Founded in 1994, the American Lyme Disease Foundation (ALDF) represents a special interest group, the IDSA. As executive director of the ALDF, Phillip Baker, PhD, maintains a concerted effort to discredit any research which refutes the idea of Lyme as easy to diagnose, easy to cure.

During his previous tenure at the NIH, Baker, in email, called chronic Lyme patients “Lyme loonies”. He worked behind the scenes to defeat federal legislation in 2005 that would have provided more money for Lyme research and would have established a Lyme task force.