

**New Tick Spreading Fast; New
Bill: National Lyme Strategy;
LDA Conference Registration
Open!**

Lyme Disease Association, Inc. (LDA)
 LDA: 27 years of patients helping patients
www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org
 Research, education, prevention & support

LDA is a national non-profit, volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) charity.
 All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

May Lyme Disease Awareness Month

LDA NEWS & UPDATES

May 2018

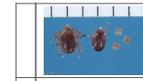


Congressman Smith Introduces: National Lyme & Tick-Borne Diseases Control & Accountability Act of 2018

The Lyme Disease Association, Inc. (LDA) announced the introduction of HR 5906, "National Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases Control and Accountability Act of 2018" into the US House of Representatives by Congressman Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) on May 21. Representatives Peterson (D-MT), Faso (R-WV), Constock (R-VA) and Posey (R-IN) have joined Mr. Smith in co-sponsoring the bill. The Act will establish the Office of Oversight and Coordination for Tick-Borne Diseases in the Office of the Secretary of Health & Human Services (HHS) to be headed by a director appointed by the Secretary, according to LDA President, Pat Smith, announcing the bill at the 3rd Rocky Mountain Forum in Colorado. "It is critical due patients that this bill gets passed." (Photo credit: Mary Beth Pfeiffer)

*LDA Note: HR 5906 introduced on 5/22 is the same as HR 5872 introduced on 5/15 - due to a technical glitch

[Click here for more information](#)



Invasive New Tick Rapidly Spreading

Arrived in NJ last August... Has now spread to VA and WV... The hemophysalis longicornis tick (otherwise known as the East Asian or Longhorned tick), a self-cloning species native to China, Japan and Australia, was confirmed in Hunterdon County, NJ, on a sheep farm in late 2017, and a mystery still surrounds its appearance. The species survived the winter and chemical prevention measures and was confirmed again in NJ in two different locations in Spring of 2018. The LDA has been concerned that the tick reproduces asexually, which means the female tick can lay eggs which do not have to be fertilized by a male, thus the tick has the ability to establish itself very quickly, and that appears to be the case. On May 24, the tick was confirmed in Virginia, appearing on an orphaned calf on a beef farm in Albemarle County. In late May, the longhorned tick was confirmed in West Virginia in two separate farms in Hardy County, near the Virginia border. The U.S. Department of Agriculture considers the species to be a serious threat to livestock. The longhorned tick is already known to transmit several human diseases, including spotted fever rickettsiosis, in its native East Asian countries. It may be only a matter of time before they become carriers of tick-borne diseases that affect humans.

Photo: East Asian tick, also known as longhorned or bush tick. Thanks to J. Ocici, Rutgers

[Click here for more information](#)



CDC: Vector-Borne Diseases Have Tripled

The CDC has released the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), which examines trends in occurrence of nationally reportable vector-borne diseases during 2004-2016. Vector-borne diseases are major causes of death and illness worldwide. In the United States, the most common vector-borne pathogens are transmitted by ticks or mosquitoes, including those causing Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and West Nile, dengue, and Zika virus disease. The number of annual reports of tickborne bacterial and protozoan diseases more than doubled during this period, from >22,000 in 2004 to >49,000 in 2016. Lyme disease accounted for 82% of all tick-borne disease reports during 2004-2016.

[Click here for more info](#)



TBD Working Group: 5th Meeting & Updates

The fifth meeting of the Health & Human Services (HHS) Tick-Borne Disease (TBD) Working Group took place in-person on May 15-16, 2018 - [Click here](#) to see summaries, transcripts, slide presentations, written public comment, transcripts of verbal content, agendas, and webcasts for this meeting as they become available, and for previous meetings. For more TBD Working Group updates click the links below. The sixth Working Group meeting will be held online on June 21.

HHS Meeting Slides Available: [HHS Tick Chair](#), [Tristen Home](#)
 New Member: [Bob Sabatino Named to Serve on Tick-Borne Disease Working Group](#)



LDA/Columbia Conference Registration Now Open!

The Lyme Disease Association (LDA) announces its 19th annual conference - **Lyme & Tick-Borne Diseases: Turning the Corner Through Research**, jointly sponsored by Columbia University. It is being held on October 27 & 28, 2018 in Providence, RI at the landmark Marriott Providence Downtown hotel. The conference is designed for physicians and researchers, but the public is invited to register, and all registrants can attend a reception and network with the conference faculty. The LDA is once again offering **conference scholarships** for medical students, post docs, and others, thanks to the generosity of the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation.

[Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) credits](#) will be offered by Columbia University to CME-registered attendees. The conference will feature 20 faculty consisting of clinicians and researchers from across the US. [GeneX Labs](#) has provided commercial support to the program.

[Click here for general info](#)
[Click here to Register](#)



May Lyme Awareness Month

- Activities**
- LDA and LDA joined together to help educate people via billboards through the month of May. See billboard image: [One Tick Bite Can Last a Lifetime](#)
 - Government entities have declared May Lyme Disease Awareness Month via proclamations and resolutions. [Click here to view what's](#)
 - Many Lyme groups held educational conferences for May Lyme Awareness, and LDA was pleased to work with its partners throughout the country and spoke at the following conferences:

5/19: Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association (Parker, CO)
 Lyme & Other TBD: 3rd Rocky Mountain Forum
 5/22: Lyme Society, Inc. (Staten Island, NY)
 1st Annual Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Educational Conference
 4/28: Midwest Lyme Disease Support & Education (Augusta, Maine)
 5th Annual Midwest Lyme Disease Support & Education Conference

Attention Researchers:
 Apply for \$5 Now
 The Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Program Announcement for FY 2018 CDMRP research grant submissions has been posted.
[Click here for announcement](#)
[Click here for FY17 award list](#)

Sen. Schumer Press Conference on TBD 4/5
 US Senator Chuck Schumer (NY), Senate Minority Leader, invited LDA President Pat Smith to speak at his press conference in Woodbury, NY on May 2, 2018. The focus was to ensure that government monies on Lyme and tick-borne diseases reach those officials at the state and local level who can best ensure the monies are used to help fight tick-borne diseases.
[Click here: Pat Smith's remarks](#)

Has your Congressman Joined the US House Lyme Caucus?
TAKE ACTION: Contact your Congressman and ask them to sign up for the Caucus today! The Caucus can help Lyme patients achieve their goals.
[To see if your Congressman is signed on and to get further details, click here](#)

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