

guidelines do not allow for the possibility of chronic infection and severely limit physician discretion on treating the disease.

Supporters of the IDSA guidelines point to dangers of the prolonged use of antibiotics and the possibility of treating when an infection has not been established. They also frequently point to alternative therapies which are unproven and may be dangerous; however, such alternative therapies are in the background for many diseases—perhaps most well recognized for cancer. Critics of the guidelines contend that they are based on highly selective science and that guidelines panelists had significant conflicts of interest. A 2009 review of the IDSA guidelines did not result in any changes.

IDSA and supporters place heavy weight on certain clinical trials of Lyme treatments supported by NIH. There has been much controversy of the quality of those trials and their generalizability to broad populations of patients. It is disturbing to the lay bystander that the controversy has ensued for so long without resolution. Certainly there are numerous unknowns about the bacteria and the disease; however, the public questions why the “experts” can’t even agree on whether these small numbers of clinical trials are well designed, well executed, and of sufficient power (whether they have a large enough number of patients), and the degree to which they can be generalized to other patient populations.

IDSA supporters have been adamant in the quality of the studies and the validity of their use to guide treatments for broad patient populations. In fact, several other researchers have been highly critical of the studies, pointing to specific perceived deficiencies, such as selection criteria that almost guaranteed failure, not appropriately defining endpoints, and, significantly underpowering the studies. One journal article from the Netherlands states, “The randomized studies that have been performed have been of questionable quality and were heavily underpowered to detect potential effects.”

Many who recognize the shortcomings of clinical trials to date, stress the importance of conducting more well-designed treatment studies with a sufficiently large and representative number of patients, and at least some such efforts are underway around the globe. I am pleased that Dr. Raphael Stricker, a practicing physician who sees many Lyme patients, guided us through some of the vast amount of literature on Lyme disease.

The UK has suffered under a contentious environment among different Lyme disease stakeholders very much like that of the U.S. We are told however that the UK may be making progress in developing a more cooperative environment. I am pleased that Stella Huyshe-Shires, the Chairman of Lyme Disease Action, in the United Kingdom, was able to share with us some of the perspectives on efforts to manage Lyme disease in Europe. I was happy to hear about the collaboration, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, with the Jack Lind Alliance to identify the uncertainties faced during consultations between patients and physicians, to then identify the top unanswered questions about diagnosis and treatment of Lyme, and to prioritize research.

This cooperative approach contrasts with the environment in the U.S. A recommendation regarding Lyme disease made during a May 2005 meeting of CDC’s National Center

for Infectious Diseases Board of Scientific Counselors, attended by the then President of the IDSA, that CDC should focus on science and not on the concerns of patient groups and that others may need to step in to assist CDC with public interface. Collaboration between the IDSA and government agencies on strategies to deal with the public can be seen in various statements and documents.

The September 2011 article, “Antiscience and ethical concerns associated with the advocacy of Lyme disease” reflects the degree of hostility toward patients, treating physicians and the Lyme charities that were formed to support education and research on behalf of patients.

Wouldn’t it be much better if instead of belittling, insulting, and smearing patients, treating physicians and advocates, the authors of that study had asked themselves and posed the question to others “What can we do to better understand and address the needs and concerns of patients, physicians and advocates?”

Two of the witnesses we heard from last week focused on the needs and concerns of patients and the non-profit organizations fighting on their behalf—namely, Mr. Evan White, a former Lyme disease patient, and Ms. Pat Smith, the President of the Lyme Disease Association, who provided their important perspectives. What we should never lose sight of is that the goal of all of our efforts and the science is to help patients regain health.

There are numerous Lyme disease non-profit organizations, some of them less informed than others. To cast a wide net and say that that they are well-intentioned, but ignorant and ill-formed is not an accurate portrayal. Many of them are intelligent, savvy people, who established medical and scientific advisory boards to advise their organizations. Two that I am most familiar with have funded millions of dollars in Lyme disease research, providing grants to a Who’s Who of Academic Researchers.

Efforts to discredit research because it was partially funded by Lyme disease charities are therefore disturbing. Such efforts led some researchers to initially submit research studies and to leave off some funding sources. Researchers have also reported that when they have presented research findings to government officials or other scientists, there has been more interest in the funding sources than the research itself. Without speculating whether such intimidation is intentional, it is most unfortunate because academic scientists and very critical studies have been, and continue to be, supported by several of the Lyme charities, some of whom have raised millions of dollars and have invested every penny into research.

At the end of their “Antiscience. . .” tirade, the article’s authors state that the public’s health will be endangered “unless responsible physicians, scientists, government leaders, and the media firmly stand up for an evidence-base approach to this infection that is based on high-quality scientific studies.”

