



July 4, 2013

[Des Moines Register](#)

A Grinnell physician has agreed to stop treating a version of Lyme disease that many other doctors doubt exists. Dr. Jeffrey Piccirillo gained attention for using powerful antibiotics to treat patients who believed they had "chronic Lyme disease." Such patients attribute their aches and fatigue to the tick-borne bacterial infection, even though standard tests don't detect it in their bodies. The Iowa Board of Medicine, which licenses physicians, accused Piccirillo last year of incompetence and "practice harmful to the public." It said he diagnosed and treated numerous people for Lyme disease without proper evidence that they were infected with it. It said he used long-term intravenous antibiotics, even though the treatment is not recognized by national authorities and the drugs can have serious side effects.

Feb. 25, 2013.

Fake Doctor Specializing in Lyme Disease Gets 3 Years

[San Diego 6 By Mike Wille](#)

SAN DIEGO (CNS) - A woman who posed as a doctor and misled a number of people into believing they needed infusions and injections of animal cells to treat Lyme disease was ordered Monday to serve 18 months in local custody and will be out of jail but under supervision for an additional 18 months. Kathleen Ann Helms, 57, pleaded guilty last October to four counts of conspiracy to practice medicine without a license.

Nov. 20, 2012.

A woman who posed as a nurse alongside a doctor imposter who misled people into believing they needed infusions and injections of animal cells to treat Lyme disease, pleaded guilty Tuesday to three counts of practicing medicine without a license.

Jacqueline Smith, 57, will be sentenced to a year in jail at a hearing Jan. 24.

Deputy District Attorney Gina Darvas said Smith put intravenous lines in patients who went to Kathleen Ann Helms for treatment at the BrightHouse Wellness Center in Encinitas. Helms, of Scripps Ranch, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to practice medicine without a license and will be sentenced next month to three years in prison. She will serve that sentence in local custody. Darvas said the FBI opened an investigation after

two people treated by Helms filed complaints with the California Medical Board, claiming Helms falsely represented herself as a doctor of naturopathy and an expert on Lyme disease.

<http://encinitas.patch.com/articles/imposter-nurse-to-be-sentenced-to-one-year-in-jail>

November 06, 2012. Physician accused of performing unnecessary treatment, engaging in inappropriate sexual relationship with patient.

by Deborah L. Shelton, Chicago Tribune reporter

A former Joliet surgeon who reinvented himself as a "Lyme-literate" physician after Iowa medical authorities charged him with professional incompetence is now facing allegations of misconduct related to his new practice. The Iowa Board of Medicine is pursuing formal disciplinary charges against Dr. [Jeffrey Piccirillo](#), 50, who practices in northwest suburban Lake in the Hills and in Grinnell, Iowa. The charges allege professional incompetence, "practice harmful or detrimental to the public," sexual misconduct and unethical or unprofessional conduct.

Aug 14, 2012. FBI: Encinitas' BrightHouse Wellness Director a False Doctor.

By Mike Wille

[SANTEE \(CNS\)](#) - An Encinitas woman was behind bars Tuesday for allegedly practicing medicine without a license, leaving a Lyme disease patient severely ill. Federal agents and detectives with the California Medical Board arrested Kathleen Ann Helms, 57, late Monday afternoon, according to the FBI. Helms, who operated a business called BrightHouse Wellness on North El Camino Real in Encinitas, allegedly had been diagnosing Lyme disease patients and advising them to undergo a treatment plan that involved the infusion of dimethyl sulfoxide, injections of animal cells and taking vitamins, the FBI reported.

June 27, 2012. U.S. Attorney's Office

[Medical Clinic Owners Indicted for Health Care Fraud, False Tax Returns](#)

Western District of Missouri (816) 426-3122

KANSAS CITY, MO—David M. Ketchmark, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that the married co-owners of a Kansas City, Missouri, medical clinic have been indicted by a federal grand jury for health care fraud and filing false tax returns. Carol Ann Ryser, 75, and Michael Earl Ryser, 67, both of Mission Hills, Kansas, were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Missouri, on Tuesday, June 26, 2012. Carol and Michael Ryser are co-owners of Health Centers of America-Kansas City LLC (HCA), a medical clinic in Kansas City, Missouri, that purports to specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases such as **Lyme disease**, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and other autoimmune diseases. Carol Ryser is a medical doctor and the medical director. Michael Ryser is the CEO, chief administrator, and vice-president.

March 26, 2012. ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — A Las Cruces man has been sentenced to more than two years in prison for charges stemming from a scheme related to a dubious treatment he had offered patients at his health clinic. Prosecutors say as part of the scheme, Carl E. Haese

defrauded patients who were seeking treatment for Lyme disease. He claimed to have a secret protocol that was 100 percent successful. He charged patients \$5,000 for the treatment.

Sept. 27, 2011. (Added here in anticipation of an arrest, suit, or revoked license.)

Doctors Find Link Between Lyme Disease, Autism. FoxNews.com

"If a child has autism from birth, many times it's because the child inherited an infection from the mother. I do think that Lyme disease, especially congenital Lyme is a cause of autism," autism specialist Dr. Lynn Mielke told FOX40. Mielke said she thinks that Mary contracted Lyme disease from her mother during the pregnancy, which played a big role in Mary's development of autism. He started intense treatment on Mary's Lyme disease, and the outcome was successful beyond their expectations. "As we treat Mary for her Lyme, some of her check list autism symptoms are disappearing," Tina said. Mielke told FOX40 the severity of Mary's autism may mean she'll only improve minimally, but for the Hendricks even small improvements translate to huge miracles. "I have had patients in my practice with autism, who when we treated their Lyme disease, their autism improved so much that they were no longer autistic," Mielke said.

