Letter to the Editor,

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the editorial comment which accompanied my article entitled: Alzheimer’s disease – A spirochetosis?” published in July’s issue of NeuroReport. I thank the authors of the editorial comment, not only for their generous remarks on the importance of the data (if it can be confirmed in other laboratories), but also because they express my own skepticism and criticism that I experienced while working on this matter. I am the first to hope that my hypothesis will soon be either confirmed or rejected by other laboratories, because of the hopes that may be raised from antibiotic treatment, which may prevent or arrest Alzheimer’s dementia.

The only comment I would like to make, which is I think a misunderstanding on the part of the authors of the commentary, when they wrote “…It is surprising that with the quoted yield of spirochetes from the identified cases, no images are available of the organisms in the brain of the 14 specimens…” and they continue, “…We do not find the photomicrographs and electronmicrographs of the putative spirochetes from the AD cases…” In the article there are photomicrographs of spirochetes isolated from the cortex of two Alzheimer disease (AD) cases (Fig1D and E) and a photomicrograph of a histological section from the cortex of one of the 14 AD cases showing spirochetes in the brain visualized by a silver stain /Warthin and Starry technique; Fig. 3B), designed to demonstrate spirochetes; the second part of the sentence seems to be a contradiction of the previous statement.

Finally, I would like to thank the Editors of NeuroReport and the referees of the article who made it possible for such a finding “ so far removed from the current thrust of investigations into the pathogenesis of AD…” to appear in this scientific journal. Indeed, publication of these findings offers the possibility for other laboratories to reject or to confirm such a hypothesis. In view of the current concepts regarding Alzheimer’s disease, the decision of the referees and of the Editor-in-Chief could not have been an easy one.

Judith Miklossy

University of Pathology, Division of Neuropathology, University of Lausanne, Rue du Bugnon 27, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland