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.

First biennial report to Congress gives blueprint for federal response

2018 Tick-Borne Disease Working Group Report Confirms Lyme is Spreading, Time for Action is Now

Washington, Nov 14, 2018 | Matt Hadro ((202) 225-3765)

The 2018 Tick-Borne Disease Working Group Report to Congress—the very first report by the new HHS Working Group—confirms what Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and other advocates have long warned of, that incidents of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases are increasing and that more federal attention to the problem is needed, Smith said on Wednesday.

Click here for full Press Release from the office of Congressman Chris Smith

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Announces Higher than Ever Lyme Cases

In a press release by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) on the state of tick-borne diseases in the US, CDC introduced its new platform for reporting Lyme disease statistics. The release indicates that there has been an increase in all tick-borne diseases, not just Lyme disease,
and that it is the highest total annual number of Lyme cases ever reported at 42,743 cases, and a total of all reported tick-borne diseases of 59,349, which includes Lyme, anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis, spotted fever rickettsiosis, babesiosis, tularemia, and Powassan virus.

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The Lyme Disease Association, Inc. reminds the public that Lyme is underreported by a factor of 10, therefore, 427,430 cases of Lyme disease probably occurred in 2017 in the U.S. alone.

Click here for CDC Release

Announcement by CDC in Vital Signs Monthly Report

Senate Approves $1 Million Investment To Combat Lyme
SENATE APPROVES $1 MILLION INVESTMENT TO COMBAT LYME ACROSS NEW YORK STATE
Historic Levels of Funding Build Upon the Senate’s Commitment to Increasing Public Awareness, Treatment, and Prevention of Lyme and Other Tick-Borne Illnesses

The New York State Senate today approved a resolution to provide a record $1 million to help fight the scourge of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases (TBDs) throughout the state. The new funding will help support a wide variety of local investments identified by the Senate’s Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases to increase education, research, prevention, and treatment options, and combat the ongoing increase in TBDs throughout New York.

The Senate Majority – and specifically the Task Force – led
the charge in securing this historic level of funding in the 2018-19 state budget. Based on the Task Force’s recommendations, the final budget restores $400,000 in Executive Budget cuts and includes $600,000 in new funding for a total of $1 million.

Senator Sue Serino, Chair of the Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases, said, “With the State Senate successfully securing an unprecedented $1 million in this year’s budget to bolster awareness, prevention and research initiatives, we are sending a strong message to New Yorkers who have spent years grappling with the devastating impacts of Lyme and tick-borne diseases. This critical funding will play a direct role in helping us to combat the spread of Lyme and TBDs in the state, and with the Hudson Valley sitting at the epicenter of this epidemic, I am especially proud to have secured funding that will go directly to our local community. I thank Senator Kemp Hannon, Chair of the Senate’s Health Committee, who has partnered with me to continue building momentum on this important issue. Working together with partners at all levels, we can ensure that New York has an effective statewide action plan in place to empower patients and better protect residents against the scourge of Lyme and TBDs.”

Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (R-C-I, Port Jefferson) said, “I am pleased that the Senate was able to secure $1 million for Lyme and Tick Borne Disease (TBD) funding. My colleagues and I fought hard to secure this funding, recognizing the importance of fighting the spread of Lyme and TBD’s throughout the state. My district is particularly hard hit, especially on the East End of Long Island. This money will allow for the continuation of the highly successful Tick Borne Disease Center at Southampton Hospital, a four poster program on Shelter Island directly targeting the spread of ticks from the deer population, and the creation of a new state-of-the-art infectious disease lab at Stony Brook University.”

Senator Betty Little (R-C-I, Queensbury) said, “I represent a
beautiful region of New York State and we want people outdoors, enjoying nature. But the fear of contracting Lyme Disease is increasingly a deterrent and that’s a shame. My experience is that the statistics of reported cases fall short of what is actually happening. A mere mention of Lyme disease among a group of people and you immediately hear horror stories of misdiagnosis and costly long-term treatments. The good news is we are making progress and the Senate task force is playing a major role. We’ve secured funding and spearheaded legislation. We have taken our direction from the public we serve, from those leading the effort to improve diagnosis and treatment and from the incredible insight of patients themselves. This additional funding will make an impact in the North Country and I am very grateful to have helped secure it as part of this year’s budget.”

Highlights of the resolution passed today include:

- **Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Inc.** – $192,000 to research community-based prevention methods by continuing and expanding “The Tick Project,” a five-year research project. The funding will help determine whether neighborhood-based prevention can reduce human cases of Lyme and other TBDs.

- **Stony Brook University** – $175,000 to open a state-of-the-art infectious disease laboratory, which will have an insectary dedicated solely for work on ticks. The laboratory will be open to Stony Brook scientists and others as a regional facility with unique research capabilities. The funds will be used to support activities in the laboratory and new research on TBDs.