Aug 11, 2011.

[The Virginian-Pilot](http://TheVirginian-Pilot)

An Eastern Shore doctor known for treating people with Lyme disease has surrendered his medical license to the Virginia Board of Medicine. Dr. Geoffrey Gubb, 74, was put on indefinite probation and banned from prescribing narcotics by the board last September for treating 15 patients with high-powered pain drugs while failing to monitor their condition or properly document diagnoses. At the time, Gubb, who had a family practice in Belle Haven, said he was going to close his practice rather than meet the conditions of the board's order, which would have required him to complete medical education and a competency evaluation.

July 13, 2011. [Chicago Tribune](http://ChicagoTribune). Lyme doctor with troubled past offers controversial treatment. Former Illinois surgeon now specializes in treating patients for a condition that's disputed by key medical groups. "When Dr. Jeffrey Piccirillo moved to the small college town of Grinnell, Iowa, the Joliet surgeon had been sued multiple times over allegations of malpractice, personal injury and negligence. In 2003, less than a year earlier, he had filed for bankruptcy. Things didn't go much better for Piccirillo in Iowa. Within a few years, he was battling another lawsuit, this time from a knee surgery patient alleging that he failed to properly diagnose a fracture and prevent it from worsening, according to court records. Then the Iowa Board of Medicine charged Piccirillo with "professional incompetency." Eventually, he signed an agreement with the board that placed his license on indefinite probation and prohibited him from practicing surgery in Iowa. A similar agreement with Illinois followed. Now Piccirillo, 48, has started over again as one of Illinois' and

Iowa's few "Lyme-literate" doctors — physicians who are willing to treat the dubious diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease."

June 13, 2011.

HARTFORD, Conn. ([AP](#)) — The state Appellate Court on Monday rejected the appeal of a New Haven pediatrician who claimed state officials were wrong to discipline him in 2007 for the way he treated two children he diagnosed with Lyme disease. Dr. Charles Ray Jones, who has been a polarizing figure in the treatment of Lyme disease, was reprimanded, fined \$10,000 and placed on two years of probation by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board. While patients praise him for treating the disease with long-term courses of antibiotics, many in the medical community says his methods fall outside accepted treatment guidelines and are unproven.

May 5, 2011.

Arizona: A Young Woman Believes She Would've Died If She'd Continued Treatment for Supposed Lyme Disease from Chandler Clinicians.

The relationship between Alyssa Goodale and the women treating her (Dana Rosdahl and Janet Love, co-owners of Chandler's Remnant Health Center) for Lyme disease ended abruptly in February 2010. It had not been inexpensive, costing Alyssa's parents more than \$10,000 out of pocket over a four-month stretch on "energy machine" sessions and vitamin and nutritional supplements, not to mention a pile of prescription drugs that were supposed to help her heal. Read the rest of this long article at the [Phoenix NewTimes](#).

May 4, 2011.

Md. suspends autism doctor's license
[chicagotribune.com](#)

A doctor who has treated children with autism with a drug sometimes used to chemically castrate sex offenders has had his medical license suspended in his home state of Maryland after officials there determined he was placing children at risk with his controversial and expensive treatment. Dr. [Mark Geier](#), who has treated some Illinois children and retains a license to practice medicine here, was the subject of a 2009 Tribune investigation that called the hormone-disrupting treatment into question. Geier allegedly misrepresented his credentials, misdiagnosed young autism patients and encouraged their parents to approve risky treatments without fully informing them of potential dangers, according to the Maryland State Board of Physicians' April 27 order to suspend Geier's license.

March 3, 2011.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — [Three California residents](#) have been sentenced to probation and ordered to pay restitution in Kansas for a fraudulent marketing scheme to cure Lyme disease. Seventy-nine-year-old Robert Bradford was sentenced this week to five years' probation and forfeiture of \$400,000. His 70-year-old wife, Carole Bradford, got five years' probation and a \$700,000 forfeiture judgment, while 65-year-old Brigitte Byrd was sentenced to three years' probation and a \$10,000 forfeiture. All three Chula

Vista, Calif., residents also were ordered to pay more than \$40,000 in restitution. The three worked with Kansas doctor John Toth of Topeka, who was sentenced last month to time served. Toth admitted he and the three co-defendants sold a microscope they said could diagnose Lyme disease, and promoted a drug treatment plan they claimed could cure it.

March 2, 2011.

[Phil. Inq.](#) Doctor sentenced in indecent assaults on patients.

Authorities said a doctor who practiced in Kennett Square and was known for treating Lyme disease had another specialty: making unwanted advances to female patients. Peter Fabulian, 63, of Strasburg, who pleaded guilty in December to two counts of indecent assault, was sentenced Tuesday to one month in prison and five months of electronic home confinement, followed by two years of probation.

