Rodent-Targeted Bait Vaccine Shows Decrease in Lyme Disease Transmission

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and US Biologic, Inc. released the publication of a field trial study showing the effectiveness of an orally-delivered anti-Lyme vaccine that targets the white-footed mouse, the major wildlife source of Lyme disease.

The study took place in the residential area of Redding, CT, over a three-year time period and showed substantial decreases in the number of infected mice. One year into the study, test sites that had been treated with the vaccine showed a 13X greater decrease in blacklegged ticks (Ixodes scapularis, the primary vector associated with the spread of disease) infected with Borrelia burgdorferi (the bacterium that causes Lyme disease) compared to control sites (i.e., 26% drop versus 2% drop).

“Fewer infected ticks mean less infection in the field overall,” says Dr. Kirby C. Stafford, Chief Scientist and
State Entomologist, “So the decrease would be greater year-over-year that the vaccine is applied.”

A second effect, which has been observed in previous laboratory-based studies showed that the vaccine causes the mice to generate antibodies and therefore previously infected ticks act as a ‘xenodiagnostic marker’ of vaccine impact, meaning once they ingest the antibodies, while feeding on vaccinated mice, the ticks then become ‘cleared’ of infection.

Dr. Scott C. Williams, Agricultural Scientist and co-author of the study verified that when non-infected mice feed on vaccine-coated pellets, they are then protected from the Borrelia burgdorferi infection. “Non-infected ticks, therefore, cannot pass the disease to other animals, including humans” he says.

The study’s findings were published in the peer-reviewed publication, Experimental and Applied Acarology. Click here to view the press release from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

“Bitten” Book Review

The debate over the prevalence of Lyme disease and whether it exists in a chronic form has raged for decades. Kris Newby’s well researched book provides documented evidence that the suspicions of disease sufferers, their advocates, and treating physicians deserve investigation. The properties of the pathogen itself and its
ally, the tick, appear to be part of our nation’s biowarfare studies.

Swiss American scientist Willy Burgdorfer is acclaimed for identifying the spirochetal bacteria which causes Lyme disease. Indeed, the pathogen bears his name, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Yet as the author discloses through filmed interviews and archival reviews, there were other aspects to Willy’s research. Employed by the US government and headquartered at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Burgdorfer was enmeshed in biological warfare projects. Ms. Newby discusses his work in Switzerland for the American government which led to the identification of a new strain of *Rickettsia*, a pathogen if crossed with *Borrelia* might well complicate treatment and thus be a candidate for biowarfare. Interviews by Ms. Newby with American researchers on the topic of the *Rickettsia*, dubbed the Swiss agent by Dr. Burgdorfer, did not shed any light on the mystery pathogen whose existence seems to be buried in the past.

Ms. Newby’s discovery of tick drops and the experimental release of ticks document ongoing biowarfare research and questions the consequences if studies go awry. The prevalence of new diseases and the expansion of tick territories are examined in the context of now revealed government studies.

Ultimately, whatever mix of causes is responsible for the Lyme and other tick-borne diseases epidemic in the US, the solutions, as strongly stated by Kris Newby, lie with better science, advanced research and proper funding.

Click here for YouTube video of Under Our Skin, Director, Andy Abrams and Kris Newby discussing her new book.

Click here to purchase *Bitten* on amazon.com

Click here for other purchasing options of *Bitten* on HarperCollins.com
L. Johnson on Meaningful Patient Representation on the next TBDWG

Lorraine Johnson, JD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of LymeDisease.org delves into the importance of meaningful patient representation on the Federal HHS Tick-Borne Disease Working Group (TBDWG) in her latest blog. This is especially important as we await the announcement of panelists to the new TBDWG charged with the next report to Congress due in 2020. A recent patient survey conducted by lymedisease.org found “To be a meaningful representative, patients chosen for a panel should: a) have or be a caregiver to a patient with chronic Lyme disease and b) should be an officer or director or someone vetted and approved by a recognized and trusted patient advocacy group (PAG) or someone approved by a PAG.”

Read the entire blog by Lorraine Johnson here:

New Book Exposes Secret Lyme Disease & Bioweapons Link

UNDER OUR SKIN Director Andy Abrahams Wilson interviews Kris Newby, author of “Bitten: The Secret History of Lyme Disease and Biological Weapons.” May 1, 2019
– UnderOurSkin.com

2008 Insights Into the Crisis, Key Players and the Future:

Note: Videos can be opened with Windows Media Player. Due to the age of the files, we are not sure that RealPlayer can still open the videos.

NEW VIDEO AVAILABLE!
Footage from the Bergen Community College Event Held Thursday, May 29, 2008
View the videos and read about the event and speakers in the program.

Program: Lyme Disease Forum
Click here to access the printable program from this event.

Part 1: Lyme Disease Forum – Opening Remarks & Personal Insights
From Pat Smith, President, Lyme Disease Assoc., Moderator, and Pamela Weintraub, Author of “CURE UNKNOWN: Inside the Lyme Epidemic.” © 2008 Lyme Disease Association, Inc.
View with RealPlayer or Windows Media Player
Part 2: Lyme Disease Forum – Discussion
View with RealPlayer or Windows Media Player.

Part 3: Lyme Disease Forum – Interactive Panel Presentation
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Part 4: Lyme Disease Forum – Questions & Answers with Audience
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