- **Cornell University** – $130,000 to study the distribution of ticks and the diseases they carry in various parts of the state through the Tick Outreach and Surveillance Project for New York. Run through the New York State Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program at Cornell University, the research will primarily focus on the spread of
ticks by species within certain counties. Other areas of study include ways to reduce human exposure to TBDs, tick management workshops, and best practices in schools, camps, parks, and places where people gather outdoors.

- **New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)** – $112,000 to increase public awareness throughout New York through eight to 10 regional educational lectures. The informational seminars will focus on community awareness, best practices for TBD investigation, tick surveillance, and disease prevention to local parts of the state heavily impacted by the effects of Lyme and TBDs.

- **SUNY Adirondack** – $100,000 for laboratory research on lesser-known TBDs, including infectious diseases known to be comorbid with Lyme disease, such as Babesia, Bartonella, Ehrlichia, Anaplasma, and Powassen virus. The work would help provide much needed information about the rates of these coinfections in people with Lyme disease in New York.

- **Southampton Hospital** – $75,000 to fund the Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center, which helps doctors in multiple disciplines collaborate with researchers and community outreach experts to inform and treat individuals from across the region.

- **New York State Department of Health** – $60,000 to increase the number of tick collection sites in New York, and the number of ticks tested for pathogens statewide. The funding will also be used to hire temporary staff to assist with sampling and testing, as well as targeting of educational messages in a more efficient manner.

- **SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry** – $50,000 to monitor seasonal variations of ticks in Western and Central New York to help provide a better understanding of how disease transmission risks are changing. The study will also provide public information to better explain the risks of tick exposure.

- **Paul Smith’s College** – $30,000 to study the emergence of TBDs in the North Country by continuing and expanding academic studies that monitor ticks and TBDs.
· Cornell Cooperative Extension – $26,000 for a series of regional Lyme and TBD forums to be hosted throughout the state. The forums will help provide the public with information on tick identification, tick bite prevention, Lyme disease and co-infection awareness, impact on pets and livestock, and health resources that are available for individuals who have been bitten by a tick.

· New York State Department of Health – $25,000 to continue database mining, which would include various projects associated with Lyme carditis, as well as deaths associated with Lyme and other TBDs.

· Town of Shelter Island – $25,000 to help combat the spread of ticks on Shelter Island, which is one of the worst hit areas of the public health crisis. The town has developed a four-poster program to stem the spread of ticks associated with the deer population. The town has built and installed four-poster stations, to remove ticks from deer across the Island, and this funding would maintain and expand the efforts of this critical initiative.

In addition to the $1 million announced today, the Senate was instrumental earlier this year in passing a package of bills aimed at combating Lyme and TBDs, based on the recommendations of the Senate’s Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases.

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Contagion® Interviews Pat Smith to Mark Lyme Awareness
LDA thanks Contagion® for taking time to raise awareness regarding Lyme and tick-borne diseases. They have provided several avenues for LDA to promote educational materials through articles, video segments and now a press release for mass distribution.

Click here for Press Release

CRANBURY, N.J.–(BUSINESS WIRE)–In recognition of Lyme disease awareness month, Contagion®, the nation’s leading digital and print publication that provides practitioners and specialists
working in the infectious disease field with disease-specific information, interviewed Pat Smith, president of Lyme Disease Association, Inc, to better understand current issues surrounding the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease....

Click here for Full Press Release

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Dr. Maloney on Access Minnesota Radio – Lyme Disease in MN

Listen to radio show “Lyme Disease in Minnesota” on Access Minnesota. Dr. Elizabeth Maloney discusses the symptoms and dangers of Lyme disease and how best to prevent infection. Dr. Maloney mentions the LDA and the upcoming LDA/Columbia Scientific Conference on the show.

Click link to hear radio show: http://www.accessminnesotaonline.com/2017/05/17/lyme-disease-in-mn/

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Click link to hear radio show: http://www.accessminnesotaonline.com/2017/05/17/lyme-disease-in-mn/

Dr. Elizabeth Maloney is a Family Practice Physician and the President of the Partnership for Tick-Borne Diseases
Education.

Access Minnesota is a 30-minute public affairs program that airs weekly on radio and monthly on TV. Each episode focuses on the issues, people and stories that impact the state.

Dr. Ostfeld Lecture: Ecology of Lyme 5/29

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY – On Friday, May 29 at 7pm, Cary Institute ecologist Dr. Rick Ostfeld will be giving a public lecture on The Ecology of Lyme Disease. He will discuss how environmental conditions – like predators and land use – shape disease risk. He will also cover emerging tick-borne pathogens in our region and ongoing work on preventative measures. The event will be held in our auditorium; there will be ample time for audience Q&A.

