for longer-  
term treatment and pharmacies may refuse to fill prescriptions.

Hallelujah! Have a look at the Emperor's new clothes!

Hallelujah! Have a look at the Emperor's new clothes!

The majority of individuals involved in the IDSA guidelines development process held direct or indirect commercial interests related to Lyme vaccines, patents, and/or test kits, and did not take the opinions or experiences of the competing Lyme groups into account. While the announcement of a settlement comes as a huge relief to suffering Lyme patients, the case has much broader implications for a health care system that often contends with conflicts-of-interest in guideline processes guidelines which are often used by insurance companies to limit diagnosis and treatment options.

Today s settlement marks an important victory for all patients who suffer Lyme disease, but it is also a victory for anyone concerned about health care, said Johnson. Commercially driven guidelines that limit patient treatment options are a major issue today in healthcare, and this decision marks an important step towards addressing it.

The national Lyme Disease Association, (LDA), CALDA, and Time for Lyme are non-profit organizations that were founded by individuals who had personal experience with Lyme disease, in order to address the lack of education and support services available for this newly emerging infection.

Last Modified: May 01, 2008