That is a perfect ending for my remarks because that is precisely what the Lyme community wants; however, it will be necessary for the physicians, scientists, government leaders, and media to be discerning—to evaluate the evidence to see if it is based on the best science and to scrutinize the studies and the critiques of those studies to determine whether they are of high quality. We need scientists to

speak out in an unfettered way. We need government agencies to show leadership and to forcefully say what we know and what we don’t know based on the best available evidence.

Thankfully, we can be confident that science will prevail: research has been progressing—we are greatly increasing knowledge of pathophysiology, and we seem to be on the cusp of breakthroughs in diagnostics that hopefully will solve questions of persistence and active vs. past infection.

I regret that we did not hear from NIH, CDC, nor a representative from the IDSA at last week’s hearing. They all were invited, but declined—the IDSA expressing that their potential witness had a scheduling conflict.

I will reissue an invitation to them—and expect they will testify before our subcommittee.

MAC NASH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, educators know that preparing students for future challenges is an integral part of the job. Today, I am proud to honor retiring Sabine Pass ISD Superintendent Malcolm “Mac” Nash for putting the entire community on his shoulders and helping to rebuild after Hurricane Ike.

Mac was born in Silsbee, Texas, and spent his early years working the oil fields inherent to Southeast Texas. A decision to change careers into education seemed like a natural choice. He always enjoyed helping others. Mac was Superintendent of West Sabine ISD in Liberty, Texas, before being named to the same position in 2006 at Sabine Pass ISD, a small rural town about three miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

One year earlier, Hurricane Rita made landfall almost directly over Sabine Pass, causing widespread damage across the area. One building endured the brunt of the storm better than any other in the community and that was the Sabine Pass School, the PreK–12 campus opened in 2002. Even though it sustained millions of dollars in damages, the School survived and gave the community a place to come together.

Mac came on board as the repairs from Rita were nearing completion. Hurricanes Humberto in 2007 and Gustav in August 2008, while not causing much damage, kept the community on its toes ready for anything. They did not have to wait long, as Hurricane Ike formed in early September 2008 before making landfall over Galveston, causing millions of dollars worth of damage to Sabine Pass and billions across the entire Gulf Coast region.

One building stood out among the mud and debris, and that was once again the Sabine Pass School. Mac knew that he had control of the only building in town that could survive almost anything and he made sure that it was used to its fullest capabilities. It was a meeting place, shelter, staging area, and most importantly, the lighthouse in front of the school served as the “Beacon of Hope” to all citizens, a reminder of the fortitude necessary to weather any storm.

Nash knew that the community needed some stability and a feeling of normalcy, so

under his leadership, the staff worked tirelessly to prepare the school for a return. The Sabine Pass School reopened in early October, missing only 17 days of instruction. 92 percent of the students were back on the first day. They were not just passing time, either. The School would receive exemplary status from the Texas Education Agency that year.

After a 6-year tenure as Superintendent of the Sabine Pass ISD, Malcolm Nash is stepping down. Because of his courageous leadership, he was named the Region 5 Superintendent of the Year for 2011–12 and is also in the running for the statewide title. Thanks to Mac's leadership, Sabine Pass is a stronger, better place to live.

The Sabine Pass School gets the name of the "Beacon of Hope," but the citizens will never forget the light that Malcolm Nash shined on the entire community.

And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. JOHN C. FAKAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. John C. Fakan, the skipper of the historic USS COD Submarine Memorial.

Mr. Fakan was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 10, 1934. He grew up in Cleveland and attended John Marshal High School. John earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Ohio University, a master's degree in electrical engineering from Colorado State University, and a PhD in systems engineering, also from Colorado State University. Despite his education in the sciences, John had interests in many areas. He served as the president of the Cleveland Philosophical Society and was a trustee of the Great Lakes Historical Society and the Historic Naval Ships Society.

John led a life full of accomplishments that ranged from working as an aerospace engineer for NASA's Lewis Research Center in Brook Park, Ohio to founding the Medical Data Systems Corporation, located Northeast Ohio. Throughout his career, John helped develop technology used in moon landings and designed quieter jet engines. He also worked on the Great Lakes Very High Frequency Communications System technology that allowed for radio-telephone communication over the Great Lakes.

Most recently, John had been known as the skipper of the USS COD Submarine Memorial, a warship that saw battle in both World War II and the Korean War. In 2011, John was awarded the Casper J. Knight, Jr. Award for his work restoring and maintaining the submarine.

I offer my condolences to his wife Helene; children, Stephen, Debra and Sandra; grandchildren, and five siblings. In addition to his family, John will be missed by the many people whose lives he affected in his 78 incredible years.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring John C. Fakan, a leader and a role model in the Cleveland community.

