

The Lyme Disease Research Foundation of Maryland is currently planning the first ever prospective cohort study of **post treatment Lyme syndrome**. There is currently no understanding among the scientific community of why certain individuals are prone to developing post treatment Lyme syndrome. Authorities in the field recognize the urgent need to conduct a prospective cohort study examining persistent symptoms after treatment of acute Lyme disease. In this landmark study we propose to bring together researchers from clinical, immunologic, microbiologic specialties to form a collaborative research group which will focus on post treatment Lyme syndrome.

Our specific objectives are to measure symptoms and cognitive function in patients after treatment for acute Lyme disease. In addition we will measure a number of immunologic parameters and biomarkers to look for patterns of immune response in those patients who develop persistent symptoms compared to those who have complete resolution. Finally, samples will be frozen as a resource for future studies into the pathology and genetics of this disorder.

This project will contribute to improving the health of a neglected and poorly understood patient population with post treatment Lyme Syndrome through a research process that will draw attention to the problem while educating physicians.

Little if any research into the growing problem of post treatment Lyme syndrome is being funded by the CDC or NIH. Because of this, leading academic centers such as Johns Hopkins currently have no significant research programs in this neglected area of Lyme disease research. The Lyme Disease Research Foundation serves as the catalyst to bring this team together to design and carry out this urgently needed research.

Please help us make this important research a reality.