

# Rodent-Targeted Bait Vaccine Shows Decrease in Lyme Disease Transmission

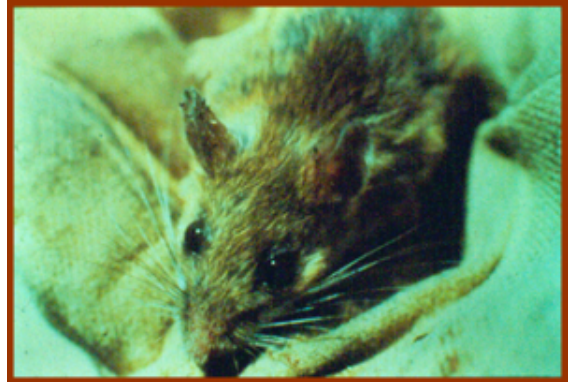


Photo credit James L. Occi (PhD candidate) LDA Scientific & Professional Advisory Board

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.

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**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:

[\*LYMEPOLICYWONK: Who represents Lyme disease patients? Why it matters.\*](#)

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## **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

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# 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.

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### **Part 2: Lyme Disease Forum – Discussion**

Joseph J. Burrascano, Jr., MD & Attorney Elliott B. Pollack. © 2008 Lyme Disease Association, Inc.

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### **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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