

LymeMDNews

LYME DISEASE RESEARCH

FOUNDATION



Lyme Disease, alive and ticking...

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2011

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Aucott, Trustee/Pres.

Trustees

Eric Becker
Joseph Hardiman
Michael Hankin
Terral Jordan
Lawrence Macks
Dale Mathias
Decatur Miller
Adena W. Testa

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Tim Krohe, MD
Instructor, Dept. of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Antony Rosen M.B.Ch.B.
Director
Division of Rheumatology
Prof., Dept. of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Peter Rowe M.D.
Professor,
Div. Adolescent Medicine
Dept. Pediatrics
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Sheila K West, PhD
Professor,
Dept. Ophthalmology
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Administrative Coordinator
Joan Higdon

Community Education
Carol Siegmeister
Allegra Knight

Webmaster
Les Cohen

Design
Mark Beisser

Newsletter
Susan Leibtag
Ricki Baker

Report Card on LymeMD's SLICE Study

The SLICE* study, the first major collaborative project with Johns Hopkins sponsored by LymeMD, is entering its third year of patient recruitment. Our success to date has been outstanding.

SLICE is the first study ever performed in the United States that is designed to look prospectively at the long-term impact of Lyme disease on patients' health and immune systems. So far, we have successfully recruited 68 patients, and we can report an incredible 97% retention of patients.



immune system - this may set the stage for recovery vs. the persistence of illness. SLICE is confirming that the currently available diagnostic test will miss the initial diagnosis of Lyme disease more than 60% of the time! Our bio-repository of patient blood samples is attracting national attention; collaborators all across the country are interested in examining SLICE patient samples for clues on how they can better diagnose and understand the complexities of Lyme disease and help their patients.

* *Study of Lyme Disease Immunology and Clinical Events*

The goal of SLICE is to examine the earliest events after infection by Lyme disease with a focus on the changes occurring in the im-

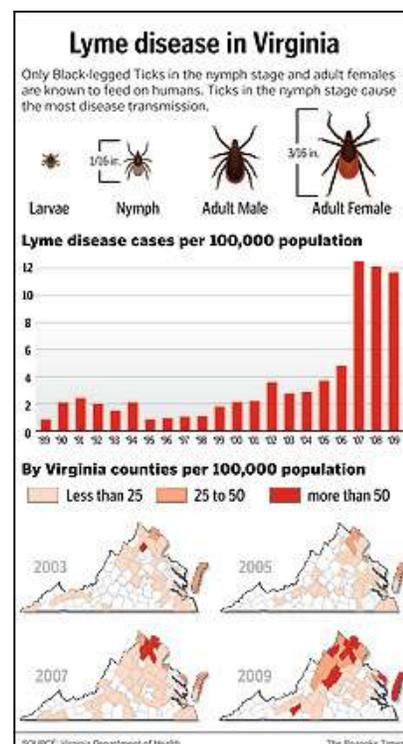
The Alarming Spread of Lyme

Since erupting in the 1970s in coastal New England, Lyme disease has continued its rapid spread throughout the eastern states. Currently, 90% of cases are reported from the ten states concentrated on the east coast from Maine to Maryland. However as the epidemic spreads, Virginia may be the next state to encounter the full impact of the Lyme epidemic. Cases in Virginia increased more than ten-fold between 1998 and 2008. All the factors necessary to escalate the spread of Lyme disease are present in Virginia - deer, rodents, and deer ticks.

It is not certain exactly why Lyme disease is only now expanding in Virginia. Perhaps it is due to the spread of infected ticks by birds and mammals from adjacent states. It may be a product of increasing residential construction in previously rural areas. Hikers and outdoorsman first noticed the appearance of significant numbers of deer ticks in 2005 and 2006. (<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/249149>).

In any event, panel members at the recent Institute of Medicine commented that there are no obvious barriers to the continued

spread of Lyme disease into new geographic regions of the United States. Lyme is not going away: the number of reported cases last year was more than 30,000. Because under-reporting is conservatively estimated at 5-10 fold, the true number is well over 100,000 new cases every year. The insidious epidemic is not going away, making the groundbreaking work of LymeMD more urgent than ever.





Did you know that dogs get Lyme disease? Unlike cats, dogs are quite prone to Lyme and other tick-borne infections. The most common symptoms of Lyme in dogs are lameness or joint pain, but there can also be more unusual forms of Lyme disease like renal and kidney disease.

Many veterinarians routinely test dogs that live in high-Lyme disease areas for tick-borne infections. Sometimes dogs test positive yet show no signs of illness at all. But, when dogs are sick and test positive for Lyme disease, it is of utmost importance that they receive therapy with doxycycline, the very same drug used to treat humans.

While dogs cannot transmit Lyme disease to people, they can carry ticks into the house. Thus, there may be some increased risk if you allow your dogs onto your bed at night; they may bring ticks into

close contact with you this way. In addition, a recent article published in the CDC Journal, Emerging Infectious Diseases, suggests that dogs sleeping in your bed may occasionally also cause other illnesses such as parasites.



Because we all love our dogs, we must protect them from tick-borne infections. In addition to tick repellants, there is actually a vaccine available for dogs that effectively protects them against Lyme disease.

Lyme Disease: Fast Facts!

- Transmitted to humans by the bite of infected deer ticks.
- Typical symptoms: fever, headache, fatigue, and characteristic round or oval red skin rash.
- Untreated infections can spread to joints, heart, and nervous system.
- Lyme is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the United States.
- 30,000+ cases reported in the US each year; because of under-reporting, true number may be up to 10 times higher.
- Maryland in top 10 of hardest-hit states.
- Cases have increased by over 300% since 1993.
- As many as 20% of patients may suffer long-lasting, persistent symptoms even after standard antibiotic therapy, known as Post Treatment Lyme Syndrome.

To Friends of LymeMD: We try to ensure the correct spelling and proper title of each of our supporters. In the event that we have made an error, PLEASE let us know. An email that you send to info@lymemd.org with your corrected contact information will go into our records as soon as we hear from you. Thanks.

Lyme MD

Lyme Disease Research
Foundation of Maryland
Johns Hopkins Greenspring Station
10755 Falls Road, Suite 200
Lutherville, MD 21093

info@lymemd.org
<http://www.lymemd.org>
www.lymemd.org

We welcome all contributions.
They can be made safely via our website.

Bulk mail stamp

Address label space