For more info: http://www.caryinstitute.org/events/ecology-lyme-disease
Dr. Fallon Speaks May 1 in Hudson, NY

Dr. Brian Fallon, internationally renowned for his work on the neurologic and neuropsychiatric aspects of Lyme disease and Director of the Tickborne Disease Research Center at Columbia University, will provide an overview of Lyme disease and bring the audience up-to-date on the latest advances in research and strategies for prevention that are helping to solve the controversies and improve public health. Dr. Fallon’s work has also included diagnostics and treatment studies. The Columbia University Tick-borne Disease Research Center was established as the first academic research center in the country to focus multi disciplinary research on chronic Lyme disease.

Tick-borne diseases have been a serious problem for many Hudson Valley residents in the past fifteen or more years. Almost everyone in the area knows someone who has been sickened by Lyme disease. Many people’s lives have been turned upside down due to the bite of a single tick.

In addition to Dr. Fallon’s presentation, there will be information available for all to take home. The important strategies for prevention of these diseases will be highlighted in the hand-out materials including personal protection, pet protection, and how to eliminate tick habitat from your home grounds.

For more information on CCE and other programs visit ccecolumbiagreene.org. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.
NJ Lyme Seminar Draws Hundreds

Congressman Chris Smith (NJ-04) addressed a group of more than 250 patients, physicians and advocates in New Jersey about federal efforts to combat Lyme disease at the New Jersey Lyme Disease Educational Seminar, April 25, organized by New Jersey resident, Doug Kahn, and supported by an educational grant given by the Lyme Disease Association (LDA). LDA President Pat Smith, Drs. Robert Bransfield & Jodie Dashore, 2 patients, and Doug Kahn spoke.

Click Here for Congressman Smith’s Press Release

Click Here for Event Agenda

Congressman Chris Smith and Pat Smith (LDA Pres.) at NJ Lyme Seminar (photo credit: Office of Congressman Chris Smith)

Left to Rt: Drs. Jodie Dashore & Robert Bransfield, Congressman Chris Smith, Pat Smith (LDA Pres.), and Doug Kahn (Event Organizer) second row at NJ Lyme Seminar (photo credit: Office of Congressman Chris Smith)
LA4K Benefit by DE 87ers Basketball 2/17

DELAWARE 87ERS, LYMEAID 4 KIDS PARTNER FOR SECOND SEASON
– Sevens, Delle Donne and University of Delaware College of Health Sciences to host LymeAid 4 Kids night –

NEWARK, DE – Feb. 13, 2015 – The Delaware 87ers today announced LymeAid 4 Kids night, presented by the University of Delaware College of Health Sciences, on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at the Bob Carpenter Center “The Bob.”

The national non-profit Lyme Disease Association’s LymeAid 4 Kids fund raises monies for families who are struggling to pay for Lyme diagnosis and treatment, due to lack of insurance coverage for Lyme and financial hardship. The LDA has given out over $250,000 to help kids.
The 87ers will host the Westchester Knicks on Tuesday in an NBA Development League Atlantic Division contest. That night, the Sevens will wear special lime green shooting shirts that feature the LymeAid 4 Kids logo on the front, and the University of Delaware College of Health Sciences logo on the back. Each shooting shirt will be available for purchase via an auction at the game.

In partnership with the Lyme Disease Association, WNBA All-Star and Delaware 87ers goodwill ambassador Elena Delle Donne will make an appearance at the game, as the Sevens will host a number of activities featuring the former University of Delaware star.

The first 500 fans in attendance will receive a Rally Rag courtesy of University of Delaware College of Health Sciences. Before the game, Delle Donne will host a VIP event in the Club for Courtside Seat Holders. From the second quarter through halftime, the former Blue Hen basketball star will be signing autographs for $10, with all proceeds benefitting LymeAid 4 Kids. At halftime, the 87ers will draw a random lucky seat, and the winner will be upgraded to sit courtside next to Delle Donne for the duration of the third quarter.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

For tickets, please visit [www.sevens.com/promo](http://www.sevens.com/promo) and enter the code LYMEAID, or call the 87ers office and speak to a representative at 302-504-7587.

**About the Delaware 87ers**

The Delaware 87ers of the National Basketball Association Development League (NBADL) were relocated to America’s first state in 2013 and named to commemorate the year in which Delaware ratified the U.S. Constitution, 1787. The Sevens are the NBADL affiliate of the NBA’s Philadelphia 76ers and are owned by the Sixers. The 87ers play at the University of Delaware’s Bob Carpenter Center in Newark, DE.

**About the NBA Development League**

The NBA Development League is the NBA’s official minor league, preparing players, coaches, officials, trainers, and front-office staff for the NBA while acting as the league’s research and development laboratory. Featuring 18 teams with direct affiliations with NBA franchises for the 2014-15 season, the league offers elite
professional basketball at an affordable price in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. An all-time high 26 percent of all NBA players at the start of the 2014-15 season boasted NBA D-League experience. In fostering the league’s connection to the community, its teams, players and staff promote health and wellness, support local needs and interests, and assist in educational development through NBA D-League Cares programs. Fans can watch all NBA D-League games on nbadleague.com.

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