

from Leslie Feinberg August 2011 transgenderwarrior.org  
my research notes on the medical politics driving the "Lyme Wars"

### **Part 38:**

#### **Lyme & biowarfare research:**

#### **How many ties before it's not coincidence?**

"It's possible to see the modern history of Lyme as a string of event with an EIS [Epidemic Intelligence Service] member at every crucial node," Lyme researcher Elena Cook summed up. (ftsupplemental.blogspot.com, ctlymeriders.com)

Cook stated, "Within a few years of Steere's 'discovery' of Lyme disease (the unique rash, and certain associated symptoms, had been recognized in Europe nearly a century before), it was announced that its bacterial cause had been identified. The microbe was accidentally found by biowarfare scientist Willy Burgdorfer and was subsequently named for him."

Cook stressed, "Burgdorfer has championed the Lyme patients' movement and is not suspected of any wrong-doing."

In 1981, Burgdorfer, a Swiss scientist who had been recruited into the U.S. Public Health Service reported finding spiral-shaped germs in a batch of deer ticks sent to him to study by a team headed by Dr. Jorge Benach, Cook cited, adding, "Benach subsequently spent much of his career as a Steere camp Lyme researcher. In 2004 he was chosen as recipient for a \$3 million biowarfare research grant."

Burgdorfer turned over the infected ticks to a scientist who had recently joined the lab where he worked, Cook wrote. "That scientist was Dr. Alan Barbour, an officer, like Steere and Snyderman, of the Epidemic Intelligence Service, with a background in work on anthrax, one of the most terrifying biowarfare agents known."

Cook wrote, "EIS man Barbour therefore became the first to isolate the prototype organism on which all subsequent Lyme disease blood tests would be based. This is very significant, as a huge body of evidence indicates the unreliability of these tests, which are routinely used to rule out the disease. Additionally, all DNA detection of the Lyme agent in ticks and animals is ultimately based, directly or indirectly, on the genetic profile of the strain first isolated by Barbour."

Cook continued: "In 2005 Barbour, who spent much of his career studying the 'hard-to-catch, easy-to-cure' Lyme disease, was placed in charge of the multi-million [-dollar] new biowarfare complex based at University of California at Irvine. Barbour is joined there by his close colleague and fellow Steerite Jonas Bunikis, author of recent papers calling for a restrictive approach to Lyme Diagnosis

Cook provided an overview and specifics of how the Epidemic Intelligence Service officers impact the federal government's medical approach to Lyme: "The Centers for

Disease Control (CDC) is [a] federal body which has had a major impact on how Lyme is diagnosed and treated. Its influence extends abroad, with European public health departments drawing up policies based on CDC guidelines. It should be remembered that it is the CDC which trains the Epidemic Intelligence Service, and much of the leadership of CDC has traditionally been drawn from EIS ranks.

“Therefore it comes as no surprise,” Cook continued, “to learn that David Dennis, the head of vector-borne diseases at CDC, with massive influence over Lyme issues, was involved with the EIS.

“However, we could legitimately wonder why,” Cook asked, “at lower levels of the CDC hierarchy, EIS officers—the nation’s heavyweight infectious disease experts—continue to play such a major role in investigating the supposedly ‘hard-to-catch, easily cured’ Lyme. (For example, EIS officers Martin Schriefer and Captain Paul Mead.)”

Cook emphasized, “The number of Steere camp Lyme researchers with a background in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and/or biowarfare research is too numerous to be pure co-incidence.

“It could be argued that some of these Lyme researchers have been awarded biowar-related grants simply because they are Infectious Disease specialists, which is a natural terrain from which to recruit. After all, research budgets for biowar have ballooned massively since the anthrax attacks of 2001; there is a demand for large numbers of personnel to work on such projects,” Cook posited.”

Cook answered: “First, researchers who have spent much or most of their careers studying a ‘hard-to-catch, easily-cured’ disease would not appear to be the best choice as recipients of this type of grant, unless the ‘easily-cured’ disease had some relation to biowarfare. Second, while some infectious disease specialists began to study biowarfare organisms for the first time after 2001, this is not necessarily the case with the Steerites,” Cook countered.

“Klemper, for example, was studying ways to increase the virulence of *Yersinia pestis*, the causative agent of plague, over 20 years ago,” Cook cited. “Barbour researched anthrax for the Army in the 1970s.”

“Two scientists who have played a central role in the Lyme story, Barbour and Klempner, have been placed in charge of new biowar super-labs set up in the aftermath of 9-11, where they are aided by some of the Steerite colleagues. Others, while not in charge of super-labs, are nevertheless in receipt of substantial grants for biowarfare research.”

By the late 1980’s, as Lyme “was rapidly spreading out of control,” Cook wrote. “Federal health agencies launched a major propaganda effort to limit diagnosis and so artificially ‘contain’ the epidemic. The National Institute of Health (NIH) appointed biowarfare expert Edward McSweeney as Lyme Program officer. Under his leadership the diagnostic criteria was skewed to exclude most sufferers, especially those with chronic neurological

illness.

“McSweegan’s successor at NIH,” Cook wrote in February 2007, “Dr. Phil Baker, is an anthrax expert, and has continued his policies. ...

“In 2001, responding to the protest of thousands of patients that standard two or three-week antibiotic courses were not sufficient, the NIH commissioned biowarfare scientist Mark Klempner to study persistence of Lyme infection. ... Klempner, however, concluded that persistent Lyme infection did not exist. In 2003 Klempner was appointed head of the new \$1.6 billion biowarfare top-security facility being developed at Boston University.”

*Next: Conclusion*