Clarification of the Agreement between the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Attorney General of Connecticut

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(See the viewpoint by Klein on pages 1197–9)

Dr. Klein [1] fairly and thoughtfully summarizes many of the crucial issues that the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Board of Directors grappled with during the IDSA’s negotiations with the Connecticut attorney general’s office concerning its investigation of the IDSA guidelines on Lyme disease. Two points are worth clarifying.

First, the ombudsman will have a limited role that will focus on screening potential conflicts of interest. The ombudsman will not be involved in the operation of the review panel.

Second, the expanded review process detailed in our agreement with the Attorney General is pertinent to this unique case only. The IDSA has not agreed to use it as a model for other IDSA guidelines, nor do we urge other medical organizations and societies to use it.

We share Dr. Klein’s [1] concern about the potential intrusion of politics into the scientific process. This is why we believe that an agreement that brings this discussion back into a medical and scientific forum (rather than a courtroom) is the best outcome.

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References