NAVY LT. BRAD SNYDER EM-BARKS ON HIS NEXT MISSION—OLYMPIC GOLD

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Navy Lt. Brad Snyder, of St. Petersburg, Florida, who I not only have the honor and privilege to represent but who I appointed to the United States Naval Academy.

Lieutenant Snyder is an American hero who lost his eye sight in Afghanistan while carrying out an extremely dangerous mission to protect the lives of his team in the field.

Lieutenant Snyder is emblematic of the American volunteer spirit that is the cornerstone of our Nation's fighting force. As a record setting swimmer at Northeast High School in St. Petersburg, he informed me in 2001 of his desire to attend the United States Naval Academy.

"I believe that to serve my country, and by attending the Naval Academy, I would be making the most of what I have been given by God," Brad wrote to me in his candidate statement. I was proud to nominate Brad in December 2001 and with his appointment, he joined the Class of 2006 in Annapolis during the summer of 2002.

Brad was an outstanding Midshipman. He demonstrated his exceptional leadership skill as the Captain of the Navy Swim Team. His coaches, teammates, and fellow sailors all extolled his exceptional work ethic and admirable, trustworthy behavior.

During his time at Annapolis, Brad learned of the mission of our explosive ordinance disposal, EOD, teams, the fearless men and women who dismantle explosives and Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs, to protect Americans in the field, often endangering their own lives in the process. Brad decided that he wanted to volunteer for this dangerous assignment.

Lieutenant Snyder graduated in May 2006 and became an Explosive Ordnance Officer. After a 6 month deployment to Iraq, Lieutenant Snyder was deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2011. Despite his father's passing while he was in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Snyder decided to remain on deployment with his team. On September 7, 2011, the front of Lieutenant Snyder's patrol team set off an IED. While providing aid, Lieutenant Snyder stepped on a pressure plate, detonating another unseen IED. The second blast inflicted severe burns and permanently blinded him. While recovering at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Lt. Brad Snyder remained positive and focused on healing.

Less than 2 months after losing his sight, Lieutenant Snyder returned to the swimming pool and swam several hundred meters on his first attempt. He continued to progress and train with the intent to serve his country, this time as a member of the U.S. Paralympics Swim Team.

Just last month, Lieutenant Snyder fulfilled his dream and qualified for the team that will represent the United States in London later this summer.

As I look back over Brad's candidate statement to me 11 years ago, I was struck by one of his life goals. Brad wrote, "Initially it was Olympic gold that I dreamed of, but as reality set in I realized that the military was a more realistic dream. Today I dream that I will be an officer in the best Navy the world has ever seen, and I hope that my contributions to the Navy can help it grow strong."

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Brad Snyder has already achieved one of his goals—to be an officer in the best Navy the world has ever seen and to help it grow strong. He sacrificed his vision to protect his fellow sailors, soldiers, and Marines. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in saying thank you to Lieutenant Snyder for the steep price he paid to protect our freedom and at the same time to wish him God speed as he sets off to London to achieve his next goal—to bring home gold from the 2012 Paralympics.

When I see the spirit and courage of Lt. Brad Snyder, I am confident that our nation is in good hands with a new generation of leaders who understand the value of service and sacrifice. Our best wishes go out to him that a gold medal may be but one of many great achievements Brad achieves over his lifetime.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
C.W. BILL YOUNG, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Young men and women who are selected for training at one of our Service Academies receive an outstanding and costly education at the expense of the United States Government. Graduates are normally required to serve at least their five years after graduation. Congressman Young is most anxious to select young men and women who sincerely desire a service career and who fully intend to make it their life's work. Therefore, applicants for appointment to one of the Service Academies are requested to complete the following:

I, Bradley W. Snyder, a candidate for appointment to one of the United States Service Academies, do hereby certify that my application is motivated primarily by a desire to serve my country as a career officer. I further state that it is my intention, if appointed, to graduate from the Academy and make service in the Armed Forces of the United States my profession and career. I make this statement in good conscience and without mental reservation. Moreover, I want to serve my country as a career officer in the U.S. Navy because: (Please type in space below)

The Naval Academy is one of the best institutions in the world, and has the most potential for development in mind and character. I believe that to serve my country, and by attending the Naval Academy, I would be making the most out of what I have been given by God. As a young child I dreamed that perhaps one day, I could have the chance to represent the great country of the United States and be a part of it's world dominance. Initially it was Olympic gold that I dreamed of, but as reality set in I realized that the military was a more realistic dream. Today I dream that I will be an officer in the best Navy the world has ever seen, and I hope that my contribution to the Navy can help it grow stronger,

Signature Bradley W. Snyder Date 09/06/01.