Feb. 9, 2011.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A [Kansas doctor](#) has been sentenced to time served after pleading guilty to being part of a scheme to sell a phony system to diagnose and cure Lyme disease. U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom said Wednesday that 61-year-old [John Toth](#) of Topeka was also sentenced to two years supervised released and fined \$25,100. Toth has already served 26 months in prison after pleading no contest to state manslaughter charges in 2007 after the death of a patient. He was released in 2010. In the federal case, Toth admitted in October that he and three co-defendants began selling a microscope they said could diagnose Lyme disease. They also promoted a drug treatment plan they claimed could cure the disease.

Nov. 7, 2010

KC doctor, clinic settle over treatments.

by Alyson E. Raletz, Dolan Media Newswires

ST. LOUIS, MO - "A lawsuit against a Kansas City physician and clinic for allegedly treating patients for diseases they didn't have settled confidentially before a trial was to begin in Independence. The case is one of a handful of lawsuits with similar false diagnosis claims against Dr. Carol Ann Ryser and the Health Centers of America-Kansas City, known for providing alternative and natural wellness treatments."

"Candace Anthony claimed Ryser diagnosed her with 21 separate disorders, including **Lyme disease**, in February 2008 after Anthony sought treatment for abdominal and chest pain. She alleged that Ryser prescribed her antibiotics, alternative substances and other medicines. During a January 2009 emergency room visit for shortness of breath and chest pain, physicians told her she suffered

from hyperthyroidism – not Lyme disease – “and had undergone months of unnecessary treatment,” according to claims in her May 2009 petition.”

“A consolidated case in May 2009 netted a nearly \$24 million judgment in Jackson County for two patients and their spouses who sued a Florida-based laboratory that the Kansas City clinic used, **Bowen Research & Training Institute**, for false test results (David Lampton et ux. v. Bowen and Keith Klausner et ux. v. Bowen, 0516-CV28508). In that case, the plaintiffs and their wives settled claims with the clinic, Ryser and other physicians, whose insurance companies paid a total of at least \$2 million, according to court records.”

Oct. 26, 2010.

Doctor who offered fake Lyme disease cure pleads

[KANSAS CITY, Kan.](#) (AP) – A Kansas doctor has pleaded guilty to being part of a scheme to sell a phony system to diagnose and cure Lyme disease.

U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom says 61-year-[old John R. Toth](#), of Topeka, pleaded guilty Monday for his part in the fraud. He agreed to pay a \$30,000 fine.

Sentencing is set for Jan. 18. Toth admitted that, beginning in September 2001, he and three co-defendants began selling a microscope they said could diagnose Lyme disease. They also promoted a drug treatment plan they claimed could cure the disease. Toth charged patients for use of the microscope and drugs. Authorities say the drugs caused the death of one Kansas resident and renal failure in another. Toth's three co-defendants have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

September 27, 2010.

Eastern Shore doctor faces probation over Lyme disease cases

[The Virginian-Pilot](#)

A doctor on the Eastern Shore known for treating people with Lyme disease has been put on indefinite probation by the Virginia Board of Medicine and permanently banned from prescribing narcotics. [Dr. Geoffrey Gubb](#), who has a family practice in Belle Haven, was accused by the board of treating 15 patients with high-powered pain drugs while failing to monitor their condition or properly document diagnoses. Gubb, 73, has until Oct. 16 to ask for an appeal on the matter. If he declines, the order will become final that day. In an interview last week, Gubb said he has decided to close his family practice at the end of the month. He said he treats about 800 patients, most of whom are from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. About 600 of them have Lyme disease, he said, and many crossed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel from Hampton Roads to get a type of treatment that most doctors refuse to prescribe because it goes against recommended guidelines.

Sept. 17, 2010. Guilty plea in Lyme disease scheme

By BRAD COOPER, [The Kansas City Star](#)

A California man Friday pleaded guilty in federal court to scheming to sell medical equipment and drug treatments for a false epidemic of Lyme disease. Prosecutors said the scam led to one death and one person suffering kidney failure. Robert W. Bradford, 79, pleaded guilty in Kansas City, Kan., to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and to introduce misbranded drugs into interstate commerce, federal prosecutors said. Bradford admitted that he and his co-defendants made more than \$400,000 selling a microscope that they claimed could be used to diagnose Lyme disease, and a treatment plan that they claimed could cure the illness. Bradford founded a company that did business as American Biologics. It distributed marketing materials calling Lyme disease the "plague of the 21st century." More than 50 percent of chronically ill people may be suffering from Lyme disease, the company claimed.

March 16, 2010. Joseph G. Jemsek, M.D., Applicant. Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Charlotte, NC). [Denial of Application](#) for medical licensure. The [Maryland] Board found that the violations of unprofessional conduct in diagnosing and treating patients, failing to inform his patients adequately of the risks of his treatment and failing to conform to standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice, for which he was disciplined in North Carolina, are violations of grounds of the Maryland Medical Act and constitute reasons to deny his application for licensure.

February 17, 2010.

State Disciplines Doctor At Center Of Lyme Disease Dispute

By ARIELLE LEVIN BECKER. [The Hartford Courant](#)

HARTFORD —The state medical board on Tuesday voted to discipline Dr. Charles Ray Jones, a New Haven pediatrician known for his support of a controversial form of Lyme disease treatment. The discipline — a \$10,000 fine and a four-year license probation during which Jones' practice will be monitored — will not take effect until the board signs the decision, which is expected to happen next month. It will mark the second time in three years that the board has disciplined Jones, 80.

