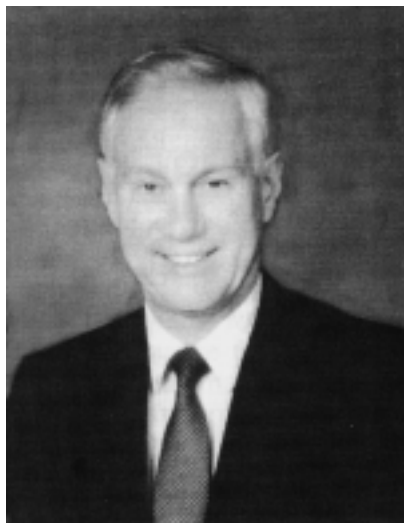


Paul E. Lavoie , M . D.: An Appreciation



The first issue of the *Journal of Spirochetal and Tick-Borne Diseases* is dedicated to Paul E. Lavoie in recognition of his distinguished service to the Lyme Disease Foundation (LDF). Paul has participated actively in the LDF as a frequent speaker at its national conferences, as a Board Member since 1990, and as the Chairman of the Scientific Medical Committee since 1991. His papers at LDF conferences have contributed to our understanding of the clinical spectrum of Lyme disease in the far-western United States and dealt with such controversial issues as the failure of published (i.e., short-term) antibiotic regimens for treating Lyme disease.

Paul has been equally active in other medical and scientific societies. He has attended all five international conferences on Lyme borreliosis and presented papers or posters at the second through fifth conferences. He also presented 17 papers or posters at 13 western regional or national meetings of the American College of Rheumatology since 1982: all but two of these presentations concerned Lyme disease or other borrelial infections. Moreover, he has regularly attended and participated in the International Northwestern Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man since the mid- 1980s. He has been invited twice by the National Institutes of Health to participate in State-of-the-Art Conferences on Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Disease and once by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to participate in a special conference to discuss the national surveillance case definition for Lyme disease.

He has held several academic medical appointments in San Francisco, California, including those at the University of California, California Pacific Medical Center, Fort Miley Veterans Administration Hospital, and St. Mary's Hospital. During his tenure at the University of California at San Francisco, he rose from Clinical Instructor of Medicine in 1973 to Clinical Professor of Medicine in 1993. Further, he has published 25 abstracts, book chapters or articles so far, many of which were co-authored with other physi-

cians or scientists. Highlights of these publications include the description of several of the initial cases of Lyme disease recognized from California (with J Campagna, NS Birnbaum, and DP Furman) and the first description of acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans, a dermatologic manifestation of late Lyme disease, from western North America (with AJ Wilson and DL Tuffanelli).

Perhaps Paul's greatest contribution, however, has been his devoted effort to bridge the gap between the clinician and the biomedical community. During his 21 years of clinical practice in internal medicine and rheumatology, Paul has treated literally hundreds of patients afflicted with Lyme disease, many of whom had difficult-to-treat late-stage manifestations. He spends many hours with each of his patients, listening to their complaints and treating them with compassion and kindness while devising individualized treatment regimens. Extensive experience taught Paul that many patients with late Lyme disease could not be cured with standardized antibiotic regimens. Therefore, he developed long-term antibiotic regimens that brought considerable relief to, as well as significant reduction of symptoms for, many patients who failed to respond to short-term therapies for the disease. He communicated his findings routinely at local, national, and international meetings that, though often controversial, induced many physicians to at least reconsider their approach for treating patients with late manifestations of Lyme disease. In recognition of his contributions, The Lyme Disease Resource Center and the Lyme Disease Foundation awarded him the Distinguished Physician Award in 1993 and established an annual award in his name.

Both of us have had the pleasure of knowing Paul for about a decade and consider it a privilege and an honor to dedicate the first issue of the *Journal* to our friend and colleague. We can think of no one more deserving of this accolade than Paul who contributes so much to the LDF and his profession.

Note added in proof: we were greatly saddened to learn of Paul's death in Mill Valley, California on 23 January, 1994.

Robert S. Lane and Willy Burgdorfer