Here is my final reply to the editor of *Infection and Immunity* after receiving his response which you can read following the message below.

Initial letter to the editor is at the bottom of this email thread.

-Carl Tuttle

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**From:** "Carl Tuttle" <runagain@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Ferric Fang" <fcfang@u.washington.edu>  
**Cc:** "Laurie Webby" <lwebby@asmusa.org>, "Zehava Robbins" <zrobbins@asmusa.org>, "Jeffery F. Miller" <jfmiller@ucla.edu>, "Barbara Goldman" <bgoldman@asmusa.org>, "Thomas Shenk" <tshenk@princeton.edu>, "Jessica Kanotz" <jkanotz@asmusa.org>, "Dick Blumenthal" <Dick_Blumenthal@blumenthal.senate.gov>, dbrisson@sas.upenn.edu, ckhatchikian@sas.upenn.edu  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 4:05:02 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Evidence for strain-specific immunity in patients treated for early Lyme disease

Ferric C. Fang, M.D.  
Editor in Chief, *Infection and Immunity*

Dear Prof. Fang,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my letter to the editor. When writing the letter I did not have the full text (only the abstract) which does not include any conflict of interest statement. I have seen conflict of interest statements integrated in abstracts from other journals so the reader does not have to purchase the full PDF before identifying potential conflicts.

I would like to call attention to the following article in Forbes Magazine highlighting how medical guidelines based on questionable science caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of patients:

**Medicine Or Mass Murder? Guideline Based on Discredited Research May Have Caused 800,000 Deaths In Europe Over The Last 5 Years**

The article focuses on the damage caused by the disgraced Dutch cardiovascular researcher Don Poldermans who was fired for scientific misconduct. A follow-up article will focus on the institutional leaders who provided uncritical support as well as the role of journal editors in this case.
Author Dr Gary Wormser of the manuscript; Evidence for strain-specific immunity in patients treated for early Lyme disease is also the lead author of the controversial one-size-fits-all Lyme Treatment Guideline which is responsible for perhaps much greater harm and disability than what was identified in the Don Poldermans case.

Rest assured any study authored by Wormser referencing a “six year immunity cycle” will be incorporated in a future vaccine treatment guideline with the potential to harm millions. The so called “mathematical model” showing “evidence for strain-specific immunity” is just plain and simple junk science with absolutely no proof whatsoever. Incorporating such questionable science in a vaccine distribution model has the potential for catastrophic results.

Your personal overview of this study; “…conflicting results occur all the time in science and provide fruitful ground for further research” is far too apathetic for what is at stake here. Once a study is published there could be a lengthy delay to have the article removed as was experienced in the Poldermans example.

It remains questionable that a Lyme disease vaccine is practical for an infection that produces a lack of immunological memory (unlike Measles, Mumps etc.) so fabricating a six year strain-specific immunity makes perfect sense for the marketing/acceptance of such vaccine.

The paper by Elsner et al found no immunological memory to Borrelia in the mice model but to my knowledge those researchers are not looking to develop a vaccine.

Sincerely,

Carl Tuttle
Hudson, NH 03051

The following petition provides evidence to suggest that Lyme disease has been intentionally mishandled. The petition has generated 16,928 signatures and 190 pages of heart wrenching stories from disabled Lyme patients across the globe.

Petition: Calling for a Congressional investigation of the CDC, IDSA and ALDF

Agenda-driven bias: “People with these types of agendas may be more likely to abuse meta-analysis due to personal bias”

NEJM editor: “No longer possible to believe much of clinical research published”

From: "Ferric Fang" <fcfang@u.washington.edu>
To: runagain@comcast.net
Dear Mr. Tuttle,

Your correspondence has been forwarded to me, and I have considered your concerns.

I do not agree that the manuscript is missing a conflict of interest statement. The manuscript includes a lengthy conflict of interest statement that specifies, among other things, that Dr. Wormser "is a consultant to Baxter for Lyme vaccine development."

Moreover, I do not agree that the apparent disagreement between the findings of the IAI paper and an earlier paper by Elsner et al. implies that some of the authors are biased. The earlier paper describes immunological studies in mice whereas the IAI paper describes a mathematical model based on observations in human subjects. The different conclusions may be attributable to differences in host species or a variety of other factors. In any event, conflicting results occur all the time in science and provide fruitful ground for further research. They are not, in themselves, evidence of bias.

Thank you for your concerns.

Best wishes,

Prof. Ferric Fang

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Ferric C. Fang, M.D.
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Evidence for strain-specific immunity in patients treated for early Lyme disease
http://iai.asm.org/content/early/2014/01/07/IAI.01451-13

American Society for Microbiology
1752 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2904
Infection and Immunity
Attn: Jessica Kanotz, Production Editor

Dear Jessica Kantoz,

In reference to the abstract published in Infection and Immunity regarding “strain-specific immunity to Lyme disease” I would like to call attention to another study in this area from the Center for Comparative Medicine, University of California-Davis:

The immune system cannot generate immunological memory during infection with the Lyme disease agent B. burgdorferi


R.A. Elsner, S.W. Barthold, N. Baumgarth September 2013

Conclusion statement:

“…our data demonstrate that Bb infection suppresses the development of long-lived antibody production and immunological memory formation and indicates that Bb may achieve this by suppressing the function and/or causing the rapid and global collapse of germinal centers.

In contrast, the Wormser study published in the Jan 2014 issue of Infection and Immunity is claiming the following:

“…patients treated for early Lyme disease develop protective immunity that is strain specific and lasts for at least six years”

We are finding it difficult to understand how the authors of this study could reach the conclusion that protective immunity could develop lasting six years unless of course there
is an agenda driven bias here. Dr Gary Wormser is actively involved with the current Baxter Lyme vaccine trials. A vaccine with questionable effectiveness against a disease with no immunological memory might not gain acceptance in the medical/patient community. If you can fabricate a protective immune response what might that do for vaccine sales?

The missing conflict of interest statement in this study is a serious oversight in the American Society for Microbiology’s Code of Ethics and should be corrected.

The following link will take you to The Clinical Infectious Disease paper: “The Need for a New Lyme Vaccine” Guest Editors: Stanley Plotkin and Gary Wormser

http://home.comcast.net/~runagain/Gary%20Wowmser%20link%20to%20Baxter%20Vaccine.pdf

Sincerely,

Carl Tuttle
33 David Dr
Hudson, NH 03051

The following petition provides evidence to suggest that Lyme disease has been intentionally mishandled. The petition has generated 16,311 signatures and 190 pages of heart wrenching stories from disabled Lyme patients across the globe.

Petition: Calling for a Congressional investigation of the CDC, IDSA and ALDF