June 17, 2009. Las Cruces Man Charged With Fraud For Lyme Disease Cure

Jenn Dombrowski, KFOX Las Cruces Bureau Reporter

LAS CRUCES, N.M. -- A Las Cruces man who claimed to cure patients with Lyme disease was arrested on fraud charges. [Carl Haese's](#) patients said they became ill after he charged thousands of dollars for a cure, according to court documents. The Las Cruces Police Department served Haese with a warrant last week after months of investigating by the federal government. Formally charged by the federal government with fraud, court documents show that 33-year-old Haese is accused of charging patients thousands of dollars for a Lyme disease cure that he told patients had worked for thousands of people. "We don't have thousands of cases in New Mexico," said Chris Minnick, spokesman for the New Mexico Department of Health.

May 27, 2009. INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (CN)

[Courthouse News](#)

A woman claims Dr. Carol Ryser, of the Health Centers of America-Kansas City, charged thousands of dollars to treat her for nearly a year for Lyme disease and a long list of other diseases, none of which she had. She claims Michael Ryser, CEO of the Health Centers, "trained the employees of HCAKC how to sell HCAKC's unnecessary services to patients, how to convince people that they have Lyme disease and need treatment." Plaintiff Candace Anthony claims the defendants "prey on the sick". She claims Michael Ryser "has told HCAKC employees that they are 'actors' and that they have a 'script to play with patients.'" She claims that "For years Carol Ann Ryser has diagnosed many of not most of the patients of HCAKC with Lyme disease," but that "almost none of defendants' patients actually have, or ever had, Lyme disease."^[1] Anthony claims that on April 28 the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts initiated proceedings to suspend, censure or revoke Dr. Ryser's license "as a result of the medical diagnosis and treatment provided to eleven separate patients consistent with the medical diagnosis and treatment provided to Candace Anthony."

May. 25, 2009. [Kansas City.](#)

Two Kansas City couples who were falsely diagnosed with Lyme disease have won verdicts totaling \$30 million against the Florida lab that tested their blood. Jackson County Circuit Judge Michael Manners handed down the verdicts last week against [Bowen Research and Training Institute](#) Inc. of Tarpon Springs, Fla., and in favor of Keith and Sheri Klausner and David and Brenda Lampton. Bowen was founded by JoAnne Whitaker, who held herself out as "an internationally recognized research and teaching physician." Whitaker, formerly Bowen's president and director of research, voluntarily relinquished Bowen's license to operate as a clinical laboratory in 2002. After the Florida Department of Health found that Bowen had continued to do clinical testing of patients, Whitaker voluntarily relinquished her Florida medical license in 2007.

April 15, 2009. www.rgj.com. **Alternative medicine scam.**

Sherri Higgins, of Colorado, filed complaints to both the state's boards of homeopathic and osteopathic medical examiners against Dr. Bruce K. Fong, contending he intentionally misdiagnosed her and her family with Lyme disease to ultimately gain their \$80,000 bank account savings. Both women said medical tests conducted by other doctors following their treatment with Fong and his staff at Sierra Integrative Medical Center concluded they were negative for Lyme disease. They said doctors told them they never had the illness described by Fong as a "silent epidemic." Fong and his staff did not run medical tests before diagnosing them, they said. "He said I needed the treatment or I would die," Styskal said. Both said Fong and his staff claimed Lyme disease was sexually transmitted, and passed through drinking out of the same cups. They said they were told this meant their husbands and children were also infected, prompting them to get their families treated, too. Treatment at Fong's clinic was \$1,500 a week, per person, and was not covered by insurance, the women said. Their treatments lasted around seven weeks, and were done in Reno.

Jan. 14, 2009. **Former doctor has first hearing.** [The Capital-Journal.](#)

A former Topeka physician had his first hearing Tuesday in a Kansas City, Kan., federal courtroom on 13 counts connected with selling medical equipment and drug treatments for a nonexistent Lyme disease epidemic. John R. Toth, who is serving time for the death of a patient, is facing federal charges of conspiring to sell a microscope that allegedly would diagnose Lyme disease and drugs that would treat it.

Dec. 5, 2008. Topeka doctor indicted in Lyme Disease case.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — A former Topeka doctor in prison for the death of a woman he treated for Lyme Disease faces federal charges related to the treatment.

Prosecutors said Friday that John Toth and two Californians were indicted in an alleged scheme to sell medical equipment and treatments for a nonexistent epidemic of Lyme disease. Their marketing materials claimed Lyme disease was "*the plague of the 21st century*" and contributed to 50 percent of all chronic illness.

Robert W. Bradford, 77, and Brigette Byrd, 63, both of Chula Vista, Calif., and a Chula Vista company, C.R.B. Inc., doing business as American Biologics, are also named in the indictment. Toth, 59, pleaded no contest last year to a charge of reckless involuntary manslaughter in the 2006 death of Beverly Wunder, 47, of Topeka. Toth treated Wunder by giving her intravenous infusions of a "heavy metal" known as bismuth, which has not been approved for such a use. Friday's [indictment](#) charges the three with violating the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by selling a microscope that they claimed would diagnose and cure Lyme disease.

Dec. 5, 2008. Chula Vista duo indicted in fake Lyme disease cure.

