



Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc

Board

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Mission

Tick-Borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc is a non-profit organization formed to improve the recognition, treatment, control, and understanding of tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

History

TIC-NC was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of North Carolina in May 2005 by several North Carolina residents whose lives were negatively affected by tick-borne infections. In March of 2007 we were granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by IRS.

Goals

Educate the public, medical and veterinary professionals, school health nurses, and the public health system about tick-borne diseases in North Carolina, including risk factors, emerging infections, and prevention.

Foster an enhanced public health response.

Encourage state public health agencies to conduct ongoing surveillance of the prevalences of tick-borne infections in (a) at-risk populations and (b) ticks and vectors; and make this information available to the public and the medical sector periodically.

BIANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS AND DONORS Winter 2012

Dear TIC-NC Members and Supporters,

We hope you enjoy this 2010 - 2012 Biennial report. We have been operating now for over seven years. Hard to believe!

Purpose of this report

1. To let you know of our [accomplishments in the last two years](#).
2. To get your [updated contact information](#).
3. To ask you and others you know who have had a tick-borne infection to fill out our [Case Registry form](#) if you haven't already. These are very important for our public health work. (Do not fill one out if you have previously. A form is available on line if you prefer that method.)

Please use the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope to update your contact information and case registry if applicable, and to make a donation if you wish.

State/CDC statistics on tick-borne infections, 2010

- Lyme disease: 82 (21 confirmed/61 probable)
- SFR* 286 (15 confirmed/271 probable)
- Ehrlichia 99 (19 confirmed/80 probable)
- Anaplasma 28 (0 confirmed/28 probable)

(Official reports undercount actual cases for a variety of reasons.)

*SFR- Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, includes Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Major Activities and Accomplishments

2010- 2011

- Wake County declared endemic for Lyme disease by Public Health, State of NC.
- Attended/presented at community and vector-borne disease meetings- One Medicine Symposium, Fearington Village, the NC Mosquito and Vector-borne Disease Association, a Chapel Hill Town Meeting, and others.
- Assisted the Rougemont Ruritan Club with their local tick prevention campaign.
- Held several booths at Pittsboro's First Sunday Street Fairs.
- Reported on the increasing number of people having anaphylactic allergic reactions to eating red meat, related to tick bites.
- TIC-NC featured local health blog: Get the Skinney, <http://www.gettheskinney.com/2009/11/30/ticks-tick-bites-and-tick-related-illness-part-3/> .
- Held meetings with top North Carolina public health officials.
- Communicated with state school nursing officials about creating a tick protocols.
- Helped to maintain funds secured in 2007 for tick research and disease prevention in the Public Health Pest Management Section, Division of Environmental Health, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ended 2011, see below).
- Met with a UNC researcher interested in tick-borne infections to discuss and encourage related research projects.
- Reported a new tick and tick-borne infection found in NC by state Pest Management, the Gulf Coast tick which transmits *Rickettsia parkeri*.

PO Box 841 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Phone & Fax 919.542.5573

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www.tic-nc.org



Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc

Develop and maintain a registry of persons with tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

Encourage the public health sector to identify and characterize the newly emerging tick-borne infections in the southeast.

Work with the public health sector to require all tick-borne infections be reported at both county and state levels.

Staffing and Volunteers

TIC-NC remains a volunteer organization. We continue to need volunteers for special projects and to serve on the board.

Membership

We have approximately 350 members. We need to increase our numbers. Everyone can help by getting friends and neighbors to join.

Funding and expenditures

We are dependent entirely on donations at this point. Many of you have given generously. We have not had sufficient resources yet to mount a fund-raising effort or apply for grants. We hope to do so in the future and welcome people to help who have experience. Printing our brochure is one of our major expenses.

- Communicated with the state and the CDC regarding criteria labs use for “diagnosis” of Lyme disease. Reporting criteria are not diagnostic criteria.
- Conducted frequent interaction with the person hired by state Pest Management to collect ticks and work on other tick-related activities for the state.
- Posted the letter to medical providers by the state Division of Public Health on Lyme disease on our website. We were also involved in the review of this letter.
- Provided brochures (English) and small cards (Spanish) for several tick-related state Pest Management outreach events.
- Communicated with the Yale School of Public Health regarding a phone application on Lyme disease which we felt contained inaccurate and misleading information.
- Purchased tick removal apparatus, the “Tick Twister,” for sale at booths.
- Held a successful yard sale to raise funds.
- Met with the president of the new Galaxy Lab which offers a more accurate test for bartonella infections.
- Spoke at a Weyerhaeuser Foundation event to recognize a Weyerhaeuser employee with Lyme disease who obtained a \$1,000 grant for TIC-NC. Reported to the Foundation that the grant money is being used to develop enhanced educational materials on ticks and their diseases for our website.

On-going activities

- Publish quarterly newsletters on our website and send via email to our members.
- Answer numerous tick-related calls and emails from the public.
- Continue updating and distributing our educational brochure.
- Participate in media—television appearances, writing letters to the editor (newspapers) and to medical journals, regular articles, and op-ed articles.
- Participate in the state Vector-borne Disease Task Force meetings.
- Attend and/or speak at local area meetings, public and private, related to ticks.
- Our website has had over 100,000 ‘hits’ since 2005.

A major loss occurred this year to the citizens of North Carolina, July 1

In 2010 the state Legislature voted to completely do away with the Public Health Pest Management Section in the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. All the state entomologists and technicians lost their jobs. The state now has no professionals in pest management. This is especially tragic in that great strides were being made in tick collections, testing ticks for disease-causing organisms, improved website maps of tick distributions in the state; and prevention materials, published scientific papers, and much more. All of this is gone. It is a great tragedy for the people of the state, especially coming at a time of increased ticks and tick-borne diseases. We are grateful to all the professionals at Pest Management for their fine work up until their termination July 1, 2010.

We will continue to work hard to improve the health and safety of our citizens with regard to ticks and tick-borne infections. We welcome your help and ideas. Thank you for your interest, commitment, and financial support.

Your TIC-NC Board

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