

Broad Points

- Many people live with multiple infection-associated conditions and want to understand the interconnections
- Urgent need to break down siloes
- Urgent need to find ways to overcome time lag of 17 years to translate research—prioritizing how research can lead to timely reforms to medical education.
- Imperative to include Lyme disease and tickborne coinfections— patients I interviewed are worried about being left behind due to the ongoing controversy around Lyme disease , which has slowed research.
- “How will this *help* people living with infection-associated chronic illness?”

“Theories that diseases are caused by mental states and can be cured by will power are always an index of how much is not understood about the physical terrain of a disease.”

Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor* (1978)



"And only you can hear this whistle?"

“He is the only real revolutionary, the authentic scientist, because he alone knows how little he knows. He must be heartless. He lives in a cold, clear light. Yet this is a funny thing: really, in private, he is not cold nor heartless—so much less cold than the Professional Optimists.”

The eccentric but brilliant researcher Gottlieb, in Sinclair Lewis’ *Arrowsmith*