[UNION-TRIBUNE. SAN DIEGO](#) – A federal grand jury in Kansas has indicted two Chula Vista residents suspected of selling bogus treatments for Lyme disease, along with a microscope they claimed would diagnose the disease. The 25-count indictment charged Robert W. Bradford, 77, and Brigitte G. Byrd, 63, with conspiracy, mail fraud, introducing a misbranded medical device, and distributing unapproved and misbranded drugs. The pair, along with a Topeka, Kan., doctor who lost his medical license, are accused of making more than \$400,000 from the alleged conspiracy between April 2004 and August 2006, mostly through a company called CRB Inc. based in Chula Vista, according to the indictment.

Nov. 13, 2008.

(L-4452-03, MIDDLESEX COUNTY AND STATEWIDE) EFFREY SHECTMAN, Plaintiff-Respondent, v. **ROBERT BRANSFIELD, M.D.**, Defendant-Appellant. No. A-3035-07T2, [Superior Court of New Jersey](#), Appellate Division Argued October 15, 2008. Decided November 13, 2008.

On appeal from the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Middlesex County, Docket No. L-4452-03. The opinion of the court was delivered by YANNOTTI, J.A.D. Plaintiff Jeffrey Shectman brought this action against defendant Robert Bransfield, M.D., alleging that defendant deviated from accepted standards of psychiatric care by failing to monitor and supervise his response to certain medications and his deteriorating mental

condition, and that defendant's deviations resulted in plaintiff's attempt to commit suicide. The matter was tried to a jury, which returned a verdict for plaintiff awarding \$250,000 in damages. Judgment was entered in accordance with the jury's verdict and defendant appeals.

Oct. 4, 2008. Canada. Doctor's files impounded, Controversial treatment of Lyme disease. <http://www.mississauga.com/article/23248>

Investigators from the College of Physicians and Surgeons yesterday demanded patient files from a Mississauga doctor whose controversial treatment methods have once again landed him in hot water. Dr. Jozef Krop, a general practitioner and contentious champion of "environmental medicine," stands to lose his medical licence after the College launched an investigation into his treatment of chronic Lyme disease.

As they left the office with 20 files, more than 50 of Krop's patients -- most of whom are being treated for chronic Lyme disease -- watched on in silence. They had come to lend their support to the Polish-trained doctor who now faces his second major investigation for alternative treatment methods. In 1999, the College found Krop guilty of professional misconduct. It followed 1994 charges for failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession and disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional conduct, making him something of a household name in the medical profession during the 1990s.

Sept. 20, 2008. Joseph Burrascano (See April 23, 2002). ([NYS Physician Profile](#)- Field of Medicine: Not Actively Practicing; Office Locations: None reported).

Below are some pearls of medical wisdom pulled from his data-free, reference-free presentation: "Lyme pluse co-infections started the cascade that advanced so far, it could not be stopped by just killing the bacteria," "Lyme and some co-infections produce toxins," "First, careful medical evaluation to remove "Lyme blinders," "Expect to be on Lyme treatments for months to years," "Treat bartonella before babesia," "Mycoplasma is the root of the worst cases of Lyme," "Still are horrendous political issues." Hopefully, no one paid to hear any of this gibberish.

Sept. 5, 2008. Part of a [9-page letter from Charles Ray Jones](#) (Ct.) to his generous fans noting, "I would like to update you on the status of my legal defense fund, as well as the current charges before the medical board, that I am fighting in Connecticut. It is important for people to understand how important this case is, not only to my practice, but to the general Lyme community, and the different legal efforts under way on the part of my legal defense team." "Finally, I will address specific questions that have come up, for example, regarding my malpractice insurance coverage."

July 7, 2008. Part of an appeal letter from Jones: "Urgent! I must raise \$90,000 by July 14, 2008 and an additional \$110,000 by August 10 in order to retain the legal team which has been representing me. If these sums are not raised, I will not be able to continue defending the charges brought against me by the Connecticut Department of Public Health for my treatment of children with Lyme disease, and I fear that I will be forced by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board to resign my license to practice medicine and to retire. This must not happen!"

May 2, 2008. Reported hearing on a “new set of charges being brought against him [Charles Ray Jones] by the CT DPH....”

Jan. 24, 2008. Atlanta Journal-Constitution. A Stone Mountain doctor initially charged with injecting his patients with commercial-grade weed killer was sentenced Thursday to five years' probation for health care fraud. [Totada R. Shanthaveerappa](#), 73, who was suspended by the state medical licensing board after his indictment in 2005, treated terminally ill patients at his clinic in Stockbridge. He pleaded guilty in October to defrauding insurance companies out of \$650,000 for submitting false and misleading claims. Among Shanthaveerappa's initial charges was illegally giving patients [Dinitrophenol](#) (DNP), a weed killer and insecticide. But Shanthaveerappa did not plead to this charge. Samuel said the doctor gave DNP to five patients who had been diagnosed with Lyme disease. <http://www.casewatch.org/doj/shantha/indictment.shtml>

Dec. 19, 2007. *Newsweek*. Doc punished for Lyme disease treatment. Conn. regulators reprimand and fine pediatrician for his Lyme disease treatment. A New Haven pediatrician—[Charles Ray Jones](#)—who has been praised by patients but criticized by the medical establishment for the way he treats Lyme disease was reprimanded, fined \$10,000 and placed on two years probation by state regulators. [L T L S E P S E P]

November 23, 2007. Topeka, KS (AP) - A Topeka doctor pleads no-contest to reckless involuntary manslaughter for the death of a woman he was treating for Lyme disease using an unauthorized method. Toth treated [Lyme patients] with intravenous infusions of a "heavy metal" known as [bismuth](#), which has not been approved for such a use. [L T L S E P S E P]

May 13, 2007. Three Lakes, WI. Wisconsin's [Gregory Hoffmann](#), M.D., is being investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board for his treatment of Lyme disease. [L T L S E P S E P]

December 8, 2006. [Associated Press](#). A New Jersey doctor and her assistant were found guilty Friday of taking thousands of dollars from patients by promising to cure them of Lou Gehrig's disease with a stem-cell therapy they did not, and could not, deliver. A [federal jury](#) found Charlene DeMarco and her aide, Elizabeth Lerner, both of Egg Harbor City, guilty on all 11 counts with which they were charged, including conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud and money laundering. [Note: DeMarco is known for her work on Lyme disease and in 2003 was appointed to the Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory Council.] [L T L S E P S E P]

2006. Failure to diagnose tumor: did 'continuous treatment' apply? (Hospital Law Case of the Month). [CASE ON POINT](#): Zielinski v. Kotsoris, 961 A.2d 1207, 279 Conn. 312 -CT (2006)

CASE FACTS: On **April 3, 1996**, Shelly Zielinski saw Dr. **Harriet Kotsoris**, a board-certified internist and neurologist, for symptoms including fatigue, headaches and tinnitus. Dr. Kotsoris tentatively diagnosed the patient with Lyme disease and sent her to Stamford Hospital for an MRI of her brain, which was performed on April 10, 1996. Both

Drs. Kotsoris and Kristan Zimmerman, a radiologist who was a partner in Associates, which constituted the hospital's radiology department, reviewed the MRI. The physicians failed to detect the presence of an early brain tumor on the MRI. Dr. Kotsoris continued to treat the patient for Lyme disease, notwithstanding the fact that testing for that illness was negative or inconclusive.

Sept. 17, 2006. In late 2005, the state Department of Public Health charged [Charles Ray] Jones with violating "the applicable standard of care" for his treatment of two young siblings who live in Nevada. After investigating the complaint, the health department brought charges to the medical board, alleging that he diagnosed Lyme disease in the children without examining them, that he failed to consider other causes for their symptoms, and that he improperly prescribed antibiotics. (Hartford Courant, Northeast Magazine section.)^[11/11/06]_[SEP:SEP]

August 22, 2006. A Topeka doctor accused of murder has made his first appearance in court. At his arraignment, Dr. [John Toth](#) heard the murder charges against him after prosecutors argued he gave one of his patients injections of Bismacine to treat her Lyme disease. Bismacine contains high amounts of bismuth, a metallic chemical that can be poisonous and is not approved by the FDA. Kansas' Board of Healing Arts suspended his license last year after two other patients suffered potentially fatal complications. (WIBW - Topeka, KS, 13 News)^[11/11/06]_[SEP:SEP]

July 19, 2006. The widow of a man who died of prostate cancer in 2004 while under Dr. [James Shortt](#)'s care has reached a tentative settlement with him in separate federal lawsuits. On Monday, Shortt was sentenced in a separate federal criminal case to one year and one day in prison. He pleaded guilty in March to conspiring to distribute steroids and human growth hormones to NFL athletes, body builders and others. Bate's widow, Janet Bate, of Richland County, contends in one lawsuit that Shortt was negligent in the July 21, 2004, death of her 66-year-old husband. Shortt gave him intravenous hydrogen-peroxide treatments and falsely diagnosed him as having Lyme disease, the lawsuit said. In June 2004, Shortt prescribed testosterone, which caused his prostate cancer to rapidly advance and resulted in his death about six weeks later, the lawsuit said.^[11/11/06]_[SEP:SEP]

June 16, 2006. Lyme doctor ruled guilty. The N.C. Medical Board on Thursday suspended a Mecklenburg County physician's license for one year after finding he departed from prevailing methods of treating Lyme disease. The 12-member board also concluded Dr. [Joseph Jemsek](#) didn't adequately inform patients that his approach, which includes keeping patients on intravenous antibiotics for months or years, is unorthodox. Jemsek, 57, didn't make it hard for the board to convict him. He testified repeatedly that he is the only physician in the state who routinely diagnoses patients with chronic Lyme even if they do not test positive when screened with standard laboratory tests. Jemsek also said he is alone in attacking the tick-borne disease with long-term antibiotic therapy. Most doctors require positive test results and believe Lyme should be treated with no more than two- four-week courses. Five patients, including the widower of a woman who died of morphine poisoning while under Jemsek's care, testified for the prosecution. (New Observer, N.C.)^[11/11/06]_[SEP:SEP]

May 14, 2006. Virginia R. Savely, RN, (aka Ginger Savely). Savely is a Family Nurse Practitioner. She recently moved from Texas to San Francisco, because she could no longer find a doctor in Austin who would supervise her practice. The problem was that she was treating people who had been diagnosed with Chronic Lyme (a debatable disease in itself), with long-term antibiotic therapy, something that is not approved by the Texas Medical Board, and is generally regarded to have only placebo effect...in Austin she had 400 Lyme patients, to whom she was prescribing long term antibiotic treatments. All these patients make up Savely's livelihood. She also had "over 50" Morgellon's patients, who she gave much the same treatment as her Lyme patients. Savely was making a living by prescribing a treatment not approved by the Texas Medical Board. They ran her out of town, and now she has set up shop with a like-minded Doctor [Stricker] in San Francisco. (Morgellons Watch) <http://morgellonswatch.com/2006/07/01/ginger-savely/>

March 30, 2006. Virginia R. Savely, RN "was disciplined last year by the state Board of Nurse of Examiners for not following certain protocols and record-keeping requirements in treating a Lyme patient." Savely said she doesn't blame her upcoming move on her supervising physician. She knows that many traditional doctors consider her a quack, she said. (By Mary Ann Roser, March 30, 2006, Austin-American Statesman) http://www.standupforlyme.org/getinformed/statesman_20060330.html

March 31, 2006. A southern New Jersey doctor took money from Lou Gehrig's disease patients by getting them to pay as much as \$35,000 for a stem-cell treatment that she could not -- and did not -- perform, according to a federal indictment unsealed yesterday. [Charlene DeMarco](#) and her assistant and housemate, Elizabeth Copperman, were arrested yesterday and charged with 11 counts of conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud and money laundering for acts they are accused of committing between 2002 and 2004. DeMarco is known for her work on Lyme disease and in 2003 was appointed by Gov. James E. McGreevey to the Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory Council. (Associated Press)^[L T T L]_[SEP:SEP]

April 28, 2005. A federal grand jury in Camden, New Jersey has returned a 17-count indictment charging two New Jersey men with conspiracy to defraud the United States, income tax evasion, and willful failure to account for and pay the IRS employment taxes withheld from their employees' wages. The indictment alleges that [Anthony Lionetti](#), who resided in Hammonton, New Jersey, was the owner and president of two Lyme disease treatment centers, and that Donald DuBeck, who resided in Shamong, New Jersey, was the companies' vice-president and office manager. It alleges that they withheld income, Social Security and Medicare taxes from the wages of employees of the Lyme Disease Treatment Center and Tick Born Disease Group, and made only partial payments of the employment taxes collected in 1999 and 2001. (www.usdoj.gov)^[L T T L]_[SEP:SEP]

October 2003. "An Italian newspaper reported that [Bachynsky](#) had been charged with aggravated voluntary manslaughter based on an investigation by Italian authorities in connection with the death of four patients. The report noted that the authorities and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation had been unable to locate Bachynsky. However, he was eventually apprehended and charged by the U.S. Government with 40 counts of

conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, and securities fraud. As of April 30, 2004, he has been in the federal prison in Miami, Florida. The indictment states that in 2001 and 2002, he and three others persuaded at least 50 investors to invest more than \$3.5 million in Helvetica Pharmaceuticals, which supposedly would operate a cancer clinic in Switzerland. Investors who bought the stock for \$1 a share were promised that the stock would rise to \$5 and \$6 once the company's stock offering "went public." However, the conspirators simply spent the money on themselves. The company's business plan focused on ICHT as a treatment for cancer and AIDS. Bachynsky went to trial in 2008 and was convicted of one count of conspiracy, three counts of wire fraud, and one count of securities fraud. His sentencing is scheduled for September 2008.

December 24, 2002. [Bernard Raxlen](#), a psychiatrist, had his medical license suspended in [New York State](#) for "professional misconduct."

Nov. 14, 2002. Dr. [Perry Orens](#), whose license was revoked in November of 1999 as a result of his hearings before the New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), has had his license reinstated by the Appellate court of the Supreme Court of New York State.^{SEP}

April 23, 2002. Dr. [Joseph Burrascano](#), following a hearing before the New York State OPMC on his medical treatments of Lyme patients, was placed on probation with a practice monitor. *"I will be placed on probation with a practice monitor. The original penalty was to have this for 6 months. The appeals board upheld this penalty but did expand the time period of probation to two years, to keep it consistent with other cases. BUT- they posed NO restriction on my practice, NO restrictions in how I manage my cases, and in their written decision, the Committee was quite complimentary!"*

Dr. [Richard Horowitz](#), who had been in hearings with the [NYS OPMC](#) since the spring of 2001, was offered a settlement consisting of three months suspension.^{SEP}

January 29, 2002. Texas State Board of Medical Examiners Disciplinary Action against [William Cowden](#), M.D. (2002). William L. Cowden, M.D., who practices in Fort Worth, Texas, has been reprimanded twice by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. In 1996, he was placed on two years of probation for (a) injecting a patient with Hodgkin's disease with a homeopathic product that lacked FDA approval and (b) prescribing Cytomel (a thyroid hormone) to a patient "without appropriate indication or documentation" that the patient has hypothyroidism. In 2002, he was fined \$2,500 and placed on three years' probation for failing to maintain adequate medical records or to obtain adequate consent related to his management of three patients.^{SEP} "Lee Cowden, M.D., of Fort Worth, Texas, has established what has come to be known as one of the leading chronic Lyme treatments of our time. Known as the Cowden Protocol, this series of treatments consists primarily of various herbal extracts, including Cumanda and Samento as well as hyperbaric oxygen treatment, ozone therapy, and other interventions."^{SEP}

06/06/01 [ST. CHARLES TOWNSHIP](#) - Attorneys for two men accused of promising cures for incurable diseases got a temporary order of protection Tuesday to secure materials, described as "trade secrets," police seized during a raid at their Aurora clinic. Stephen R. Wechter, 48, of Aurora, and John B. Peterson, 46, of Elburn, are charged with five felony counts of practicing medicine without a license and receiving fees for representing a cure for an incurable disease. Authorities said Wechter and Peterson are not medical doctors, yet they promised people stricken with multiple sclerosis, **Lyme Disease** and other illnesses a cure within six months to two years. Wechter and Peterson are accused of victimizing people from Chicago, Prophetstown, Oak Lawn and Bartlett. The victims were given a diagnosis and course of treatment, authorities said. In August 1999, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services suspended the lab's operations. A November 1999 lawsuit that is still pending was filed against the men on behalf of six patients by Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan.

1998. Dr. [Joseph Natole](#) (Michigan) had his license suspended for 90 days, but was also fined \$50,000. He was subsequently indicted and pleaded guilty to federal charges of over billing insurance companies.

Feb. 2, 1996. Donna Brewer of the Ct State Department of Public Health said they have determined that there was not "sufficient evidence of a violation of the standard of care that warrants action" against Dr. Phil Watsky's license. The [Hartford Courant](#) quotes part of her letter: "The department is nevertheless concerned about certain issues regarding your treatment of 'S.M.'" *The Bristol Press* continues the quote from Brewer's letter, "The department is concerned regarding your continued diagnosis of Lyme disease despite the fact that the patient has not tested positive for a considerable period of time, your selection of antibiotics used in the treatment, the frequency and length of antibiotic therapy, and the possible long-term effects of such treatment."

August 12, 1995. *The Trenton Times*. "State seeks license of Lyme disease Doctor." This was John D. Bleiweiss, MD. The doctor committed suicide shortly afterward.

Regulatory Action against Dietrich Klinghardt, M.D.

In 1993, the [New Mexico Board of Medical Examiners](#) placed Dietrich Klinghardt, M.D., on probation for three years. The situation arose because in 1991, Klinghardt had sponsored a seminar in New Mexico during which Milne J. Ongley, M.D., as part of his teaching, gave injections to patients even though he lacked a New Mexico license. Ongley was subsequently convicted of practicing medicine without a license in both New Mexico and California. In the California case, he was placed on probation for three years and ordered to pay \$5,000 to the California Medical Board for the cost of investigating him. The San Diego Union-Tribune has published an extensive report about Ongley's background. Klinghardt now practices in the State of Washington and conducts seminars in which he advocates "detoxification," "neural therapy," and autonomic response testing (ART), a bogus diagnostic system in which arm-muscle strength is used to assess organs throughout the body.

THIS MATTER came before the New Mexico Board of Medical Examiners for hearing on February 18, 1993, on a Notice of Contemplated Action issued to Dietrich Klinghardt, M.D. on February 18, 1993. Dr. Klinghardt appeared in person and through counsel Robert R. Rothstein, the State appeared through its Administrative Prosecutor G.T.S. Khalsa, Assistant Attorney General and the Board was represented by its attorney Randall D. Van Vleck, Assistant Attorney General. Dr. Klinghardt had previously been advised through his counsel of the contents of the Notice of Contemplated Action, and waived time limits and notice requirements of the Uniform Licensing Act in order to facilitate an expedited hearing before the Board.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the license to practice medicine of [Dietrich Klinghardt](#) be and hereby is suspended for a period of three (3) years.

June 25, 1993. FINAL FINDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT, [NIH GUIDE](#), Volume 22, Number 23. [Raphael B. Stricker](#), M.D., (past president of ILADS Lyme group).^{[[SEP]]} An investigation conducted by the University found that Dr. Stricker falsified data for a manuscript and a PHS-supported publication reporting research on AIDS. In the manuscript, Dr. Stricker selectively suppressed data that did not support his hypothesis, and reported consistently positive data whereas only one of four experiments had produced positive results. Dr. Stricker executed a Voluntary Exclusion and Settlement Agreement in which he has agreed not to apply for Federal grant or contract funds and will not serve on PHS advisory committees, boards or peer review groups for a three year period beginning April 1, 1993. The publication "Target platelet antigen in homosexual men with immune thrombocytopenia" in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 313: 1315-1380, 1985 has been retracted (*New England Journal of Medicine*, 325: 1487,1991).^{[[L]]}^{[[L]]}^{[[L]]}^{[[SEP]]}^{[[SEP]]}

November 21, 1991. UCSF Claims Fired Doctor Covered Up Data In AIDS Paper. *San Francisco Chronicle*. University of California at San Francisco officials fired a blood specialist after accusations that he covered up data in a 1985 paper on AIDS biology. The accused physician, [Raphael B. Stricker](#), denied the charges that cost him his job in September 1990 as an assistant professor of laboratory medicine. His dismissal, made public yesterday, followed a confidential investigation triggered by reports of irregularities in another paper of which Stricker was co-author. Secrecy around the affair collapsed this week with publication of today's *New England Journal of Medicine* in which three UC San Francisco researchers formally retract a paper that they and Stricker published in the journal in 1985.